

Two Pak agents on al-Qaeda trail shot dead

AFP, Karachi

Unidentified gunmen shot dead two Pakistani intelligence agents involved in tracking down al-Qaeda militants in the troubled port city of Karachi, officials said Friday.

The two officials from the country's main civilian spy agency, the Intelligence Bureau, were attacked at a car showroom in the port city's main commercial area, police officer Salman Syed said.

The victims, identified as Inspector Mohammad Ibrahim and his junior Fazlur Rehman, had received threats in recent months after arresting several militants affiliated to Osama bin Laden's organisation, officials said.

"The two officials were in the forefront of anti-Qaeda operations in Karachi. They were involved in the arrests of many of the terror network's operatives in the past two months," a senior intelligence official told AFP.

No meddling to save Musharraf, says US

AP, Karachi

A senior US envoy promised Thursday that Washington would not interfere in Pakistan's politics to save longtime ally President Pervez Musharraf, but he was cautious on the new government's hopes to talk peace with pro-Taliban forces.

Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte offered little defence for Musharraf, the former army general whose help in combatting Islamic extremists was deemed crucial by Washington after the Sept. 11 attack on the United States.

Any debate "with regard to the issue of his status is something that will have to be addressed by

the internal Pakistani political process," Negroponte said, alluding to calls for Musharraf to resign and an impeachment threat from an incoming government bent on slashing presidential powers.

"We will certainly respect whatever is decided in that regard," the diplomat told reporters in Karachi, the southern city that is Pakistan's business centre.

It was a clear indication Washington has shifted from its singular reliance on Musharraf in relations with this nuclear-armed Islamic nation, where voters repudiated the president's allies and handed his opponents a resounding victory in parliamentary elections last month.

Negroponte and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher met this week with Musharraf's foes, who are setting up a governing coalition after winning the most seats in the Feb. 18 voting.

Partners in the new government have suggested dialogue with pro-Taliban groups that are blamed for the country's escalating violence an approach that has drawn criticism from Washington, which has provided about \$10 billion in aid to Pakistan since 2001.

Negroponte said he did not see how it would be possible to hold discussions with some "irreconcilable elements who want to destroy our way of life."

"I don't see how you can talk to these kinds of people," he said.

But he added that he thought some religious hard-liners could be persuaded to take part in the democratic process.

Negroponte did not identify who the United States considers "irreconcilable" a potential source of dispute with Pakistan's new government. Pressed on the issue, he said he had not discussed "tactics" in his meetings with incoming leaders.

While Pakistan is unlikely to entertain the possibility of talks with foreign militants linked to al-Qaeda, the government could be willing to negotiate with pro-Taliban fighters mounting attacks on Pakistani security forces and suspected of attacks in Afghanistan.



Pakistani anti-Musharraf lawyers escort deposed Pakistani Supreme Court Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry (C) as he leaves the mosque after his first Friday prayer following his release in Islamabad yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka army soldiers take up position in the north-eastern region of Well Oya on Thursday. Sri Lanka has launched a probe into a mystery poster campaign that is asking would-be Tamil Tiger suicide bombers to turn themselves in to government hands in return for cash.

26 killed in Lanka fighting

AFP, Colombo

Twenty-six people, including two civilians, were killed in new fighting in civil war-ravaged Sri Lanka, the military said yesterday.

A series of tit-for-tat clashes between security forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) across the island's north on Thursday left at least 18 rebels and four soldiers dead, according to a

military statement.

Also two civilian workers who were collecting sand from a river bed to make cement were killed when they came under rebel fire in Amapara in the island's east on Thursday, the military said.

"Terrorist gunfire killed two of them (the civilians) but the third one survived with injuries," a military statement said. The ministry refers to the LTTE as terror-

ists.

There was no immediate comment from the LTTE and casualty claims by either side cannot be independently verified as journalists and rights workers are barred from the embattled areas.

