



Former Pakistani premier Nawaz Sharif (R) is speaking with US Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, during a meeting in Lahore yesterday. Pakistan's ruling coalition is set to reveal the details of an agreement to reinstate judges who were sacked last year by embattled President Pervez Musharraf.

US envoy in Nepal meets terror-listed Maoist leader

AFP, Kathmandu

The United States ambassador to Nepal has met for the first time with the Maoist leader, the embassy said Friday, despite the former rebels still being on a US list of terrorist organisations.

"US Ambassador Nancy Powell met Thursday with Communist Party of Nepal Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal to discuss the outcome of the April 10 elections," a statement said.

Dahal, who goes by the name of Prachanda or the "fierce one," led the Maoists to a surprise victory in the elections to a 601-member body whose first job will be to abolish the world's last Hindu monarchy and then rewrite the constitution.

ME Quartet presses Israel over settlements, Gaza blockade

AFP, London

The Middle East Quartet called yesterday on Israel to freeze the construction of further settlements in the West Bank, while voicing deep concern over the Gaza Strip due to an Israeli blockade.

In a joint statement issued after talks between the four key powers in London, they also urged Arab states Friday to make good on pledges to help the Palestinians.

"The Quartet ... called on Israel to freeze all settlement activity including natural growth, and to dismantle outposts erected since March 2001," they said, in a statement quoted by UN chief Ban Ki-moon.

"The Quartet called for continued emergency and humanitarian assistance and the provision of

essential services to Gaza without obstruction," the statement added. Former British prime minister Tony Blair, who now heads the Quartet, said the situation in Gaza was "terrible."

Before the London talks, aid agencies had urged the Quartet to use the London meeting to press Israel to end its blockade of Gaza.

The agencies including Oxfam urged the grouping "to end its complacency by putting the highest diplomatic pressure on the Israeli government to lift the blockade on Gaza."

Warning of "an impending humanitarian crisis," they added that the Israeli stranglehold on the sliver of land "has made life for ordinary people intolerable" and made it near impossible for aid agencies to work there.

On the Arab states, the four powers -- the United Nations, the United States, Russia and the European Union -- urged donor states to follow through on commitments to the Palestinians made at a Paris conference in December 2007.

"The Quartet encouraged the Arab states to fulfil both their political and financial roles in support of the Annapolis process," he said, citing a statement agreed by the four powers.

The comments echoed remarks by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, speaking on the eve of the talks.

Arab "states that have resources ought to be looking not for how little they can do but how much they can do," she told reporters accompanying her en route to London.

Rice was due to travel on from London to Jerusalem and the West Bank, to try to advance stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, ahead of a visit to the region by President George W. Bush later in the month.

Bush -- who said earlier this week that he remained hopeful of a Middle East peace deal before he leaves office in January -- will visit Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt from May 13 to 18.

The Quartet talks were to be followed by separate meetings on Iran.

A six-power grouping comprising the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany were to discuss the next steps in seeking to persuade Tehran to rein in its disputed nuclear programme.

Fighting kills 35 in Lanka's restive north

AFP, Colombo

At least 34 Tamil Tiger rebels and a soldier died in the latest battles in the island's restive north, the defence ministry said yesterday.

Security forces smashed rebel bunkers and engaged in artillery fire with Tamil separatists in the regions of Vavuniya, Jaffna, Mannar and Welikona on Thursday killing 34 guerrillas, the ministry said in a statement.

The military said they also captured the town of Karupukulam in the Mannar district on Thursday and placed

their own losses at one soldier dead and six injured.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were not immediately available for comment.

After ejecting the LTTE from the east last year, security forces are trying to take vast swathes of land under LTTE control in the north.

Meanwhile, suspected Tamil Tiger rebels on Thursday set off a roadside mine in Sri Lanka, killing two police commandos, as violence raged across the north, the defence ministry said.

The Claymore mine, packed with steel balls, exploded in

Kebethigollewa as troops were clearing the road of mines, the military said, adding that troops fired at fleeing guerrillas and shot dead two rebels.

Security forces Thursday launched an attack to capture rebel bunker lines in the northern region of Welikona, killing two more guerrillas and wounding 14, a statement said, placing government losses at two soldiers dead and two injured.

Troops also shot dead a Tiger rebel in Vavuniya on Thursday, while two soldiers were injured in the clashes, the military said.

