

India, Pakistan trade blame on Kashmir clash

Troops exchange fire for 14 hours

AFP, Srinagar
India and Pakistan traded blame yesterday for a ceasefire violation along the Line of Control in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir that left an Indian soldier dead.
Pakistan's military rejected Indian accusations that it had broken the ceasefire, saying Indian troops had crossed the Line of Control (LoC) overnight and opened fire first.
India had accused Islamabad of a "serious violation" of the truce, but Pakistan countered that New Delhi had engaged in "unprovoked fire."
"No Pakistani soldier had crossed the LoC," a Pakistan mili-

tary spokesman said in a statement. Pakistan also denied Indian media reports that four of its troops were killed in the fierce gunbattle in the region, which has triggered two of the three wars between the nuclear-armed neighbours.
The clash comes amid growing tensions between the South Asian rivals following a suicide bombing outside the Indian embassy in Kabul earlier this month, which Afghanistan and India have both blamed on "elements" in Pakistan.
Last week, Indian Foreign Secretary Shiv Shankar Menon said the India-Pakistan peace process was "under stress," citing incidents along the LoC and in Kashmir.
On Tuesday, Pakistan rejected

the Indian army's "claim that Pakistani troops had crossed 200 metres (yards) on the Indian side of the LoC... which resulted in an exchange of fire."
"Indian soldiers wanted to establish a forward post in the area on the Pakistani side of the LoC, which was objected to by our soldiers," the Pakistan military statement said.
"Indian troops opened indiscriminate and unprovoked fire. The Indian fire was immediately responded to."
Pakistan said it had "material evidence" of the Indian incursion in the form of weapons left behind by fleeing Indian soldiers.
According to India, the fighting

was sparked by an incursion and killing of an Indian soldier by a small unit of Pakistani troops in the mountains north of Srinagar, Indian Kashmir's summer capital.
"The fighting lasted for 13 to 14 hours," Indian army spokesman Anil Kumar Mathur told AFP, calling it a "serious violation of the ceasefire."
"It is a very serious issue. The Pakistanis have been violating the ceasefire over the past few months, but this is the first time they physically moved in and killed a colleague of ours."
Army officers from the two sides on Tuesday held a "flag meeting" - or formal meeting at which they presented their versions of the incident.

Militants killed in Afghan clashes

AP, Kabul

US-led coalition troops killed several militants during a raid in central Afghanistan, while a suspected bomb maker and his family died in an accidental blast in the east, officials said yesterday.
Coalition troops were fired on as they were searching compounds in Giro district of Ghazni province on Monday, a coalition statement said.
"Coalition forces responded with small-arms fire and air strikes, killing the militants and damaging a building," the statement said, without giving a specific death toll.
During the search, troops discovered bomb-making material and other weapons, it said.
Separately, a suspected bomb maker and four other people died in an accidental explosion inside a house in the eastern Kunar province, said provincial deputy police chief Abdul Sabit Allayay.



THIRTY - FIFTH SESSION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE
COLOMBO, 30 JULY 2008
Foreign secretaries from South Asian countries (From L) Salman Bashir (Pakistan), Yeshey Dorji (Bhutan), Touhid Hossain (Bangladesh), Sheel Kant Sharma (Saarc secretary general), Shiv Shankar Menon (India), Palitha Kohana (Sri Lanka), Mohammad Kabir Farahi (Afghanistan) and Gyan Chandra Acharya (Nepal) pose for a group picture during their annual meetings in Colombo yesterday. Colombo is hosting heads of state from Saarc countries for their annual two-day summit starting from August 2.

'Cholera' claims 75 in Indonesian Papua

AFP, Jakarta

At least 75 villagers have died in a suspected cholera outbreak in Indonesia's remote eastern Papua province, church authorities said yesterday.
Preliminary reports from the remote Kamuu valley confirmed 75 people had died from severe diarrhoea, with overall deaths likely in the hundreds, said Catholic priest Floor Hogenboom from the Jayapura archdiocese.
He said the symptoms were "very like cholera."
The Jakarta Post daily reported at least 156 killed in outbreaks in the region, quoting church groups, but this figure could not be confirmed.