Since the start of this year, at least 2,401 rebels and 147 soldiers have been killed in fighting, according to defence ministry figures.

Pakistan for resolution of Kashmir issue Says Zardari

PTI, Islamabad

Pakistan will move forward to resolve the Kashmir issue with India through a peaceful dialogue and the nation's new government will continue confidence-building measures initiated by the previous regime, Pakistan People's Party co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari said on Friday.

"We are totally (involved) with Kashmir. We intend to solve the problem and not just to (do) shadow-boxing for it," Zardari told reporters after a meeting with People's Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti.

Asked if the new coalition government led by the PPP will continue the confidence building measures initiated by the previous administration, Zardari said, "We want not only CBMs but action. We want to move forward and to solve this issue. The PPP and the democratic forces of Pakistan have always said that democracies do not fight wars. Our message is of peace and we want peace. We want peace in the region and along all our borders."

"We want the guns to rust and our future generations should not have to make the sacrifices that the current and past generations have made," Zardari added.

Taliban attack anti-drugs police: 12 dead Several militants slain

AFP, AP, Herat/Kabul

Taliban rebels attacked a counter-narcotics police force in western Afghanistan on Friday, triggering a fierce clash that left 10 militants and two police dead, a governor said.

The police were travelling back to their headquarters in Nimroz province when they came under attack, provincial governor Ghulam Dastageer Azad told AFP.

"Ten Taliban and two police were killed in two hours of fighting and two Taliban were arrested," he said.

Two policemen and several Taliban were also wounded, he added.

The police had been on a mission to destroy opium poppy crops.

Afghanistan is the world's top producer of illegal opium, which is used to make heroin, accounting

for more than 90 percent of the global supply.

Earlier US-led coalition forces killed several Taliban militants after coming under attack in volatile southern Afghanistan, a coalition statement said yesterday.

The troops were searching for a Taliban insurgent involved in weapons trafficking in Helmand province when militants opened fire Wednesday with machine guns, hand grenades and rocket-propelled grenades, the coalition said.

The troops responded, killing several insurgents and wounding a woman who was not involved in the hostilities.

"A coalition forces medical specialist immediately tended to the wound, ensuring she was stabilized before transporting her... to a medical facility for further treatment," said coalition spokesman Army Maj. Chris Belcher.

