

New PML-Q 'forward bloc' to back Zardari

THE DAILY TIMES, Islamabad

A new group of dissident Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) legislators assured Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani in a meeting on Monday of support for Pakistan People's Party presidential candidate Asif Ali Zardari.

A delegation led by Acting Senate Chairman Jam Muhammad Jamali met Gilani at the prime minister's house.

The group includes Senator Wali Muhammad Badini, Senator Muhammad Khan, Senator Amjad Abbas, Senator Zafar Iqbal, Senator Kulsoom Parveen, Senator Rehana Yahya and Member of National Assembly Ahmadan Khan Bugti.

Meanwhile, the PPP intensified

lobbying for its co-chairman and its top leadership contacted legislators from the PML-Q individually.

Sources privy to the developments said Zardari had been contacting members of the former ruling party. A number of these lawmakers, including some top PML-Q leaders, have assured Zardari of support, they added.

"I have received at least three calls from Zardari and the prime minister has made several requests. If our leadership fails to evolve a clear policy, I may vote for Zardari," said a top PML-Q leader, holding a key portfolio in the National Assembly.

To a question, he said a National Assembly member from the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz had also contacted him, but not the top PML-N leadership.



In this aerial view an Indian Air Force (IAF) helicopter casts a shadow over floodwaters near the submerged village of Kumarkhad in Madhubani district, some 320km north-east of Patna yesterday. Hundreds of thousands of flood victims huddled into makeshift camps in India and Nepal face major disease outbreaks if help fails to reach them quickly, aid workers have warned.

PHOTO: AFP

Fears of disease haunt flood-hit India, Nepal

AFP, Saharsa

Hundreds of thousands of flood victims huddled into makeshift camps in India and Nepal face major disease outbreaks if help fails to reach them quickly, aid workers warned yesterday.

They said several camps in India's northern Bihar state and across the border in Nepal, areas devastated when a monsoon-swollen river burst its banks and changed course, were already reporting cases of diarrhoea and other crippling illnesses.

A large part of Bihar is under water, with 550,000 people displaced and a further 400,000 people still awaiting rescue, state

officials said. According to the UN's World Health Organisation, three million people have been affected in some way.

At least 60,000 people have also had their homes washed away in southern Nepal, officials there said. "After two to four days, because of the stagnant water, more people will get sick. There will be more illnesses," government health worker Jai Krishna Sah told AFP at a crowded relief camp in Saharsa district, 150km east of Bihar's state capital Patna.

In many areas, wells have been inundated with floodwaters carrying silt, sewage, bodies and refuse.

"The important thing now is for there to be some camp manage-

ment, where the people have access to latrines, clean drinking water and some basic health care," said European Commission humanitarian aid representative Malini Morzaria.

One flood survivor, Sunita Yadav, was carrying a bucket of muddy water that she said she was going to use to make porridge.

"Sometimes I am using this water to cook with or drink. What are we to do?" she said.

The relief operation in Bihar is proving slow going -- and dangerous.

Most people reaching safety are traumatised by the loss of their homes, crops or loved ones, and carry few or no possessions.

Pak airstrike kills 10

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistani military jets pounded rebel hideouts in restive Swat valley in the northwest yesterday, killing at least 10 people and wounding dozens, a security official said.

The airstrike came despite an offer of truce during the current Muslim fasting month of Ramadan announced by the government at the weekend.

A senior security official said fighter jets bombed Ghat Pechar area following intelligence that

leaders of pro-Taliban cleric Mullah Fazlullah's group were hiding there.

"We are not sure if any leader was among 10 killed in the air strike," the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AFP.

Chief military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas confirmed the bombing but said he did not have details of casualties.

Fazlullah's spokesman, Mulsim Khan, earlier Tuesday claimed to be holding two Chinese telecoms engineers and their entourage who were kidnapped four days ago from neigh-

boursing Dir district.

He claimed the latest air strike killed only civilians and that none of the group's fighters were hurt.

The engineers went missing along with their local driver and a security guard near the Afghan border where they had been checking an installation.

Fazlullah, who is also known as Mullah Radio for using illegal FM channels to propagate his ideas, has been leading a violent campaign to enforce hardline Islamic Sharia law in Swat valley since 2007.

Manipur CM survives assassination attempt

AFP, Guwahati

Ethnic rebels fighting Indian rule in the remote north-east have attempted to kill the chief minister of Manipur state for the third time in four years, police said.

Police said guerrillas fired a grenade into Okram Ibobi Singh's official residence in the state capital Imphal late Monday.

