

This handout picture shows Pakistani former premier Nawaz Sharif (R) is talking with US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher during a meeting in Lahore yesterday. Boucher on a three-day visit to Pakistan discussed matters of mutual interest including regional situation.

## Lankan jets bomb rebel air, sea bases

20 killed in fighting

AP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's air force bombed a Tamil Tiger rebel air base and a rebel navy base, while separate ground clashes in the country's war-torn north left 20 combatants dead, the military said Tuesday.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said the rebel sea base was targeted Monday night, while the air base was bombed early Tuesday.

Pilots confirmed that they hit their targets but casualty and damage details were not immediately available, he said.

Meanwhile, infantry fighting across the northern front lines of the island's civil war killed 16 rebels and four soldiers, Nanayakkara said. The fighting took place Monday along the Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya and Welioya fronts, he said.

Rebel spokesman Rastiah Manthirayan could not be immediately reached for comment.

It was not possible to verify the military's claims because reporters are not allowed into the war zone.

The rebels first deployed their air wing last year to attack military

and economic targets. It is made up of a few self-assembled, low-flying aircraft.

Sri Lankan troops on the ground have been trying to push into the northern rebel territory from four fronts, while the air force has supported them with near-daily bombing raids.

The government earlier vowed to crush the insurgents by the end of this year. However, the island's army chief Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka told Colombo-based foreign correspondents Monday that while the rebels have been stripped of their conventional fighting capabilities, it may take another year to defeat them.

Tamil Tiger rebels have fought since 1983 to create an independent homeland for ethnic minority Tamils, who have faced marginalisation at the hands of successive governments controlled by majority ethnic Sinhalese. More than 60,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's main media rights group Tuesday condemned an assault on a journalist and a senior British High Commission officer and

demanding that the attackers be brought to justice.

Political officer Mahendra Ratnawera was severely injured in the Monday evening attack in Colombo while his passenger, freelance journalist and defence analyst Namal Perera, also suffered serious injuries.

The incident came less than a month after Sri Lanka's hawkish defence ministry launched scathing attacks against journalists critical of its war against Tamil rebels, calling them "enemies of the state."

It also came days after the government moved to deflect a barrage of criticism over its press rights record by promising to help journalists receiving death threats.

The Free Media Movement (FMM) said it will treat the latest incident as a "litmus test" of the effectiveness of the high-powered ministerial committee appointed by President Mahinda Rajapakse to prevent attacks against journalists.

"We will be closely monitoring the actions taken by the government to bring the perpetrators to justice in this latest criminal act," the group said.

## Pak forces demolish new militant-linked buildings

AFP, Bara

Pakistani forces demolished two buildings used by militants in the Khyber tribal district on Tuesday on the fourth day of an operation against rebels there, officials said.

Pakistan said it launched the operation in Khyber on Saturday to tackle militants who were threatening the northwestern city of Peshawar and attacking convoys supplying Nato and US troops in Afghanistan.

Security forces on Tuesday blew up an empty building used as a local headquarters of the hardline Lashkar-e-Islami in the Khajoori area, a security official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The building was previously the residence of Lashkar-e-Islam's founder, Mufi Munir Shakir.

# Left parties to reconsider support for Indian govt

AFP, New Delhi

A grouping of left-wing parties who prop up India's government will meet this week to reconsider their support and forcing early polls, an official said yesterday.

The four-party left-wing and communist bloc is deciding whether to pull out of the coalition because of their opposition to a nuclear energy deal with the United States that would bring India into the fold of global atomic commerce.

The pact is being pushed by the dominant Congress party of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh as crucial for India's energy security, but the Left argues it will draw the

traditionally non-aligned country too close to Washington.

"We will be meeting on Friday to discuss our future strategy, including the issue of support," a senior Communist leader told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Tensions between Singh and the communists have been running high for months, but the likelihood of early elections -- towards the end of the year rather than May 2009 -- has been seen as increasing after a crisis meeting last week.

Since then Singh has appeared determined to press ahead with implementing the deal, and on Sunday Congress said its leader Sonia Gandhi had urged the party to gear up for elections.