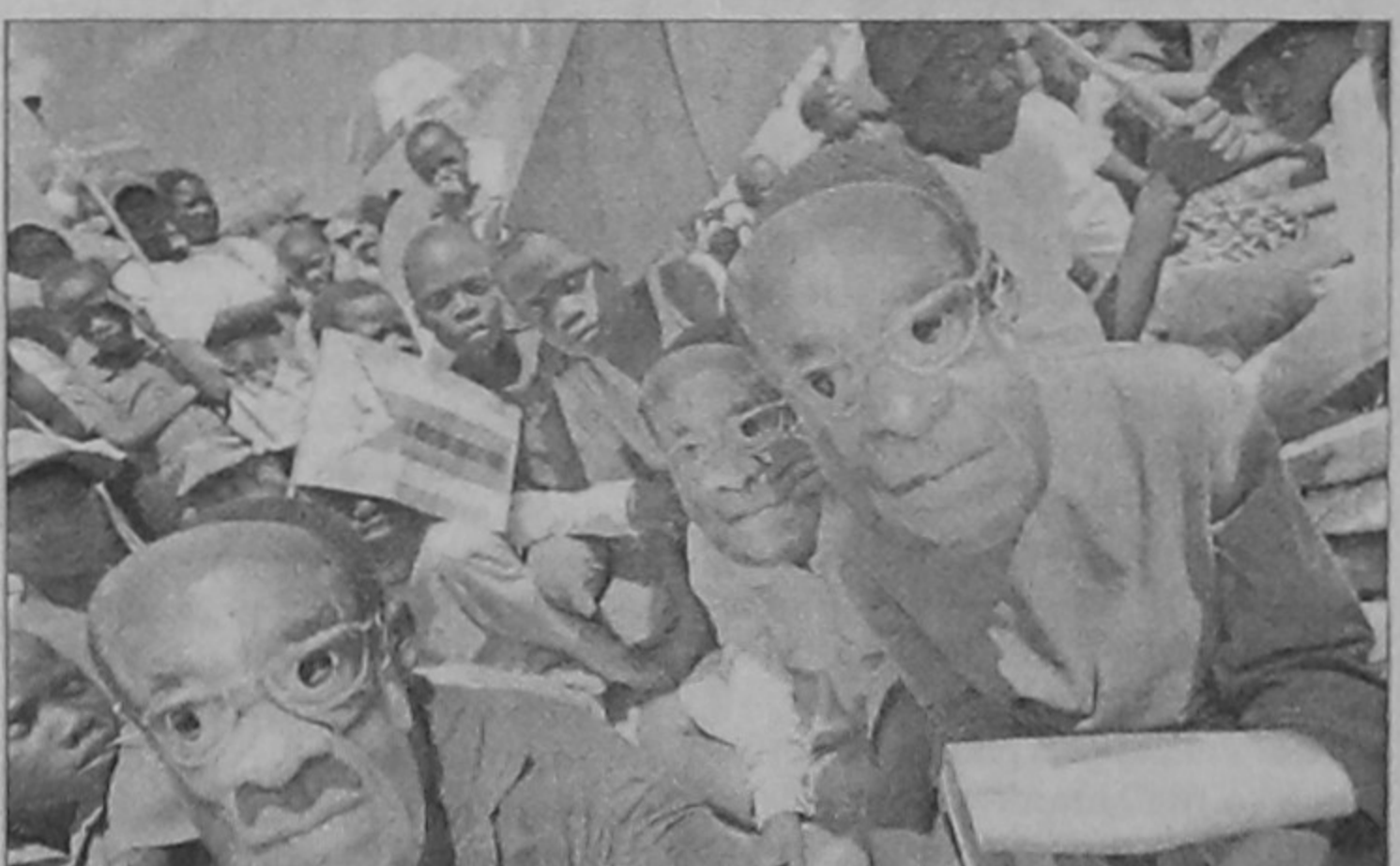


PHOTO: AFP

Men wears masks showing President Robert Mugabe and leader of Zimbabwe's ruling party ZANU-PF during a campaign rally in Harare yesterday. Zimbabwe's security forces were placed on full alert Friday to head off possible violence at this weekend's elections as President Robert Mugabe's opponents feared the outcome had already been fixed.

Hillary, Obama vow Democrats will unite

AFP, Washington

Both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have vowed the Democratic Party will heal its wounds, whoever wins their toxic White House race, and unite to thwart Republican John McCain.

The bitter rivals spoke up amid mounting concern among party leaders that the fiercely contested battle could scupper a golden chance to grab back the White House from a ragged Republican party, as the US economy staggers.

Hillary Clinton was asked while campaigning in North Carolina what she would say to Democrats who might consider voting for McCain, if their preferred candi-

date loses in the noxious party tussle.

"Please think through this decision," Hillary Clinton said. "It is not a wise decision for yourself or your country."

"I intend to do everything I can to make sure we have a unified Democratic party... when this contest is over and we have a nominee, we're going to close ranks, we're going to be united."

Obama, speaking to ABC News, admitted that whichever camp loses the race is likely to suffer "bruised feelings."

"It's tough... we have been campaigning now for a long time. We have got very ardent supporters on both sides."

Nepal royals took money from conservation fund: Official

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's royal family allegedly took cash from a nature conservation fund to pay for foreign trips, lavish parties and health check-ups abroad for family members, a report charged on Friday.

The royals "were involved in massive financial irregularities when King Gyanendra was the trust's patron" and in charge of its operations, said Bimal Kumar Baniya, secretary of the National Trust for Nature Conservation.

