



India's opposition Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) President Rajnath Singh (C) gestures while addressing the Central Election committee meeting in New Delhi yesterday as LK Advani (3L) and other leaders look on. Senior BJP leaders met to decide the second list of the party's Lok Sabha - Lower House - candidates.

CBI working under political pressure, says Mayawati

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

Two days after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) filed an affidavit against her in a disproportionate assets case, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati on Saturday came down heavily on the Congress and arch rival Samajwadi Party and alleged they were influencing the working of the premier investigating agency.

The Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP) chief also flayed the CBI director, accusing him of working under the influence of the central government.

"My sources say that since the alliance of the Samajwadi Party and Congress, the CBI director goes to the home of a senior Samajwadi Party leader and is working on his directions," said Mayawati at a press conference here.

CPI-M dares Cong to face elections on nuclear deal

PTI, New Delhi

The CPI-M has dared the Congress to face elections on the nuclear deal plank, saying they were confident that people would reject the latter's stand as the Government was "isolated" on the issue.

The party said the Left parties would work to ensure that the deal does not get operationalised during the "life of Manmohan Singh government".

"It is not we but the government which is isolated on this issue. The discussion in Parliament in November-December 2007, in both the Houses, showed that it is in minority on this issue," CPI-M General Secretary Prakash Karat said in an interview to party mouthpiece 'People's Democracy'.

He said it was the consistent opposition of the strategic alliance with the US and nuclear deal by the Left that has brought out of the "dangers" of these moves into mainstream discussion.

Asked whether he thinks that the deal will go through, the top CPI-M leader said, "we will fight at every stage to ensure that it will not get operationalised."

"Why was the Government keeping the text secret? This is the habit of Congress whenever it is in Government. In 1991 when Singh was Finance Minister, the Government made an agreement with the IMF for USD five billion. When we asked them what conditions have been accepted, they refused to divulge the text. It was the CPI-M which pro-

posed the document from Washington and published the full text." On the current political scenario, Karat said the UPA Government has "lost legitimacy" after the support withdrawal by the Left.

"Our stand, irrespective of what others do, is that the Left will vote against the Government for their betrayal of national interests," he said.

Moreover the four-year old UPA government will face its first trial of strength in the Lok Sabha on July 22 with Congress chief Sonia Gandhi asking coalition partners to "look ahead" after Left's exit while exuding confidence of securing majority.

A two-day special session of the Lok Sabha will be convened on July

21 to take up the vote of confidence and voting will take place the next day, the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs decided today.

The CCPA meeting came a day after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met President Pratibha Patil and expressed his Government's readiness to seek a trust vote following Left parties with 59 members withdrawing support to it for going to the IAEA to take forward the Indo-US nuclear deal.

"I have no doubt that we shall prove our majority," Gandhi said in her opening remarks at a meeting of the UPA Coordination Committee where Prime Minister Manmohan Singh explained the developments related to the nuclear deal.

Pakistan will not be staging ground for terror attack: FM

AFP, Washington

Pakistan will not allow itself to be staging ground for any terrorist attacks, Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said Friday amid reports foreign fighters were heading to the country to join al-Qaeda militants.

Washington has warned that global terror group al-Qaeda is rebuilding itself in Pakistan's tribal areas for a possible terrorist attack on US soil while Kabul has accused Pakistan of backing Taliban insurgents waging a bloody insurgency

against international troops in Afghanistan.

"Pakistan will not permit its territory to be used by anyone against any country," Qureshi told a forum of the Washington-based Brookings Institution.

The newly elected administration of Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani "has now the legitimate mandate to confront the forces of terrorism wherever they rear their ugly heads," Qureshi said.

US intelligence officials say there has been an increase in foreign fighters travelling to Pakistan to join

up with al-Qaeda-linked militants in the country's tribal areas, the New York Times reported Thursday.

Dozens of more Uzbeks, North Africans and Arabs from Gulf states have reportedly moved into Pakistan in recent months, shoring up the al-Qaeda forces backing the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan.

General David McKiernan, the new Nato commander in Afghanistan, said the situation in Pakistan's northwestern border areas, where al-Qaeda and other Islamic insurgents are reportedly based, had worsened.

Prachanda rejects NC, CPN-UML's claim on president post

PTI, Kathmandu

Maoist chief Prachanda has rejected the claim of Nepali Congress and CPN-UML on the post of the republic's first President saying it should go to someone from the civil society, further deepening the deadlock over formation of a new government.

"I don't think that the post of President can be made the issue of power-sharing," the Maoist leader said. "We can talk about sharing the

Cabinet posts so far as power-sharing is concerned." For the post of President, Prachanda said his CPN-Maoist party favoured it to be given to someone from the civil society.

