

No information on Zawahiri report  
Says Pakistan

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's military said yesterday it had no information on a US media report that al-Qaeda's deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahiri may have been wounded or killed in a missile strike.

US television channel CBS said it had obtained an intercepted letter from a Pakistani Taliban commander urgently requesting a doctor to treat Zawahiri following the attack in a tribal area bordering Afghanistan last week.

"There is no evidence or information in this regard. We have no reliable information," chief Pakistani military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas told AFP.

Pakistani officials have previously said that a July 28 missile strike in the South Waziristan tribal area killed al-Qaeda's top chemical and biological weapons expert, Midhat Mursial-Sayid Umar.

## 'IAEA green signal doesn't mean N-deal is through'

CNN-IBN, Washington

Even if India finalises the nuclear safeguards agreement with IAEA, experts say the Indo-US nuclear deal may still fail to reach the US Congress for a vote.

Due to the election year, the short Congressional calendar will expire in September leaving only a three to four-week window in which both houses of the house must vote on the deal.

"The good news is on the Senate side there's clear agreement that this is important for the country and we have to get this done quickly, the 2 presidential candidates thankfully have also come out and said we want to do this quickly. House side is little more unclear part of this," says South Asia expert from The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Ashley Tellis.

"Unclear in part because US lawmakers have dozens of domestic issues to take care of. US State Department officials are, therefore, pushing for an accelerated timetable to accommodate the vote.

That has prompted criticism

## SAARC SUMMIT

# Manmohan sounds war cry against terror

PTI, Colombo

leaders from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Afghanistan apart from India.

"We cannot afford to lose the battle against the ideologies of hatred, fanaticism and against all those who seek to destroy our social fabric," he said.

Earlier Manmohan Singh has asked Pakistan to implement in "letter and spirit" its commitments to end terrorist activities from its soil and ensure an "atmosphere free from terrorism" to carry forward the bilateral ties.

"We would like to see the implementation in letter and spirit of commitments made to bring to an end terrorist activities

originating in Pakistan," Singh said in an interview published in a Sri Lankan newspaper here Saturday.

Noting that his government had made "substantial progress" in relations with Pakistan, Singh said that there exists a large constituency for peace in both our countries, and there is an opportunity to move ahead.

"India seeks to establish peaceful, friendly and cooperative ties with Pakistan. We are committed to addressing all outstanding issues, including the issue of Jammu and Kashmir, through bilateral discussions.

"However, improvement in our relations requires an atmosphere

that is free from terrorism," he said, adding "we have a duty to ensure that our people prosper and progress in a secure environment.

Stating that South-Asia has witnessed the most heinous acts of terrorism in recent times, including the bombing of Indian embassy in Kabul, the Prime Minister said: "the scourge of terrorism must be removed from our midst and criminals and terrorists must never go unpunished."

"There can be no economic growth or development without peace and security. We need to take all necessary measures to combat terrorism and trans-national crimes like trafficking of women and children," he told Humal paper.



PHOTO: AFP

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (R) deliver his speech as Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani looks on during the opening ceremony of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) Summit in Colombo yesterday. The Saarc summit opened in Sri Lanka on Saturday with Indo-Pak tensions eclipsing regional talks on trade, terrorism and poverty.

## Bomb kills 6 Pak cops in Swat valley

AFP, Peshawar

At least six policemen were killed Saturday when a remote-controlled bomb exploded near their vehicle in northwestern Pakistan's troubled Swat valley, security officials said.

Another five policemen were wounded in the blast, a security official said, requesting anonymity. One of the dead was a senior officer, he said.

The roadside blast came as security forces launched an operation in the former tourist resort on Tuesday after militants killed three Pakistani intelligence officials and dozens of rebels later attacked a checkpost.

Officials said the police party was returning to their base after a search operation in Kala district when the bomb planted by militants went off in the area.

The valley has been rocked by

fierce clashes in which more than 45 militants loyal to a pro-Taliban cleric Maulana Fazlullah have been killed, according to officials.

