

PHOTO: AFP
National Conference chief Omar Abdullah (L) smiles to journalists as he exits with former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir Ghulam Nabi Azad (R) following a meeting with Congress president and chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Sonia Gandhi at her residence in New Delhi yesterday. A 38-year-old Muslim politician is all set to be the new chief minister of revolt-hit Kashmir, the third from his family to get the top job.

Pro-India parties to take power in Kashmir

AP, New Delhi

A pro-India coalition will head the Kashmir state government, ending nearly six months of federal administration that saw deadly protests against New Delhi's rule, leaving more than 50 people dead.

No single party managed to win a majority in the election, which took place in several phases and ended last week, and so the major parties scrambled to form an alliance to take power.

The National Conference, which with 28 seats won more than any other party, and the Congress party, which won 17, struck an agreement Tuesday to form a new coalition, giving them a majority in the state parliament, officials said.

At 38, National Conference chief Omer Farooq will be the youngest chief minister Indian-ruled Kashmir has ever seen. Farooq's father and grandfather were also top officials in the state, and the family has long-standing ties to Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, heir to another political dynasty.

Anti-India sentiment runs deep in Kashmir, where most people favor either independence or a merger with Pakistan. Farooq Abdullah, a senior National Conference leader and Omer Farooq's father, vowed Tuesday to work with separatists to settle the decades-old Kashmir dispute.

"The separatists should not feel alienated and should be brought into the mainstream to talk," said Abdullah.

Mirwaiz Omer Farooq, a key separatist leader, dismissed the new coalition as a shuffe of the same faces and ideologies.

"What is to be seen is whether this government will muster courage and represent the aspirations of people here," he said. "What we need is a policy change in Kashmir, not an administrative change."

He and other separatist leaders had urged residents to boycott the vote, saying the election would only strengthen India's hold on the Himalayan region. India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir since they won independence from Britain in 1947. Kashmir is divided between the longtime rivals and they both claim it in its entirety.

But instead, voting was largely peaceful, with a higher-than-expected turnout of more than 60 percent, though there were scattered anti-India protests throughout.

9 Myanmar activists held for Suu Kyi protest

AFP, Yangon

Nine supporters of detained Myanmar pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi were arrested yesterday as they held a protest in Yangon calling for her release, witnesses said.

The protesters, some wearing the uniform of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party, were seized after holding banners saying "Free Suu Kyi" outside the people's parliament, the witnesses said.

"They tried to march near the people's parliament. They were arrested by the authorities," one witness said on condition of anonymity, adding that the arrests happened at about 3:00 pm (0830 GMT).

A spokesman for the NLD said he was aware of the protest but had no information about the arrests.

Pakistan closes Nato supply route

Operation launched against militants

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistan yesterday cut off supplies to Nato and US forces in Afghanistan via the Khyber Pass as security forces launched a major operation against militants there, an official said.

The operation comes after a series of spectacular raids by suspected Taliban militants on foreign military supply depots in northwest Pakistan earlier this month in which hundreds of Nato and US-led coalition vehicles were destroyed.

Pakistani security forces sent tanks, helicopter gunships and artillery units into the lawless Khyber tribal region on the Afghan border before dawn, the area's administrator Tariq Hayat told reporters in Peshawar.

"We have launched an operation against militants and armed groups in

Jamrud," the gateway to the Khyber Pass, Hayat said.

The main highway linking Peshawar to the border town of Torkham has been shut down until the operation is complete, he said, adding: "Supplies to Nato forces have temporarily been suspended."

Heavy cannon fire was heard in Jamrud, residents told AFP. Helicopter gunships shelled suspected militant hideouts, local security officials said, adding that troops had encountered little resistance.

Hayat said earlier that three people had been injured, including a security official.

"This is a giant operation. It will continue until we achieve our objective," he said, adding that the operation could be expanded beyond the area near Jamrud -- located between Peshawar and Torkham -- if necessary.

The Khyber tribal area official said the operation was aimed at putting a stop to attacks on Nato supply vehicles, as well as a spate of kidnappings for ransom in the tribal badlands, where Taliban and al-Qaeda militants are active.

Troops had already seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition in a raid on a warehouse in Jamrud, Hayat said, adding that a complete curfew had been imposed on the area, with paramilitary troops patrolling the streets.

No arrests had yet been reported, but Hayat said: "We will start rounding up people if necessary."

The bulk of the supplies and equipment required by Nato and US-led forces battling the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan is shipped to Pakistan's largest port, Karachi, in the south.

Lanka military receives bodies of 17 soldiers

AFP, Colombo

The Sri Lanka military has received the bodies of 17 soldiers killed while fighting Tamil Tiger rebels in the island's embattled north, the defence ministry said yesterday.

The bodies were sent by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) through the International Committee of the Red Cross in the frontline town of Omanthai on Monday, the ministry said.

The military in October announced that it will not announce details of its battlefield casualties saying that it would affect ongoing operations against the Tigers.

However, the military said on Tuesday that heavy fighting continued in the northern jungle areas of Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi where the Tigers maintain their military and political bases respectively.

"Intercepted terrorist radio transmissions have confirmed heavy damages to the terrorists during these clashes," the ministry said.

The rebels did not comment on the military statement.

Fighting has intensified since Sri Lanka pulled out of a Norwegian-backed truce in January as the government is confident of crushing the rebels who have been fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils since 1972.

Rice warns of escalating Indo-Pak tensions

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has expressed concern to India and Pakistan over escalating tensions between the two nuclear armed rivals after Islamabad redeployed troops to their border, the State Department said Monday.

Rice spoke to Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari and Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee over the telephone, cautioning against raising tensions after last month's Mumbai attacks, which New Delhi has blamed on Pakistan-based militants, the department said.

"She has made it part of her conversations to note that tensions are already high, that neither side should be taking actions that increase those tensions," said department spokesman Gordon Duguid.

Rice had also noted in the talks that Pakistan had "made some positive steps but that these steps need to be continuous, that we need to have both sides work together to find the perpetrators of the Mumbai attacks."

Relations between India and Pakistan had deteriorated in the wake of the Mumbai attacks, which New Delhi has blamed on Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

A total of 172 people were killed, including nine gunmen.

Pakistani officials said last week that the military had redeployed a "limited" number of troops from tribal areas near Afghanistan, where they are fighting Taliban and al-Qaeda militants, to the eastern border with India.

The move prompted Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to summon his military chiefs for a strategy session, and New Delhi advised its nationals not to travel to Pakistan.



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistani Muslims shout slogans beside a burning effigy of US President George W Bush during an anti-Israeli protest in Muzaffarabad yesterday against airstrikes in Gaza. Pakistan has condemned Israeli air attacks against Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip.

Afghan, Nato troops kill 9 militants

AFP, Kandahar

At least nine Taliban-linked militants were killed in clashes with Afghan and international forces in troubled southern Afghanistan, a police commander said yesterday.

The fighting erupted in the Nawa district of Helmand province after dozens of rebels attacked Afghan security forces manning a checkpoint, provincial police chief Assadullah Sherzad told AFP.

Afghan reinforcements backed by Nato-led troops rushed to the scene and killed nine rebel attackers, Sherzad said. "Nine Taliban were killed and their bodies were left in the area. We had no casualties," he added.

Helmand province, which borders Pakistan, sees much of the violence in the bloody insurgency being waged by remnants of the Taliban regime, which was toppled in a US-led invasion in late 2001.

Dutch Major General Mart de Kruif, commander of Nato forces in southern Afghanistan which includes Helmand, called this week for most of the 30,000 extra US troops due next year to be sent to Helmand and neighbouring Kandahar.

Afghanistan produces more than 90 percent of the world's opium, much of it in Helmand.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan and the United States are mulling the creation of unarmed community guards to help defend against insurgents as troops cannot be deployed in every village, the US ambassador said yesterday.

The ambassador, William Wood, and an Afghan government spokesman separately insisted there was no intention to arm these local groups or recreate tribal militia forces.

The "core problem" in Afghanistan's efforts to put down a Taliban-led insurgency raging for seven years is that there have never been enough Afghan and international security forces in the country, Wood said.

The Afghan army is growing by more than 2,500 soldiers a month and there are plans to expand the police force, while at least 20,000 additional US troops are expected here next year along with other international contingents.



PHOTO: AFP

Members of Nepal's indigenous Gurung community wear traditional dress as they take part in a ceremony in Kathmandu yesterday, held to celebrate their New Year or Lhosar.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Directorate General of Family Planning
6, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215

দুটি সন্তানের বেশী নয়
একটি হলে ভাল হয়

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
2	Agency	Directorate General of Family Planning.
3	Procuring entity name	Director (Logistics and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management), Directorate General of Family Planning.
4	Procuring entity code	None.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
6	Invitation for	0.8 million pieces of Tablet Ciprofloxacin (500mg) USP.
7	Invitation Ref No.	DGFP/L&S-3/2008/6266/82.
8	Date	22/12/2008

KEY INFORMATION	
9	Procurement method

FUNDING INFORMATION	
10	Budget and source of funds
11	Development partner

PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
12	Project/programme code
13	Project/programme name
14	Tender package No.
15	Tender package name

	Date	Time
16	Tender publication date	28/12/2008
17	Tender last selling date	25/01/2009 up to office hour
18	Tender closing date and time	26/01/2009 11:00am (BST)
19	Tender opening date and time	26/01/2009 11:30am (BST)

20	Name and address of the office(s):	Address.
	- Selling tender document	Director (Logistics and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management), Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Karwan Bazar (5th Floor), Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
	- Receiving tender document	As above.
	- Opening tender document	As above.
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Office Room of the Director (Logistics and Supply) on January 11, 2009 at 11:00am (BST).

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Eligibility of tenderer	The tenderer shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience in manufacture and supply of similar goods. The tenderer shall have a minimum of 2 (two) years experience in manufacturing and supplying of specific goods of the subject contract. The minimum annual production capacity shall be 3 (three) times of the total quantity of Tablet Ciprofloxacin.		
23	Brief description of goods	0.8 million pieces of Tablet Ciprofloxacin (500mg) USP.		
24	Brief description of related services	None.		
25	Price of tender document	1000/- (one thousand) taka only (non-refundable). Method of payment should be Pay-Order from any scheduled bank in favour of the procuring entity under Serial No. 3.		


	Package No.	Identification of package	Location (final destination)	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks
26	Contract Package No. GFP-35/08	0.8 million pieces of Tablet Ciprofloxacin (500mg) USP.	Central Warehouse of Family Planning, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.	Taka 1,28,000 (one lac twenty-eight thousand).	Within 10 (ten) weeks from the date of signing of the contract.

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

30	Name of official inviting tender	Md Hossain Molla.		
31	Designation of official inviting tender	Director (Logistics and Supply) and Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management).		
32	Address of official inviting tender	Directorate General of Family Planning, 6, Karwan Bazar (5th Floor), Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.		
33	Contact details of official inviting tender	Telephone: 02-8144049	Fax: 880-2-8144049	Email: dirisdfp@citec.net
34	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			

Md Hossain Molla
Director (Logistics & Supply) and
Line Director (Procurement, Storage and Supply Management)
Directorate General of Family Planning
6, Karwan Bazar (5th Floor)
Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh

GD-5961

 Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO) Mohakash Biggyan Bhaban Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207 Bangladesh.				
INVITATION FOR INTERNATIONAL TENDER				
GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH				
01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence		
02	Agency	Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO)		
03	Procurement Entity Name	Project Director, EDREMOS Project		
04	Procuring Entity Code	N/A		
05	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka, Bangladesh		
06	Invitation for	Tender for Goods (Single Lot)		
07	Invitation Ref. No.	SR/PA-326 (Ground Station)2007/1193		
08	Date	30/12/2008		
KEY INFORMATION				
09	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (International Competitive Tender)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
10	Budget and Source of Funds	JDCF		
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
12	Project/Programme Code (if applicable)	7040		
13	Project/Programme Name (if applicable)	Environment, Disaster and Resources Monitoring System (EDREMOS) Project		
14	Tender Package No.	EDRE/2008-09/GD-15		
15	Tender Name	Procurement of Satellite Ground Station with Standard Product.		
16	Tender Publication date	Date	Time	
17	Tender Last Selling Date	30/12/2008		
18	Tender closing Date & Time	29/03/2009	11:00 AM	
19	Opening Date and Time (if different from 18)	30/03/2009	11:30 AM	
Name and Address of the Office				
20	Selling Tender Document	Room no. 218, Administrative Building, SPARRSO, Agargaon Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.		
	Receiving Tender Document	-do-		
	Opening Tender Document	Meeting Room (1 st floor), Administrative Building, SPARRSO, Agargaon Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER				
21	Eligibility of Tenderer	Tenderer will have legal, financial, professional and technical capability to deliver & have fulfilled the obligations of all tax requirements.		
22	Brief Description of Goods	Complete ground station for acquisition, archiving, processing, analysis and distribution of meteorological satellite data.		
23	Brief Description of Related Services	Installation, Testing, Commissioning and Training of the above supplied goods.		
24	Price of Tender Document (Tk.)	Tk 2000/- (Two thousand)- Non Refundable		
25	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)
	1	Procurement of Satellite Ground Station with Standard Product.	Dhaka	US \$ 20,00,000/- or equivalent to US \$ 30,000/- in the currency of the Tender Price.
26	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Dr. Syed Umar Khyam		
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Project Director		
28	Address of Official Inviting Tender	SPARRSO, Mohakash Biggyan Bhaban Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.		
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Tel: 880-2- 8144332; Fax: 880-2-8113080; E-mail: edremos@sparrso.gov.bd		
30	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.			
Project Director EDREMOS Project SPARRSO				

GD-6059