Thailand PM issues coup warning

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's prime minister on Friday urged opposition supporters not to incite another military coup with their provocative rhetoric over proposed amendments to the country's constitution.

Premier Samak Sundaravej's ruling People Power Party (PPP) and its five coalition partners are considering a series of changes to the constitution, which was drafted by a panel installed by the junta that ousted Thaksin Shinawatra in 2006.

Samak said he was facing accusations of being disloyal to the country's revered monarchy, as did Thaksin before he was removed.

"There is widespread excitement by those who are focusing on the issue of the constitutional amendments and accuse me of being disloyal to the monarchy like Thaksin. They believe I should be removed from office," Samak told a seminar of the National Economic and Social Advisory Council.

Samak refuted any similarities to Thaksin and reiterated that his government had been democratically elected after winning December polls.



Indian policewomen arrest Bharatiya Janatha Party (BJP) activists during a protest in front of the Civil Supplies Corporation Ltd. in Hyderabad yesterday. The general strike which was called by the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to protest the Congress-led UPA Government's "failure" to rein in rising prices of essential commodities and increasing inflation.

Tibetan envoys head for talks in China

AFP, Dharamshala

Two Tibetan envoys will arrive in China today to start talks with the country's leadership after bloody riots in Lhasa, a spokesman for the Tibetan government in exile said.

The talks will be the first face-to-face contact between the two sides since unrest erupted in Tibet on March 10 followed by a Chinese crackdown.

"During this brief visit, the envoys will take up the urgent issue of the current crisis in the Tibetan areas," spokesman Thubten Samphel told AFP on Friday.

"They will convey His Holiness the Dalai Lama's deep concerns about the Chinese authorities' handling of the situation and also

provide suggestions to bring peace to the region."

He said the envoys, Lodi Gyaltzen Gyari and Kelsang Gyaltzen, had arrived in Hong Kong en route to mainland China for the talks, which could start as early as Saturday.

"The envoys will raise the issue of moving forward on the process for a mutually satisfactory solution to the Tibetan issue," he added. The government in exile, based in the northern Indian town of Dharamshala, says 203 people were killed and some 1,000 hurt in the unrest and crackdown.

At least 5,715 people have been arrested since the protests began, according to figures, which the government says have been extensively cross-checked.

Chittagong Palli Bidyut Samity-3 Sitakunda, Chittagong.

Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) For

Selection of Retainer Consultancy Services of the Chittagong Palli Bidyut Samity-3

Chittagong Palli Bidyut Samity-3 (PBS) invites EOI from Electrical Consulting Firms (National) for 3 Years Retainer Consultancy Services at Chittagong Palli Bidyut Samity-3 (PBS) area.

The Services include

- Field investigation, Load data collection & Re-Design of distribution system and Review of Master plan.
- Inventory of PDB/PBS existing line.
- Design and supervision of new lines and Sub-Stations, PDB taken over lines and Sub-Station and preparation of bill of materials of these.
- Preparation of work plan of PDB taken over line.
- Updating key map & Detail map and As-built single line operational diagram.
- Maintenance, Planning and Designing.
- Preparation of as-built staking sheet and close out documents for lines & Sub-Stations.
- Preparation of study report (System Loss, Sectionalizing, Power factor, Voltage drop and any other Study).
- Study of Sub-Station expansion/Extension or renovation and preparation of layout, foundation etc.
- System Analysis and improvement of it.
- Others As Required.

The consulting firms should have at least 5 years experience in Electrical consultancy service of sub-Transmission/Distribution system and have a full complement of staff who will be capable of working.

Chittagong Palli Bidyut Samity-3 (PBS) now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services;

- Registration of firm;
- Age of firm;
- Brochures Submitted by the applicants summarizing their facilities and areas of Expertise;
- Description of similar assignments, Staking and supervision of distribution system;
- Experience in similar operation conditions;
- Availability of appropriate experience and professional qualification among applicants staff and resources to carryout the assignment; and
- Administrative strength and Financial capability

Consultant will be selected using the selection Sub-method in accordance with the public procurement Regulations-2003 and public procurement procedures issued by the GOB. Interested consulting firms may obtain further information regarding the assignment from the address stated below during 9.00 A. M. to 5.00 P.M on Saturday to Wednesday and 9.00 A. M. To 2.00 P. M. on Thursday (except holiday)

Expression of Interest (EOI) must be delivered in sealed envelop to the address below by 5 PM on 26th May, 2008 and be clearly marked "Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Selection of Retainer consultancy services of the Chittagong Palli Bidyut Samity-3 (PBS)". The Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

(Pradip Kumar Dey)
General Manager

Chittagong Palli Bidyut Samity-3
Sitakunda, Chittagong.
Phone No. 03028-56477



Omar bin Laden

Laden's son to appeal British residency rejection

AFP, Cairo

Osama bin Laden's son Omar is to appeal after his application to move to Britain with his British wife was rejected because his presence might cause "considerable public concern," his wife said on Thursday.