Taliban abduct 30 Pak troops

AP, Peshawar

3 intelligence agents killed
Suspected Islamic militants abducted 30 police and paramilitary troops in northwestern Pakistan yesterday, a day after three intelligence agents were killed there in an ambush, officials said.
Security was deteriorating in the Swat Valley despite a peace deal reached in May between the provincial government and pro-Taliban militants.
Insurgents overpowered the security forces who were manning a security post in Swat's Deolali area, police official Ismail Khan said.
A militant spokesman, Bakht Ali Khan, claimed responsibility and

accused the government of not sticking to the peace accord.
"The government is not honouring the peace agreement with Taliban and the government will be responsible for any consequences," he said. "We will take revenge for any action against us."
On Monday, Ismail Khan said militants ambushed a pickup truck and shot three intelligence agents inside.
The incident happened on Monday night near Mingora, the main town in Swat, where the Pakistan army launched a major offensive in October to clear the area of militants loyal to Maulana Fazlullah, a radical pro-Taliban cleric.
"The Taliban intercepted the

officials near Mingora town and opened fire after they resisted the militants' attempt to kidnap them," a security official told AFP on condition of anonymity.
A spokesman for the militants in Swat, Haji Muslim Khan, said that the officials were shot dead after they refused to go with the Taliban.
The militant spokesman also claimed responsibility for that attack, saying it was revenge for the alleged torture of militants in the custody of security forces.
In other unrest in the Swat Valley, security forces traded gunfire Tuesday with militants after a military convoy came under attack, Ismail Khan said. There was no report of casualties.

Israeli FM admits she was Mossad agent

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni, a contender to replace Ehud Olmert as prime minister, publicly acknowledged on Tuesday she had been an agent for the Mossad spy agency.
"I served for four years within Mossad," she told army radio. "I also followed training courses and worked overseas."
Livni declined to discuss any missions she may have conducted for the agency.
"I quit Mossad when I married because I could not continue to lead this kind of life," she said.

Indo-Pak leaders to meet at Saarc sidelines

AFP, Colombo

The leaders of South Asian rivals India and Pakistan are to meet in Sri Lanka this week for their highest-level talks in 15 months and to see if they can hold together their embattled peace process.
Relations between New Delhi and Islamabad, who have fought three wars since partition in 1947, hit another low point this month after India said "elements" in Pakistan were behind the recent bombing of its Kabul embassy.
There has also been an increase

in incidents along the Line of Control dividing the Himalayan region of Kashmir, with the Indian army accusing Pakistani soldiers of crossing the border on Monday and killing an Indian soldier.
The Indian army accused Pakistan yesterday of a "serious" ceasefire violation along the Line of Control in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir after a fierce overnight gun battle.
The fighting was sparked by an incursion and killing of an Indian soldier by a small unit of Pakistani troops in the mountains north of Srinagar, Indian

Kashmir's summer capital, the army said.
"The fighting lasted for 13 to 14 hours," Indian army spokesman Anil Kumar Mathur told AFP.
"It is a very serious issue. The Pakistanis have been violating the ceasefire over the past few months, but this is the first time they physically moved in and killed a colleague of ours."
But Pakistan's military Tuesday rejected Indian accusations that it had violated the ceasefire in Kashmir, saying that Indian troops had crossed the Line of Control and opened fire first.

Food procurement drive almost halted

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process, the newly formed committee met the leaders of millers again yesterday, where both sides remained rigid in their positions.
The millers put forward a 10-point charter of demands including one for incentives to offset their losses to be incurred from providing rice to the government at the previously fixed rate. But the ministry is not ready to concede to their demands. So both sides decided to meet again next Sunday.
"We are not able to provide rice to the government at the previously fixed rate," KM Laek Ali, general secretary of North Bengal Rice Mill Owners' Association, told The Daily Star last night.
"We are waiting for the government's response to our demands," he added.
The government has been persistently putting pressure on the millers to supply rice at the rate they had