The People's Revolutionary

Party of Kangleipak (PREPAK), a group fighting for an independent homeland for the majority Meitei community, telephoned local newspaper offices to claim responsibility for the attack.

The bomb landed inside the chief minister's residential complex and damaged a private temple. The chief minister was present in his residence when the explosion took place but was unhurt, a senior police official told AFP.

Volatile situation in riot-hit Orissa

PTI, Bhubaneswar

The situation in Orissa's riot-hit Kandhamal district continues to be volatile on Tuesday with at least 80 houses being torched in fresh violence as the government accelerated relief and rehabilitation efforts for which Rs two crore has been sanctioned.

A high-level team of officials, including Home Secretary T K Mishra and Director General of Police Gopal Chandra Nanda, visited the violence-scarred district to review the situation and assess the extent of damage, official sources said.

The visit was to work out strategies for containing arson and violence in the communally-sensitive district as well as stepping

up relief and rehabilitation operations for the affected, they said.

At least 80 houses were torched in fresh arson in several villages of Tikabali and Sarangada areas since yesterday noon despite considerable improvement in situation that prompted authorities to suspend day curfew, the sources said.

Describing force scarcity as a big handicap in containing arson, Inspector General of Police, Intelligence, R P Singh, said only 2,500 personnel from various forces including CRPF were available to combat violence in villages across the district.

"As the arson continues to trouble rural pockets, there is only one jawan to tackle the situation in every village," a senior police officer pointed out.