Baniya, a civil servant, made the allegations on the basis of a report commissioned by the strongly republican Maoist party which has run the trust since ending a deadly civil war in 2006 and joining the government.

Dalai Lama appeals for talks with Beijing

AFP, New Delhi/Beijing

The Dalai Lama appealed to China yesterday to enter into "meaningful dialogue" over the crisis in Tibet, and asserted he did not want to undermine the Beijing Olympics and was not seeking independence.

In an open letter to his "Chinese brothers and sisters," the exiled spiritual leader said he was a "simple monk" trying to preserve "the Tibetan people's distinctive culture, language and identity."

"Even at this juncture I have expressed my willingness to the Chinese authorities to work together to bring about peace and stability," he wrote.

"I have appealed to the leadership of the PRC (People's Republic of China) to clearly understand my position and work to resolve these problems. I urge the Chinese leadership to exercise wisdom and to initiate a meaningful dialogue with the Tibetan people."

"I also appeal to them to make sincere efforts to contribute to the stability and harmony of the PRC and avoid creating rifts between the nationalities," the message said.

The Dalai Lama, who is currently in the Indian capital conducting Buddhist meditation workshops, also said he was "deeply saddened by the loss of life in the recent tragic events in Tibet."



BCIC International Tender Notice

(বিসিআইসি পনা শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অর্থগতির প্রতীক)

Managing Director, Polish Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Polash, Narsingdi, Bangladesh invites sealed quotation (Single envelope system) for import of materials mentioned against the following tenders on CFR(C) Ctg Sea Port delivery basis.

| Sl No. | Tender No. & date | Description of materials | Cost of tender doc (non-refundable) per set | Tender security | Last date for submission of tender |
|--------|-----------------------------|---|---|-----------------|------------------------------------|
| 01 | Com/2.339/07-08 Dt 25.03.08 | Valve Sheet for Process Air Compressor, Recycle Compressor & CO ₂ Compressor | Tk 150/- | Tk 22,000/- | 19.05.2008 |
| 02 | Com/2.338/07-08 Dt 25.03.08 | 1 st & 2 nd Stage Tube Bundle for Process Air Compressor | Tk 250/- | Tk 40,000/- | 19.05.2008 |
| 03 | Com/3.208/06-07 Dt 25.03.08 | Electrical Spare Parts (34 Items) | Tk 150/- | Tk 19,000/- | 19.05.2008 |
| 04 | Com/4.200/06-07 Dt 25.03.08 | Flow Meter (Rota Meter) | Tk 150/- | Tk 15,000/- | 04.05.2008 (Re-Tender) |
| 05 | Com/2.222/07-08 Dt 25.03.08 | Stainless Steel Round Bar & Solid Round Bar | Tk 200/- | Tk 35,000/- | 04.05.2008 (Re-Tender) |
| 06 | Com/6.216/07-08 Dt 25.03.08 | Spectrophotometer | Tk 150/- | Tk 13,000/- | 04.05.2008 (Re-Tender) |

Tenders will be received in the tender box kept in the office of General Manager (Commercial), Polish Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Polash, Narsingdi, Bangladesh & will be opened immediately thereafter closing at 11.00am on the date mentioned above in presence of the tenderers or their authorised representative (if any). The tender documents will be available from (1) Accounts Division, BCIC Head Office, 30-31, Dikusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, (2) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong & (3) PUFFL's Accounts Deptt. Due to unavoidable circumstances, if the tender is not received/opened on the date & time mentioned above, the same will be received/opened on the next working days. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Kazi Shahadat Hossain
General Manager (Commercial)
For Managing Director

C-967

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Meteorological Department Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