committed to earlier. Licenses of about 2,000 rice mills have so far been cancelled for their refusal to provide rice to the government at the already fixed rate.
Following a bumper boro harvest in the country, the military backed caretaker government set a procurement target of 12 lakh tonnes of rice at a rate of Tk 28/kg, up from the past year's procurement price of Tk 18, to build a safe food bank.
Since market prices of coarse rice went up to Tk 34 to Tk 35, many mills stopped supplying rice to government warehouses early this month, slowing down the government's grain procurement.
The government also set a target to procure three lakh tonnes of paddy from growers for Tk 18 a kg and 50,000 tonnes of wheat for Tk 26 a kg, procuring about 44,291 tonnes of paddy so far.
The August 31 deadline for concluding the government's procure-

ment drive might also be extended by another couple of months while the army-led joint forces and mobile courts might also be deployed to expedite the procurement process, officials said.
"We will take all possible measures to achieve the target," Food Secretary Molla Waheeduzzaman told The Daily Star in his office Monday. He however is happy with the stock of food grains in government warehouses, compared to last year's stock during the same period.
The government reached agreements with 13,833 mills across the country for supply of 10.14 lakh tonnes of food grains by August 31, and 6.50 lakh tonnes of rice are already in the government's warehouses.
The food secretary ruled out the possibility of increasing the procurement price in fear of an adverse impact on the market.
About the millers' demand for

incentives, the food secretary said a high-powered committee will take a decision regarding the matter.
He however blamed the weather for the slowdown in the procurement drive. "It has been raining almost every day, hampering the procurement drive," he said.
Although only a half of the target has been fulfilled in three months with only a month left towards the current deadline, Molla Waheeduzzaman said he is hopeful of reaching the target by the extended deadline.
The government is accusing the millers of hoarding rice for extra profit while the millers are saying only a few large enterprises are doing so.
"The majority of 12,000 millers in the northern region are facing difficulties due to the rise in rice prices on the market," Laek claimed adding that they will not be able to supply rice to the government unless they are given incentives.
The government recently issued an order to regulate rice mills and to compel them to supply the agreed quantity of rice at the officially fixed rate.
Many millers also alleged that the joint forces are forcing them to sell rice at the previously fixed rate.
The food secretary said the option of using the joint forces and mobile courts are there. Local administration may use them, if necessary, he said adding, "But we will do everything within the legal framework."

Indian police hunt for bombers in suburb

AP, Mumbai

Police investigating deadly bombings last weekend in western India focused Tuesday on a suburb of India's financial capital where four cars used in the blasts were stolen and an e-mail claiming responsibility originated.
At least 16 bombs tore through the historic city of Ahmadabad in Gujarat state around dusk Saturday, killing 45 people and wounding 161 others. It was the second series of blasts in India in two days.
An e-mail claiming responsibility for the attack was traced to the computer of Kenneth Haywood, an American citizen living in the suburb of Navi Mumbai "New Mumbai," police said.
Police on Tuesday said Haywood was not a suspect and it appeared his wireless network connection was accessed to send the e-mail. They said anyone on the two floors below Haywood's 15th floor apartment could have accessed the network.
"He has said his e-mail ID was hacked and evidence we have gathered shows that his network was used to forward the mail," said Parambir Singh, a senior officer in the Anti-Terrorism Squad.


Australia scraps tough asylum law

AP, Sydney

Australia will scrap most of the country's tough rules on locking up asylum seekers, but retain the practice for potential refugees who may be a security threat, the government announced yesterday.
The changes further wind back rules imposed by the previous government that made detention mandatory for people who arrived illegally in Australia, a policy that drew heavy criticism from human rights activists.
Immigration Minister Chris Evans said a policy that locks away asylum seekers indefinitely while they go through the often complicated and time-consuming process of applying for refugee status had caused "enormous damage" to Australia's international reputation and was no longer

acceptable.
The new government of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd "rejects the notion that dehumanising and punishing unauthorised arrivals with long-term detention is an effective or civilised response," Evans said.
"Desperate people are not deterred by the threat of harsh detention, they are often fleeing much worse circumstances," he said in a speech in the national capital, Canberra, that was distributed to media.
The changes were cautiously welcomed by refugee advocates, though some said the government should go further to make sure the new policies could not be reversed.
Australia has long been a destination for people from poor, often war-torn countries wishing to start a new life. In recent years, many of them come from Iraq or Afghanistan. They

typically fly to Indonesia before cramping to Australia aboard cramped, barely seaworthy boats.
Former conservative Prime Minister John Howard introduced the mandatory detention policies in 2001 in response to a wave of asylum seekers arriving by boat. The policies were widely popular at the time because of a perception that newcomers were cheating the refugee system.
But support for the program dwindled over the years, as asylum seekers languished in prison camp-like facilities that the government paid impoverished Nauru to host or were built at remote Outback sites. The camps were largely kept closed to outsiders, but images emerged of violent protests by detainees, who in some cases stitched their lips closed to symbolize their isolation.