Troops continued to pound suspected militant positions in the valley, where several civilians have also died.

The military says five soldiers have been killed.

The rebel Taliban movement has threatened to launch suicide attacks across the country if the military fails to halt the operation against followers of Fazlullah.

Mountainous Swat was a thriving tourist resort until last year, when pro-Taliban Fazlullah launched a violent campaign to enforce harsh Islamic Sharia law in the region.

The latest flare-up in Swat threatened a peace deal the militants signed with the government in May.

## Army called out in Kashmir to quell religious protests

AFP, Jammu

Indian soldiers were patrolling the streets in two districts of Kashmir yesterday after protesters clashed with police in a row over transfer of land in the Muslim region to Hindus.

The army was deployed after more than two dozen people were injured as angry demonstrators attacked government buildings and torched a police post late Friday in Jammu, the Hindu-majority winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir state.

Protesters and the local media said two people were killed in police firing, but police attributed the deaths to "gang rivalry".

The army conducted a flag march in sensitive areas of Jammu and Samba town and made announcements from public address system asking people to stay indoors, defence spokesman S.D. Goswami said.

## Indo-Pak ties hit new low

AP, Colombo

India's relations with Pakistan have hit their lowest point in years, India's foreign secretary said Friday, amid tensions over an attack on the Indian embassy in Kabul and clashes between the two sides in the disputed Kashmir region.

Shivshankar Menon told reporters that the recent violence was unfortunate and "affected the future of dialogue (with Pakistan)."

Menon's comments came a day before the prime ministers of the two rivals were scheduled to meet on the sidelines of a regional summit in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo to discuss the deterioration in their relations, which had been on the mend since the two sides entered a political dialogue to address their competing claims to the Himalayan region of Kashmir.

Pakistan and India have a long history of bitter relations and have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir which is divided between them by both since they gained independence from Britain in 1947.

But progress in their dialogue has been slow and deep distrust remains between the nuclear-armed neighbours with New Delhi regularly blaming Islamabad for bombings and shootings that have plagued India in recent years.

That relationship came under renewed stress this month after India blamed Pakistani groups for the July 7 attack on the Indian embassy in Kabul that killed at least 41 people. Pakistan denies the charge.

The New York Times, citing unnamed US government officials, reported Friday that American intelligence agencies have concluded that members of

Services Intelligence were involved in the embassy attack.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammed Sadig described the report as "total rubbish," denying any ISI involvement although Afghanistan has long accused the ISI of backing the Taliban-led insurgency wracking the country.

India has also accused Pakistan of violating a cease-fire accord along the boundary that divides Kashmir between them. Indian and Pakistani forces traded gunfire earlier this week along the heavily fortified frontier in the Himalayan region. Soldiers fired on each other for more than 12 hours between Monday night and Tuesday morning, the worst violation of a 2003 cease-fire agreement between the nuclear armed neighbours.

The relationship between India and Pakistan "is in a phase which it hasn't been in the last four years," Menon said.



PHOTO: AFP

A Sri Lankan soldier gives directions to a cyclist as he stands guard on a street in Colombo yesterday. Security has been beefed up in Colombo as eight heads of South Asian countries opened formal talks slated to focus on trade, terrorism and poverty.

## Immigration to CANADA



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## SENA KALYAN SANGSTHA

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EOI Ref. No. SKS/SKB-Mohakhali/EOL/01

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR SELECTION OF CONSULTING FIRM

Sena Kalyan Sangsta, a welfare organization for the retired personnel of Bangladesh Armed Forces, intend to construct "Sena Kalyan Bhaban, Mohakhali", a multi-storyed building, at Mohakhali, Dhaka, and to apply part of the proceeds of funds to payments under the contract for the provision of Architectural & Engineering Consultancy Services for the project by a Consulting Firm (National).

The Services include: Sub-Soil Investigation, Preparation of Site Plan, Design, Drawing, Estimating, Tender Document, Evaluation of Tenders, Detailed Supervision of Works and Contract Management.

The Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity required are:

(a) Minimum 05 (five) years experience as a consulting firm.  
(b) Successfully completed planning, designing, estimating & preparation of Tender Documents & top supervision etc of at least one ten storied building with Central Air-Conditioning System under Govt., Semi Govt., Autonomous or Corporate Bodies in a single work order, total floor area of which is not less than 1,00,000 sq ft (one lac sq ft).  
Sena Kalyan Sangsta now invites eligible applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested Local Consultants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar operating conditions, availability of appropriate professional qualification and experience among staffs, etc.). Applicants may associate with other applicants to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected following mostly the guidelines of Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)/Design Contest (DC) procurement method in accordance with the Public Procurement Rules 2008 issued by the G.O.B.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address above during normal office hours.

Expressions of Interest shall be submitted in sealed envelope, delivered to the address of the undersigned shown above by 14.00 hrs of **24 August 2008** and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of Interest for the Consultancy Services for the Construction of Sena Kalyan Bhaban, Mohakhali at Mohakhali, Dhaka".

Incomplete & conditional proposals will not be considered. Sena Kalyan Sangsta reserves the right not to accept any offer & the right to accept in full or in part or to reject any or all offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Major Md Raisur Rahman  
Executive Engineer

Phone: 02-7114728, 02-9560051, Fax : 02-9565820, E-mail: info@senakalyan.org, Web: www.senakalyan.org

## US trial of Laden's driver enters final stage

AFP, Washington

The trial of Osama bin Laden's former driver, Salim Hamdan, before a special US military tribunal in Guantanamo will enter its final phase next week, US officials said on Friday.

The "prosecution and defence closing arguments in US versus Hamdan are now scheduled for Monday morning," said Defence Department spokesman Jeffrey Gordon.

A jury of military officers will then begin deliberations on a verdict in the case, the first full-scale trial under the tribunals created by President George W. Bush to try suspects in the US' "war on terror."

The trial of Hamdan, a Yemeni accused of conspiracy and giving material support to terrorism, opened two weeks ago before the special military tribunal amid criticism from human rights groups that the case should have been tried in a regular civilian or military court.

Captured in November 2001 in Afghanistan, Hamdan has spent more than six years behind bars at the prison at the US naval base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, much of it in isolation. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison.

US prosecutors portrayed Hamdan as a militant loyal to al-Qaeda who transported arms for the terror network. His defence lawyers rejected the accusation, saying he was merely working for bin Laden to support his family and that he was not implicated in any al-Qaeda operation.

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### Required Competencies:

Masters/MBB(BIBM)/MBA from Public University/Private University with minimum CGPA-3.00 or two 1<sup>st</sup> Divisions/Class and no 3<sup>rd</sup> Division in the following disciplines.

(i) Management (ii) Accounting (iii) Marketing (iv) Economics (v) Finance/Banking (vi) English (vii) Public Administration & (viii) Political Science.

BBA from IBA (Dhaka University) or Public University (4 years' course), NSU, IUB, EWU, BRAC, having minimum CGPA-3.00 and 1<sup>st</sup> Division/Class in all other public examinations.

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Particulars: (i) Full Name (ii) Father's and Mother's Name (iii) Present/Mailing Address (iv) Permanent Address (Home/ District) (v) Date of Birth/Age as on 21.08.2008 (vi) Nationality (vii) Educational qualifications from S.S.C. upward with name of Institution/University, Division/Class obtained, year of passing (viii) Computer knowledge (ix) Other qualifications/ experiences, if any (x) Name and addresses of two references not related to the applicant (xi) Signature and date. Candidates are advised not to mention information not asked for.

All applications should be mailed to the above address within the stipulated time. Any application shall be deemed to be cancelled if found incomplete. After scrutiny, only the selected applicants will be called for written examination.

Envelope should be marked "Application for Probationary Officer" in bold letters.