International Re-Tender Notice

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| 1. | Ministry/Division | Ministry of Defence. | | | |
| 2. | Agency/office | Bangladesh Meteorological Department. | | | |
| 3. | Procuring entity name | Director, Bangladesh Meteorological Department. | | | |
| 4. | Procuring entity code | N/A. | | | |
| 5. | Procuring entity district | N/A. | | | |
| 6. | Invitation for | Meteorological Instrument | | | |
| 7. | Budget and source funds | GOB, 2007-2008 year. | | | |
| 8. | Description for tender | | | | |
| | SI No. | Tender No. | Description of items | Value of tender schedule (non-refundable) | Earnest money (refundable) |
| - | Lot 4 | IP-1(3)/E. Anemo/2007-08 (visala) | Spare parts for Vaisala digital Anemograph | Tk. 400/- | Tk. 15,000/- |
| - | Lot 5 | IP-1(3)/E. Anemo/2007-08 (Amos) | Spare parts for Automatic Met. Observation System (AMOS) | Tk. 400/- | Tk. 15,000/- |
| 09. | Tender last selling date | | 27.04.2008 during office hours. | | |
| 10. | Tender closing date and time | | 28.04.2008 at 3.00pm. | | |
| 11. | Tender opening date and time | | 28.04.2008 at 3.10pm. | | |
| 12. | Place of selling tender document | | Synoptic Division, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Head Quarters (5th Floor), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. | | |
| 13. | Place of dropping tender | | Agromet Division, Bangladesh Meteorological Department, Head Quarters (3rd Floor), Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. | | |
| 14. | General terms and conditions and detail specification of equipment will be available in the tender schedule. | | | | |
| 15. | The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders. | | | | |

Md. Shamsul Islam Sarker
Asstt. Director
For Director
Phone: 9117436 (Off).

GD-1470



বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী

২০০৮-বি ব্যাচ ২য় গ্রুপ অফিসার ক্যাডেট পদপ্রার্থীগণের লিখিত পরীক্ষার ফলাফল

২০০৮-বি ব্যাচ ২য় গ্রুপ অফিসার ক্যাডেট পদে প্রার্থিতা দাখল করা প্রার্থীদের সাক্ষাৎকার চাকা কেড়ে ১৬-২০ মার্চ, চট্টগ্রাম ও খুলনা কেড়ে ১৮-২০ মার্চ ও বড়ুয়া কেড়ে ১৮-১৯ মার্চ ২০০৮ তারিখে সম্পন্ন হইয়াছে এবং সকল কেড়ে লিখিত পরীক্ষা (Intel Test) ২১ মার্চ ২০০৮ তারিখে সম্পন্ন হইয়াছে। বর্ণিত পরীক্ষায় নিম্নবর্ণিত রোল নম্বরধারী প্রার্থীগণ উত্তীর্ণ হইয়াছেন :

কেন্দ্র : বি এন কলেজ ঢাকা।

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কেন্দ্র : বি এন কলেজ চট্টগ্রাম।

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কেন্দ্র : বা নৌ জা তিতুমীর খুলনা।

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কেন্দ্র : সরকারী আয়িডুল হক কলেজ বড়ুয়া।

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উপরোক্ত প্রার্থীগণের আন্তঃবাহিনী নির্বাচন (আই এস এস বি) কর্তৃক টেস্ট এবং ইন্টারভিউ ১০ জুন ২০০৮ এর মধ্যে (পর্যায়ক্রমে) আন্তঃবাহিনী নির্বাচন পর্যদ, ঢাকা সেনানিবাস, ঢাকায় অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে। আইএসএসবি কর্তৃক প্রার্থীগণের নিকট কল-আপ লেটার প্রেরণ করা হইবে এবং উক্ত কল-আপ লেটার যথাসময়ে না পাইলে সরাসরি আইএসএসবির ঠিকানায় (ফোন নং সেনাবাহিনী এক্সচেঞ্জঃ ৮৭৫০০১১/ বর্ণিতঃ ৮২৬৬ এবং ৮৭৫৪২৬৬-সরাসরি) যোগাযোগ কর