The Left-bloc is now reportedly watching to see if Singh will attend the Group of Eight rich nations summit in Japan next week and meet US President George W. Bush, which they would regard as a sign he will push ahead with deal.

"Earlier he (Singh) had said he would go only if he gets clearance to go ahead with the nuclear deal," Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader Prakash Karat was quoted as saying by the Hindustan Times on Tuesday.

"His going to Japan is an indication that they (the government) are going ahead with the deal. We are, therefore, discussing the timing of withdrawal" of support, he said.

Asked whether the Left would

pull out of the coalition if Singh went to Japan, the paper reported Karat as saying said: "That is not the case yet. We are still discussing the time (for withdrawing support)."

The nuclear deal -- agreed in principle in 2005 -- would allow India to buy atomic power plants and technology despite not signing international non-proliferation pacts.

New Delhi still needs to negotiate an accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency to allow inspections of its atomic plants and garner a waiver from the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group before it can enter the global nuclear trade.

## Musharraf warns against Nato strike on Pak soil

THE DAWN, Islamabad

President Pervez Musharraf told a five-member US Congressional delegation on Monday that Pakistan would not tolerate a recurrence of US-led Nato attack on Pakistani troops from Afghanistan.

"The targeted attack on Pakistan's observation post on June 10 was absolutely intolerable," presidential spokesman Maj Gen (ret'd) Rashid Qureshi quoted President Musharraf as saying.

He told Dawn the delegation, led by Senator Benjamin Cardin, was told that the unjustified attack, which killed a major and 12 soldiers, enraged the people of Pakistan.

Qureshi said the American senators agreed with the president that the US-led Nato forces in Afghanistan should not violate Pakistan's air space.

The president briefed the senators on the situation in the NWFP, particularly on efforts to prevent Taliban from entering Peshawar from tribal areas.

"These senators are visiting Pakistan to gauge the political situation as well as to know what is happening in border areas," Qureshi said.

The president said that al-Qaeda operatives were supporting Taliban and some miscreants to create problems in the NWFP. "But they would never succeed in their nefarious designs," Qureshi said

quoting the president.

Musharraf said Pakistan wanted to enhance trade relations, instead of relying on aid from the United States.

The president said the NWFP government was committed to rooting out terrorism and militancy from the province. He explained the government's comprehensive multi-pronged strategy combining political, military and socio-economic development measures.

He appreciated congressional support for Pakistan's counter-terrorism initiatives including Fata development plan, reconstruction opportunity zones and capability building of the Frontier Corps.

The spokesman said the president urged the delegation to release development funds out of the \$750 million assistance announced for five years to help improve the socio-economic conditions in tribal areas.

Supporting development activities in tribal areas would be the best way to curb extremism and poverty, the president said.

The visiting members of the congress conveyed their support for the strategic relationship between Pakistan and the United States.

They appreciated Pakistan's commitment to combating terrorism and reaffirmed their support for Islamabad's counter-terrorism efforts.



PHOTO: AFP

Indian pedestrians walk through floodwaters in a low-lying area of Mumbai yesterday after the financial hub of the country was hit by heavy torrential showers. Several roads, subways and railway tracks in various parts of the city were inundated with overnight monsoon showers, which brought commuter trains in some areas to a standstill.

## Secret US plan for Pakistan on hold

Reports New York Times

THE DAWN, New York

Sharp policy disagreements and turf battles between American counter-terrorism agencies have held up Bush administration's secret plan to operate inside Pakistan's tribal areas, the New York Times reported on Monday.

It quoted a senior Defence Department official as saying there was "mounting frustration" in the Pentagon at the continued delay in deployment of special operations teams into Pakistan's tribal regions where senior al-Qaeda operatives are thought to be hiding.

The new plan, outlined in a highly classified Pentagon order, was intended to eliminate some of those turf battles. And it was meant to pave a smoother path into the tribal areas for American commandos, who for years have bristled at what they see as Washington's risk-averse attitude towards special operations missions inside Pakistan.

They also argue that catching Bin Laden will come only by capturing some of his senior lieutenants alive.