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04. Sealed tenders have to be dropped in the tender box kept at Head Office (Sena Kalyan Bhaban, 5th Floor, Suit # 505, 195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka) on or before August 6th, 2008 by 2 p.m. and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 3 p.m. in presence of the bidders.
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Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh (EGCB) Ltd.

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd. (EGCB Ltd.) an Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) for generation of electricity to meet the growing demand of BPDB's system invites applications from qualified professionals for the post of **Managing Director** on contract basis.

Duties & Responsibilities:

The Managing Director is the Chief Executive Officer and Principal Accounting Officer of EGCB Ltd. reporting to the Board of Directors. To be personally responsible for maximizing revenue, efficient utilization of facilities, mobilization of resources, administration, discipline and security of all facilities. To ensure strategic position of EGCB Ltd. in the electricity generation market as envisaged in the vision, mission, quality policy of the company. To develop image of the company in the market. To ensure long and short-term plan, budget and set targets of the organization. To implement decisions of the Board of Directors. To ensure smooth operation and maintenance of the plant facilities. To ensure efficient human resources management, good discipline and performance. To exercise power and control as directed by the Board in the interest of the company. To organize regular Board Meetings and Annual General Meeting. To assist Board in formulating necessary rules and policies. To ensure performance appraisal, financial audit of EGCB Ltd. and report to the Board about its performance. To ensure growth and development of the company. Any other activities assigned by the Chairman/Board from time to time.

Required Qualification:

Candidate should be qualified Engineer, Accountant or Management Specialists with at least 20 (Twenty) years of experience in management of large multiunit organization.

Age Limit:

Maximum 57 years on the date of last day of submission of application as per advertisement for the post (may be relaxed for Exceptionally Deserving Candidates).

Remuneration/ Compensation Package:

A compensation package of Tk.60,000.00 (Sixty thousand) as salary per month along with House Rent allowance of Tk.25000.00 (Twenty Five thousand), free medical treatment for self and family within Bangladesh and full time transport and other facilities as per Company Rules will be provided to the selected candidate.

Term of Appointment:

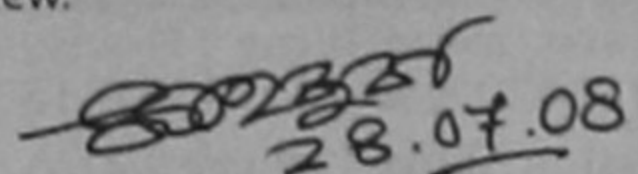
The appointment will be made initially for 3 (three) years and this is renewable after evaluating the performance against set targets to be given by the Board of Directors later on.

- * The candidate in spite of his age limit serving below the post of GM/DGM or equivalent need not to apply.
- * Incomplete Application(s) will not be considered.
- * Application (cover letter), with (i) complete CV, (ii) 2 recent PP size duly attested photographs, (iii) attested copies of supporting documents in favour of educational and other qualifications and experience(s) and (iv) Nationality Certificate, must reach by 31-08-2008 to:

Manager (Human Resources)
Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd.
BTMC Bhaban (8th Floor), 7-9 Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215.

- * CV must include (i) Name, (ii) Father's Name, (iii) Mother's Name, (iv) Present Address, (v) Permanent Address, (vi) Contact Phone No(s), (vii) Mailing Address, (viii) Date of Birth, (ix) Age (years, months & days) on 31-08-2008, (x) Educational Qualification stating Year of Passing, Group/Subject, Board/University, (xi) Professional Education and membership (if any), (xii) Experience in detail, (xiii) Publication in any reputed Journal (if any), (xiv) Special Training achieved (if any) and (xv) Special works/ activities performed (if any) (must be furnished chronologically).

N.B.: Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.



28.07.08
Manager (Human Resources)
Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd.