

Pressure mounts on Pakistan to crack down on militants

Negroponte in Islamabad

AFP, Islamabad

US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte held talks with Pakistan's president yesterday as the government came under renewed pressure to crack down on militants blamed for the Mumbai attacks.

Negroponte arrived hours after the UN Security Council declared one of Pakistan's biggest charities a terrorist group, and ordered sanctions against four people, including the organisation's leader.

Islamabad has come under intense international pressure to act against militant groups operating on its soil in the wake of the Mumbai attacks, which killed 172 people, and which India blames on elements in Pakistan.

At the weekend it raided a camp run by the charity, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, which is widely viewed as the political wing of the outlawed Islamist group India says planned the attacks on its financial centre.

Fifteen people were arrested in the

raid and Pakistan says it has detained two leaders of the banned group, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The United States has given a cautious welcome to the arrests, but indicated Wednesday it will maintain the pressure on Pakistan.

"What we are looking to see is if there's going to be a shift in Pakistan in how they deal with LeT," said White House spokeswoman Dana Perino.

"If it proves out, over time, that there is that shift, then that would be a good one, and something that we would welcome. But it's just too early for us to say," she told reporters.

Negroponte also met Pakistan's army chief and senior government ministers for talks focusing on relations with India, which have suffered in the wake of the Mumbai attacks, a foreign ministry official said.

The United States has engaged in intensive diplomacy to try to defuse tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbours, who have fought three wars since independence from Britain.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visited both countries last week as relations sunk to their lowest levels since an attack on the parliament in New Delhi that was blamed on Pakistani militants in 2001.

She called on India to show restraint, and also urged Pakistan to cooperate with New Delhi in its investigations into the attacks.

India has accused Islamabad of failing to enforce its ban on LeT, which was established to fight Indian rule in Kashmir and has past links to Pakistani intelligence services and al-Qaeda.

The UN Security Council decision to list Jamaat-ud-Dawa as an LeT front came after India this week requested the move and the head of the charity, Hafiz Saeed, on Thursday condemned the move as pandering to Pakistan's historic rival.

"The Security Council took this decision without giving any us any opportunity to respond," said Hafiz Saeed, who also founded LeT but publicly disowned the group when it was outlawed by Pakistan in 2002.



This hand-out photo released by Tamil Tiger rebels on Thursday shows Tamil Tiger guerrillas in action in the north of the island where security forces are leading a major offensive. The Tigers claimed killing over 90 government troops in the latest fighting this week as the military was poised to take the Tamil Tiger political capital of Kilinochchi.



Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi (R) and US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte arrive for meeting at the foreign ministry in Islamabad yesterday. Negroponte held talks with Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari as the government came under renewed pressure to crack down on militants blamed for the Mumbai attacks.

Pak charity a front for terrorist group: UN

AP, United Nations

A UN Security Council panel declared Wednesday that a Pakistan-based charity is a front group for the terrorist organisation blamed in the attacks on Mumbai that killed 171 people.

In a move sought by India and the US, the panel said the charity Jamaat-ud-Dawa is a front for the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba and now subject to UN sanctions on terrorist organisations. It also approved the designation of four suspected plotters of the Mumbai attacks as terrorists subject to sanctions.

The UN identified all four individuals as leaders of Lashkar. They include Zaki-

ur-Rehman Lakhvi, operations chief and the alleged mastermind of the Mumbai siege whose arrest was announced Wednesday. The others are Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, the leader of the charity; Haji Muhammad Ashraf, Lashkar's chief of finance; and Mahmoud Mohammad Ahmed Bahaziq, a financier with Lashkar.

Among the sanctions imposed on the group and the four individuals by the Security Council's al-Qaeda and Taliban Sanctions Committee were an asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo on the individuals.

The panel is authorised to make such decisions on behalf of the Security Council.

Congress wins in 3 states

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian's ruling Congress party has won elections in three out of the five states that released results on Monday including all three states that voted after the Mumbai terror attacks.

Congress Party has wrested power from its key challenger BJP in elections to state legislatures in the desert state of Rajasthan and from a regional coalition in the north eastern state of Mizoram while retaining power in the national capital Delhi.

On the other hand, BJP managed to beat anti-incumbency and challenge from Congress and retained its control of the two central Indian states of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

In Rajasthan, Congress emerged as the largest single party but failed to secure majority on its own with 96 seats requiring five more in the 200-member legislature. However, the party is all set to form government by roping in the support of some independents.

The BJP, buffeted by internal feud and wrong choice of candidates under the leadership of Vasundhara Raje, could manage to 78 seats.

In Delhi, it was a hat-trick for Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit as Congress government led by her assumed power for a record third consecutive time with a clear majority of 42 seats in the 70-member assembly. The main opposition BJP secured 23 seats.

Led by Lalthanhawla, a former underground insurgent leader, Congress toppled Mizo National Front (MNF) led by Chief Minister Zoramthanga from power in the tiny state of

Mizoram securing 32 seats in the 40-member assembly. After ten years of uninterrupted rule, MNF was reduced to just three seats.

The BJP stormed back to power in Madhya Pradesh and adjacent Chhattisgarh securing comfortable majority, largely riding on the charisma of its state leaders Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Raman Singh.

However, overall, the outcome of polls in the five states is a clear thumbs-up for Congress ahead of the parliamentary polls due early next year, analysts say.

Defying speculation about a battering in the wake of inflation, global economic slowdown and Mumbai terror attacks, Congress put up an impressive show in the assembly elections.

Hailing the victory of the party in three states, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the people had recognised and voted for development.

The BJP was clearly stunned by the defeat in Delhi and had somewhat expected the loss in Rajasthan where it admitted its party was bogged down by factional feud and wrong selection of candidates.

There was a big sense of relief in Congress headquarters here as the win in three states came after a series of loss in elections to a number of state legislatures across the country in the last two years.

What was more satisfying for the Congress as far as the electoral outcome is concerned was that it had to contend with emotive issues like terrorism and inflation ahead of the battle for control of Lok Sabha.

150 massacred in Congo

AFP, Kinshasa

At least 150 civilians were massacred in a Democratic Republic of Congo town last month, Human Rights Watch said in a report yesterday, which strongly criticised UN peacekeepers.

Most of those killed in the eastern town of Kiwanja on November 4-5 were "summarily executed" by rebel forces loyal to renegade general Laurent Nkunda, who is leading a new offensive against the army.

Others died during combat between Nkunda's forces and the Mai-Mai militia, a

local armed group that supports the Congolese government and often fights alongside the national army, the organisation said.

"Mai-Mai militia also deliberately killed people." The report said the UN peacekeeping forces, known as MONUC, were just half a mile (0.8 kilometres) away when the killings were carried out in the town in Nord-Kivu province.

Days earlier, Nkunda's rebel group had taken control of Kiwanja and Rutshuru after defeating Congolese army soldiers in a battle, Human Rights Watch said.

6 Afghan police killed in mistaken US strike

AP, Kabul

US Special Forces killed six Afghan police and wounded 13 Wednesday in a case of mistaken identity by both sides after the police fired on the Americans during an operation against an insurgent commander.

A US military statement

said police fired on the American forces after the troops battled and killed an armed militant in the city of Qalat, capital of the southern province of Zabul. The Americans returned fire on the police but only later learned their identities. An Afghan civilian was also killed in the exchange.



Pakistan People's Party activists offer prayers beside a picture of slain Pakistani leader Benazir Bhutto in Lahore on Dec 10 to mark the Human Rights day. Benazir Bhutto, is among seven international personalities who will be honoured with a prestigious United Nations prize awarded for outstanding work in human rights.

Somali pirates hijack 2 boats as world mulls anti-piracy strategy

AFP, Nairobi

Pirates dodged foreign navies and hijacked another two boats even as an international conference here yesterday explored securing one of the world's busiest shipping routes off Somalia.

On the second day of an international conference in Nairobi, a clearer global strategy was expected to emerge on how to curb pirate attacks, which are threatening world trade.

Somali pirates on Wednesday hijacked two Yemeni fishing boats near the port of Aden, maritime officials said, adding that seven fishermen had managed to escape on a smaller boat.

The latest attack brought to at least 17 the number of ships currently being held by Somali pirates, including an arms-laden Ukrainian cargo and a

Saudi-owned super-tanker carrying two million barrels of crude oil.

In his opening remarks, the UN's top envoy for Somalia, Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, called for tough measures against pirates and their backers, and urged greater international commitment to stabilising the country.

"The growing reality of piracy is threatening the life-line of global commerce," he said, addressing 140 delegates from 45 countries, including ministers and ambassadors.

According to the UN envoy, pirates have raked in an estimated 120 million dollars in ransom money.

With the most vital shipping lane to Europe under threat, Western powers have deployed more warships to the area but have so far been outwitted by the pirates and their speedboats.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Press Information Department
Building No-9, 2nd Floor
Bangladesh Secretariat
Dhaka-1000

No-PID/EMTAP/10(197)/2008-2009/2746

Date: 01-12-2008

Re-Tender

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Subject: Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of International Communication Trainer (Consultant):

Strengthening Development Communication between government and stakeholders, a sub-project of EMTAP (World Bank funded) being implemented by the Press Information Department (PID) is looking for suitable candidates for appointment as International Communication Trainers. Details of the post are given below:

Sl No.	Name of position	Job responsibility	Qualification
1.	International Communication Trainer (Consultant)	(i) To develop training programme and curriculum. (ii) To develop training plan and timeline to identify gaps and weaknesses in implementing communication strategy. (iii) To advise and facilitate development of partnerships and networks.	Should have Master Degree in relevant field preferably in Journalism or MBA or Mass Communication. The candidate should be computer literate. He/She should have considerable experience in the field of media and communication. The candidate should have at least 5 (five) years experience in the field of training for the professionals. Publications will be considered as an added qualification.

Remuneration: An attractive compensation package depending on knowledge and experience will be offered.

Application instruction: Interested applicant may obtain Terms of Reference (TOR) from the Office of the Senior Information Officer (Coordination) of PID at Building No-9, 3rd Floor, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000 on all working days between 09.00 to 17.00 hours. Application of Expression of Interest along with CV should be submitted to the Principal Information Officer, Press Information Department, Building No. 9, 2nd Floor, Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka-1000 clearly mentioning the name of post on envelope by 11 January 2009. Required qualification and detailed experiences and performing ability of the job should be clearly shown in the CV.

The authority reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning any reason.

Those, who applied earlier for the same post are not needed to apply further.
E-mail: pid_1@bangla.net, Website: www.bdpresin form.org.

Md. Joynal Abedin
Senior Deputy Principal Information Officer
and
Project Director

GD-5769

Dhaka City Corporation
Office of the Project Director
Landfill Improvement Project
Waste Management Department (WMD)
Level-13, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives/Local Government Division.			
2	Agency	Dhaka City Corporation.			
3	Procuring entity name	Project Director, Landfill Improvement Project, Waste Management Department, DCC.			
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.			
5	Invitation for	Construction of Work (WD2): Construction of Liner at Amin Bazar Landfill Site.			
6	Invitation Ref. No.	WMD/LIP/PD/08(12)/62.			
7	Date	02/11/2008.			
KEY INFORMATION					
8	Procurement method	Open tendering system.			
FUNDING INFORMATION					
9	Budget and source of funds	GOB (Japan Debt Cancellation Fund).			
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
10	Tender package No.	WD2			
11	Tender package name	Construction of Work (WD2): Construction of Liner at Amin Bazar Landfill Site.			
12	Tender publication date	On or before 07/12/2008.			
13	Tender last selling date	07/01/2009.			
14	Tender closing date and time	Date: 08/01/2009 Time: 12:00 hrs.			
15	Tender opening date and time	08/01/2009 13:00 hrs.			
16	Tender validity time	120 days.			
17	Name & address of the office(s) -Selling tender document (principal)	Address: Office of the Project Director, Landfill Improvement Project, Waste Management Department, Dhaka City Corporation, Level 13, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000.			
	-Selling tender document (others)	Office of the Executive Engineer, Zone-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9 & 10, P&D & Chief Accounts Officer of DCC.			
	- Receiving & opening tender document	Project Director, Landfill Improvement Project, Waste Management Department, Dhaka City Corporation, Level 13, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000.			
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
18	Eligibility of tenderer	Mentioned in the tender document.			
19	Brief description of goods or works				
	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender documents (Tk.) (non-refundable)	Tender security amount	Completion time in weeks/months
	Construction of Work (WD2): Construction of Liner at Amin Bazar Landfill Site	Dhaka City Corporation	1,500/-	11.00 lac	14 (fourteen) months
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS					
20	Name of official inviting tender	Dr. Engr. Tariq Bin Yousuf.			
21	Designation of official inviting tender	Project Director, Landfill Improvement Project, Waste Management Department, Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka-1000.			
22	Address of official inviting tender	Level 13, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000.			
23	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 880-2-7162351 Fax No. 880-2-7162351			
24	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders.				

Project Director
Landfills Improvement Project
Waste Management Department
Dhaka City Corporation
Level-13, Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka
Phone-7162351, Fax-7162351

DCC/PRD/226/08-09
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