Omar bin Laden, 27, married Zaina Alsabah, 52, formerly known as Jane Felix-Browne, in Omar's homeland of Saudi Arabia last year and the couple had hoped to move to Britain to be near the rest of Zaina's family.

But the Entry Clearance Officer at the British embassy in Cairo turned down his application to move to Britain because of "continuing loyalty to your father who is ultimately held responsible for the London bombing in July 2005."

Vacancy Announcement

Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Bangladesh, invites applications from highly qualified, energetic and experienced development professionals who want to join UNDP's dynamic working environment, for recruitment in the following positions (Service Contracts) for the "UNDP-Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility"

- Economic Development Expert - 3 Positions
- Community Empowerment Expert

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website:
<http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 16th May, 2008

ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LIMITED

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Ashuganj, B. Baria-3402, Bangladesh.

Telephone: 08528-74033, Fax: 08528-74044, E-mail: apscldb@yahoo.com

Memo No. APSC/Pro-02/2008/554

date : 29/04/2008

"Invitation For Tender"

01. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Power Division
02. Agency	: Ashuganj Power Station Co. Ltd.
03. Procuring Entity Name	: Convener, Procurement Committee, APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria.
04. Procuring Entity District	: Brahman Baria, Bangladesh
05. Invitation for	: 1. Supply, Installation, Testing, & Commissioning of Diesel Generator Set with all accessories for APSC 2. Supply of Reagent grade chemicals (Analar), Glass ware and Accessories for Water Treatment Plant of APSC 3. Supply of 30 (thirty) M.T Caustic Soda Flex for Water Treatment Plant of APSC
06. Invitation Ref No	: Memo No. APSC/Pro-2/2008/554
07. Date	: 29/04/2008
08. Procurement Method	: Open Tendering Method.
09. Source of Funds	: APSC'S Own Fund.
10. Tender Publication Date	: 29/04/2008
11. Tender Last Selling Date	: 25/05/2008 during office hours
12. Tender Closing Date and Time	: 26/05/2008 at 12:00 Noon
13. Tender Opening Date and Time	: 26/05/2008 at 12:30 PM
14. Name & Address of the Offices	
a. -Selling Tender Documents.	: (i) Asstt. Chief Engineer (Generation), Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Bhavan, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. (ii) Deputy Director (Finance), APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria.
b. Receiving & Opening Tender Documents	: Office of the Convener, Procurement Committee, APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria
15. Place/Date/Time of pre-Tender meeting	: Conference room of APSC, Date: 17/05/2008, Time: 10:00 am
16. Eligibility of Tenderer	: Renowned Manufacturer/Supplier having experience of supply as specified in the Tender Document.
17.	

Sl. No	Name of Item	Price of Tender Documents	Amount of Tender Security	Delivery time
01.	Supply, Installation, Testing, & Commissioning of Diesel Generator Set with all accessories for APSC	Non refundable Tk. 1,000/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	BDT45,000.00 In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	30 days from the date of contract signing
02.	Supply of Reagent grade chemicals (Analar), Glass ware and Accessories for Water Treatment Plant of APSC	Non refundable Tk. 300/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	BDT4,200.00 In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	15 days from the date of contract signing
03.	Supply of 30 (thirty) M.T Caustic Soda Flex for Water Treatment Plant of APSC	Non-refundable Tk. 500/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	BDT 40,000.00 In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	30 days from the date of contract signing
18.	Name of official Inviting Tender	: Md. Abdus Samad		
19.	Designation of official Inviting Tender	: Convener, Procurement committee		
20.	Address of official Inviting Tender	: Ashuganj Power Station Co. Ltd. Ashuganj, B-Baria, Bangladesh.		
21.	Contract details of official Inviting Tender	: Tel : 08528-74033 Fax : 08528-74044		
22.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders			

(Md. Abdus Samad)
Convener,
Procurement Committee,
APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria, Bangladesh.