He, however, expressed confidence that the major issues concerning formation of government and power-sharing, including the posts of President, Vice President and Chairman of the Constituent Assembly, will be resolved in a couple of days.

Obama will not change nuke deal with India

AFP, New Delhi

US Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama said he would not seek changes in a controversial nuclear deal with India and hoped it would be finalised by year-end, a magazine reported yesterday.

"The existing agreement effectively balanced a range of important issues -- from our strategic relationship with India to our non-proliferation concerns to India's energy needs," Obama was quoted as saying by the weekly Outlook news magazine.

"I am therefore reluctant to seek

changes," he said in the interview.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and US President George W. Bush had in 2005 unveiled the agreement which if finalised will allow India in to the fold of global nuclear commerce after having been shut out for decades.

Singh argues the pact is crucial for India's energy security and continued strong economic growth.

But the Indian government's left-wing allies who are staunchly opposed to the agreement last week withdrew their support over

the issue. The government will now face a confidence vote on July 22.

Despite the political opposition, Singh's government moved forward on an agreement subjecting the country's civilian nuclear sites to international controls for the first time.

An approval by the UN atomic agency International Atomic Energy (IAEA) of the draft agreement is one of the several conditions India must fulfil to clinch the accord, apart from getting the nod from the Nuclear Suppliers Group.

'Serious dialogue a must to resolve Kashmir row'

PTI, Washington

Seeking an "out of the box" settlement to the Kashmir issue with India, Pakistan has said the two countries need to go beyond the confidence-building measures and engage in serious dialogue to address the "real issues."

"We have to look out of the box... We have to look at innovative ways of resolution (to the Kashmir

issue). We have our minds open to such issues," Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said yesterday while delivering a lecture at the Brookings Institution.

"It is now our hope that the leadership of the two countries would not shy away from taking such steps and move beyond the CBMs to engaging in a serious dialogue to address the real issues,

not only the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir," Qureshi said.

He said that Islamabad had shown flexibility, adding that there was "a general feeling and a public perception in Pakistan that a matching response should come from India." Qureshi said India-Pakistan dialogue should "now move from resolving conflicts rather than lingering with them".

Indian army accuses Pakistan of helping Kashmiri insurgents

AP, Srinagar

The Indian army on Friday lodged a protest with Pakistani forces, accusing them of providing cover for Islamic militants trying to sneak into India's portion of Kashmir.

India accused Pakistani forces of "assisting infiltration by resorting to unprovoked firing" on Indian positions at a meeting between the army commanders of the two countries, said army spokesman Lt Col SD Goswami.

Pakistani soldiers provided cover for Islamic militants trying to enter illegally into the Indian portion of Kashmir to attack Indian

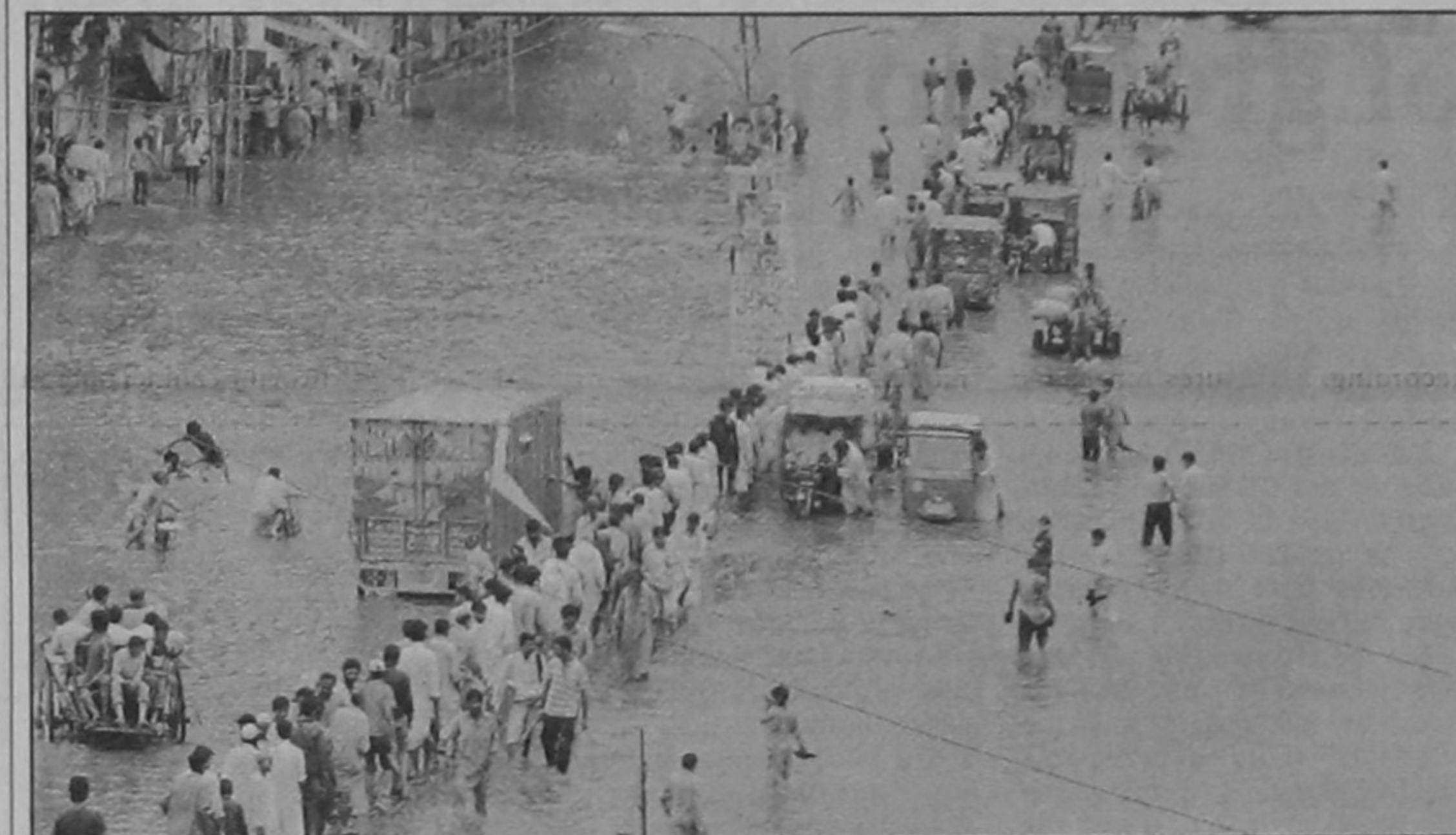
targets, Goswami said.

Pakistani army spokesman Maj Gen Athar Abbas rejected the allegation, Abbas said it was the Indian army that violated a 2003 cease-fire in Kashmir on Thursday by firing mortars and small arms without any provocation in the Battal sector of Kashmir.

"We have lodged a strong protest with them over the breach of cease-fire," Abbas said.

Goswami denied the Indian army fired on Pakistani positions in the disputed Himalayan region.

Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan but claimed by both in its entirety.



Pakistani commuters travel through flooded streets during heavy monsoon rain in Lahore yesterday. Officials said Lahore had received 140mm (4.5 inches) of rain in the previous 24 hours, with chances of light rain in next 24 hours.

Directorate General Defence Purchase Ministry of Defence New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215 Web: www.dgdp.gov.bd E-Mail: info@dgdp.gov.bd 3rd Time Tender 1. Sealed tenders (single envelop system) in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Army.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা www.dhakacity.org আপনার শহর পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন পুনঃ দরপত্র আহ্বান বিজ্ঞপ্তি ১) মন্ত্রণালয় স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ, স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়। ২) সংস্থার নাম ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন। ৩) দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, অঞ্চল-২, ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, নগর ভবন, ঢাকা। ৪) সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)। ৫) অফিস ঠিকানা তফসিল-ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের নিজস্ব অফিস, বাত-রাও/ফুটপাথ/ সারফেস স্ট্রেন।

Indian Speaker likely to quit next week

CNN-IBN, New Delhi

The Left seems to be divided on the question of Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee and also on whether it should be seen as the one responsible for bringing down the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government.

Sources have told CNN-IBN that Chatterjee is likely to put in his papers early next week just days ahead of the UPA Government facing a Vote of Confidence in Lok Sabha.

Chatterjee's position has become embarrassing with his

party, the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), including his name in the list of 60 MPs who are to vote against the Congress-led Government when the trust vote is conducted in Parliament on July 22.

But CPI-M General Secretary Prakash Karat has said that the party has not taken any decision yet to ask him to quit the Speaker's post.

Chatterjee's Lok Sabha office issued a press release earlier in the week saying that the Speaker didn't want any speculation on his quitting office.



Activists from Communist Party of India-Marxist Leninist (CPM-L) New Democracy shout slogans against Congress-led UPA government during a protest over Indo-US nuclear deal and demanded resignation of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi yesterday.

EDCL Essential Drugs Company Limited 395-397, Tejgaon Industrial Area Dhaka-1208 International Tender Notice EDCL invites International Tender for Supply of Pharmaceutical Raw Material & Packing Material on C&F@ Dhaka by Air & Chittagong by Sea/Benapole by Road basis.