The Times report, based on more than four dozen interviews in the US and Pakistan, said al-Qaeda's safe haven in Pakistan was in part due to the administration's accommodation to President Musharraf. It was also a story, the report concluded, of infighting between US intelligence agencies and shifting White House priorities from counter-terrorism efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan to the war in Iraq.

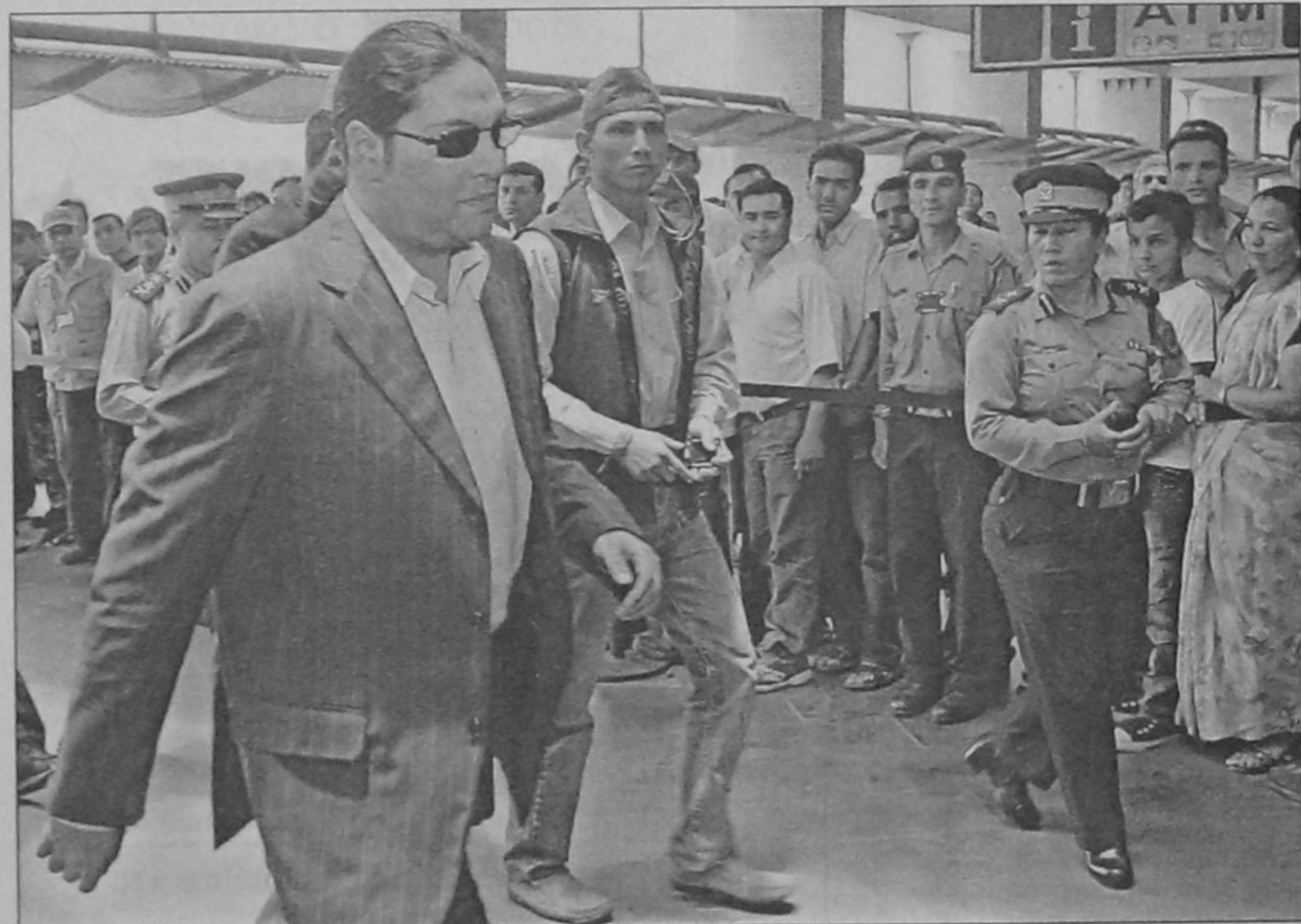


PHOTO: AFP

Former Nepalese Crown Prince Paras (L) is watched by a crowd as he walks into the VIP departure lounge at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu yesterday. The former prince left the Nepalese capital amid speculation he was planning a life abroad, a month after the country's monarchy was formally abolished.