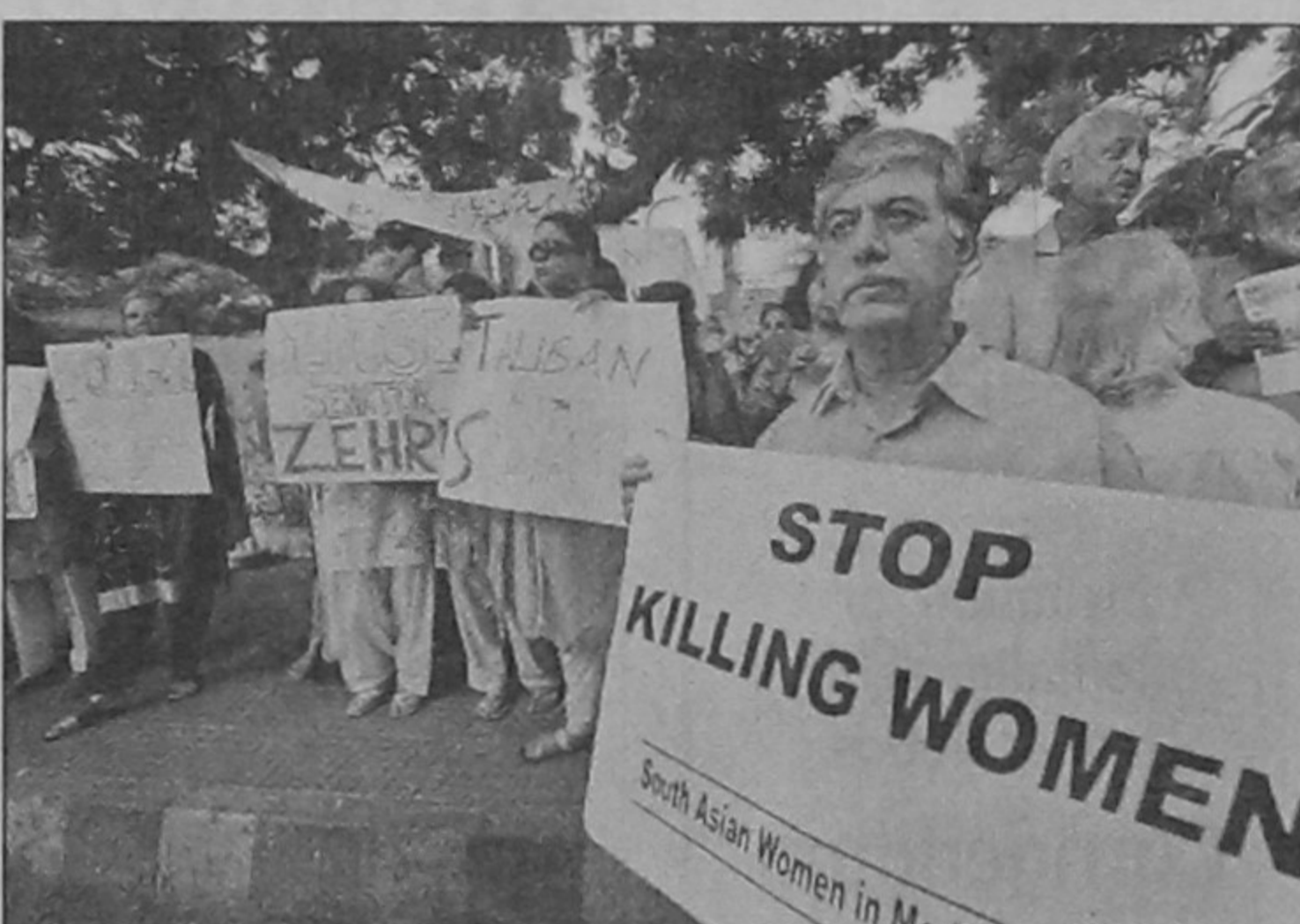


PHOTO: AFP

Pakistani human rights activists hold a protest in Karachi on Monday over honour killing. Pakistani police have arrested four suspects and launched an investigation into the deaths of three women thought murdered in the name of family honour last month in Babakot village, 450km southeast of Quetta, for marrying men of their choice.

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স্মারকনং- পিজিসিবি/এনএলডিসি/৩.০১/২০০৮/৫১৫

তারিখঃ ২৮.০৮.২০০৮ইং

- ১। মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ : বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ, বিদ্যুৎ জালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়।
- ২। প্রকল্প/সংস্থা : পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ (পিজিসিবি) লিমিটেড।
- ৩। দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নাম ও ঠিকানা : উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক ও প্রকল্প পরিচালক, এনএলডিসি প্রকল্প, বাড়ী নং-৬, রোড নং-২/এ, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা-১২১২।
- ৪। কাজের এলাকা : আকতার নগর, রামপুরা, ঢাকা।
- ৫। কাজের নাম : রামপুরা অফিস নগর এনএলডিসি ভবন এলাকায় ১০০০ বর্গফুট (ভিত্তি ও তলা) বিশিষ্ট ও ইউনিট (৩ তলা উভয় পার্শ্ব) আবাসিক ভবন নির্মাণ কাজ।
- ৬। অর্থের উৎস : এডিসি ও জিওবি।
- ৭। জামানতের টাকা : দরপত্রের সহিত সর্বমোট টাকা ৩ (তিন) লক্ষ মাত্র পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ (পিজিসিবি) লিমিটেড এর নামে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার এর মাধ্যমে দাখিল করিতে হইবে (ফেরৎযোগ্য)।
- ৮। দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য : ৩,০০০.০০ (তিন হাজার) মাত্র অফিসে/যোগ্য পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট এর মাধ্যমে পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ (পিজিসিবি) লিমিটেড এর নামে পরিশোধ করিতে হইবে।
- ৯। দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তি এবং জমাদানের স্থান : নিজস্ব লেটার হেড প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে তাহাদের যোগ্যতার সংশ্লিষ্ট হালনাগাদ দলিলাদির মূল কপি প্রদর্শন পূর্বক (ক) উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক ও প্রকল্প পরিচালক, এনএলডিসি প্রকল্প, বাড়ী নং-৬, রোড নং-২/এ, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা-১২১২ (খ) উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক ও প্রকল্প পরিচালক, প্রকল্প-২, বাড়ী নং-৬, রোড নং-২/এ, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা-১২১২ (গ) উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক, প্রকল্প-১, আকতার নগর, রামপুরা, ঢাকা হইতে দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে এবং শুধুমাত্র "ক" এর বর্ণিত দস্তাবেজ দরপত্র জমা দান করিতে হইবে।
- ১০। ঠিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের যোগ্যতা : (ক) সিভিল কাজে অভিজ্ঞ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, আরবিবি, ডেসা অথবা সরকারী সংস্থায় তালিকাভুক্ত ১ম শ্রেণীর পূর্ত নির্মাণ কাজের ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান।
(খ) একক কার্যাদেশে কমপক্ষে টাকা ৫০,০০,০০০.০০ (পঞ্চাশ লক্ষ) মাত্র পরিমাণের কার্য সম্পাদনের অভিজ্ঞতা দেখাইতে হইবে।
- ১১। দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ০৬/১০/২০০৮ ইং অক্সিস চলাকালীন সময়।
- ১২। দরপত্র দলিল জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময় : ০৭/১০/২০০৮ ইং বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
- ১৩। দরপত্র দলিল খোলার তারিখ ও সময় : ০৭/১০/২০০৮ ইং বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।

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