## Ousted crown prince Paras leaves Nepal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kathmandu

Thirty-three days after his father Gyanendra was stripped of his once revered position as the king of Nepal and he himself lost the right to succeed to the 239-year-old throne, Nepal's controversial former crown prince Paras on Tuesday left the country for Singapore, triggering speculation about his return.

The 37-year-old was accompanied by two body guards and his brother-in-law Raj Bahadur Singh.

This is his first exit from Nepal since being confined to the country for nearly two years following the fall of his father's absolute reign in April 2006.

Unable to attend the birthday celebration of Thai king Bhumibol Adulyadej in Bangkok due to restrictions on foreign travel imposed on him and his family by the new government, the former crown prince enjoyed the first advantage of becoming a commoner as his flight to Singapore

abroad Silk Air was not opposed by anyone.

Reports said Paras' wife, the former crown princess Himani, would join him within a week with their three small children.

As the former royals remained silent on the departure, there was speculation that Paras could be looking for fresh pastures, unwilling to remain in a land that had inflicted such severe punishment on him and his family.

A local daily, however, reported on Tuesday that the former prince was not fleeing his country. He was merely going to Singapore to find a good school for his children, the Himalayan Times daily said.

Eight-year-old Purnika, her six-year-old brother Hridayendra, who had once been the second in line to the throne, and their younger sister Kritikka had stopped going to school since May 28, when Nepal's newly elected lawmakers formally proclaimed the country a republic and abolished the throne enjoyed by the Shah dynasty of hereditary kings.

## Kashmir govt revokes decision to hand over land to Hindus

AFP, Srinagar

Indian Kashmir formally revoked yesterday a decision to hand over land to Hindu pilgrims after days of violent protests that left four dead and nearly 350 injured in the Muslim region.

The decision was taken by the state cabinet, which met in Srinagar, summer capital of the scenic Himalayan state where a bloody revolt has raged against Indian rule for nearly two decades.

The government order "is hereby cancelled," an official statement said.

The statement said the state government had taken charge of logistics for a major annual Hindu pilgrimage to a mountain grotto, scrapping a move to allocate land to a religious trust so it could build accommodation.

That decision provoked the riots in and around Srinagar.

Revocation of the order came as top separatists were placed under house arrest by police in a bid to avert more protests and a strike shut shops, schools, banks and post offices for a ninth day here.

The entire separatist political leadership was under house arrest, except for hardliner Syed Ali Geelani who managed to evade police, police officer Pervez Ahmed said.

Among those detained were the region's leading cleric Umar Farooq, Shabir Shah, known as Kashmir's Nelson Mandela for the years he has spent in Indian jails and Yasin Malik.

The protests had continued despite a weekend promise by Chief Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad that his cabinet would scrap the plan to allow a Hindu trust to build accommodation for visitors to a Hindu shrine.

Residents said police and paramilitary officers were enforcing an

"undeclared" curfew in most parts of Srinagar.

"We're not being allowed to come out of our homes. They say a curfew is in force," resident Mushtaq Ahmed told AFP by telephone. But police denied issuing curfew orders.

The government's move last month to provide land to the Hindu trust, the Shri Amarnathji Shrine Board, prompted huge protests and violent clashes across the Kashmir valley.

The protests have evoked memories of the widespread anti-India protests that swept the region after a separatist insurgency broke out in 1989.

Separatists charge the land transfer was a ploy to settle Indian Hindus in Kashmir. But officials dismiss the allegations, saying New Delhi has never tried to encourage Hindu migration to the Himalayan region.

## US, Nato deaths in Afghanistan pass Iraq toll

AP, Kabul

Militants killed more US and Nato troops in Afghanistan in June than in Iraq for the second straight month, a grim milestone capping a run of headline-grabbing insurgent attacks that analysts say underscore the Taliban's growing strength.

The fundamentalist militia in June staged a sophisticated jailbreak that freed 886 prisoners, then briefly infiltrated a strategic valley outside Kandahar. Last week, a Pentagon report forecast the Taliban would maintain or increase its pace of attacks, which are already up 40 percent this year from 2007 where US troops operate along the Pakistan border.

Some observers say the insurgency has gained dangerous

momentum. And while June also saw the international community meet in Paris to pledge \$21 billion in aid, an Afghanistan expert at New York University warns that there is still no strategy to turn that commitment into success.

Defence Secretary Robert Gates has noted that more international troops died in Afghanistan than in Iraq in May, the first time that had happened. While that trend now two months old is in part due to falling violence in Iraq, it also reflects rising violence in Afghanistan.

At least 45 international troops including at least 27 US forces and 13 British died in Afghanistan in June, the deadliest month since the 2001 US-led invasion to oust the Taliban, according to an Associated Press count.

# BPS's International Tender Notice

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources, Power Division.
2.	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board.
3.	Procuring entity name	Manager, Baghabari Power Station.
4.	Procuring entity district	Sirajganj.
5.	Invitation for	Supply of Insulating Oil Purifier & Clarifier Unit and Insulating Oil Testing Set for Baghabari Power Station.
6.	Invitation Ref. No.	BPS/Pur-145/2008, Dated 21/06/2008.

## KEY INFORMATION

7.	Procurement method	Open international tendering method.
8.	Budget and source of funds	Cash foreign exchange from revenue fund of BPDB.
9.	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.

## PARTICULAR INFORMATION

10.	Tender package No.	214
11.	Tender package name	Supply of Insulating Oil Purifier & Clarifier Unit and Insulating Oil Testing Set for Baghabari Power Station.
12.	Tender publication date	21/06/2008.
13.	Tender last selling date	12/08/2008.
14.	Tender closing date and time	13/08/2008 11:00am
15.	Tender opening date and time	13/08/2008 11:30am
16.	Validity of tender and tender security	120 (one hundred twenty) days and 150 (one hundred fifty) days respectively from the date of opening of tender.
17.	Name & address of the office(s)	Address: Manager, Baghabari Power Station, BPDB, Sirajganj.
	-Selling tender document (principal)	Directorate of Purchase, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
	-Selling tender document (others)	Directorate of Purchase, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
	-Receiving tender document	Directorate of Purchase, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
	-Opening tender document	Directorate of Purchase, Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
18.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Not applicable.

## INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

19.	Eligibility of tenderer	Manufacturer/authorized supplier or contractor.
20.	Brief description of goods or works	Supply of Insulating Oil Purifier Unit and Insulating Oil Testing Set for Baghabari Power Station.
21.	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk. 5,000.00 in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any schedule bank or from foreign bank duly authenticated by a schedule bank of Bangladesh in favour of Manager, Baghabari Power Station, BPDB, Sirajganj (non-refundable).

22.	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in months
	1	Supply of Insulating Oil Purifier & Clarifier Unit for Baghabari Power Station	Baghabari Power Station, Sirajganj	US\$ 2,000.00 Equivalent BD Tk. 1,40,000.00	03 (three) months
	2	Supply of Insulating Oil Testing Set for Baghabari Power Station	Baghabari Power Station, Sirajganj	US\$ 500.00 Equivalent BD Tk. 35,000.00	03 (three) months

## PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

23.	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. S M Akhtuzzaman, Manager (SE) Baghabari Power Station, PDB, Sirajganj.
24.	Designation of official inviting tender	Manager (SE)
25.	Address of official inviting tender	Baghabari Power Station, BPDB, Sirajganj.
26.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. 0751-63858 (Fax: 0751-63858)
27.	Special instructions	(1) Tender documents sent by post Telex/Fax/Postal offer is not acceptable. (2) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders. (3) Late tender will be directly rejected.

Engr. S M Akhtuzzaman

Manager (SE)

Baghabari Power Station

BPDB, Sirajganj

Biddyt/Jana-1611(4)/25-6-08

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