



Angry supporters of Hazara Democratic Party, a predominantly Shia movement, pass by a burning vehicle during a protest against the killing of their leader in Quetta yesterday. Gunmen riding on the back of a motorbike shot dead a Shia politician in southwest Pakistan. A banned Sunni extremist group claimed responsibility of the attack.

PHOTO: AFP

US would not hesitate to hit Qaeda targets inside Pakistan, says Biden

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Washington

US Vice President Joseph R Biden has reiterated President Barack Obama's campaign stand that US would not hesitate to attack actionable targets "of high-level al-Qaeda personnel" inside Pakistan.

Appearing on CBS's 'Face the Nation' programme Sunday, he also declined to respond to a question whether the US would notify Pakistan before any cross-border movements for action in its territory.

"I can't speak to any particular attack. I can't speak to any particular action. It's not appropriate for me to do that," Biden said when asked whether last week's reported attack by an American drone on an al-Qaeda force in Pakistan indicated a continuation of former President George Bush's policy.

"But I can say that the president of the United States said during his campaign and in the debates that if there is an actionable target, of a high-level al-Qaeda personnel, that he would not hesitate to use action to deal with that."

When asked if the US would notify Islamabad before any such cross-border movements, he said: "I always try to be completely candid with you, but I can't respond to that question. I'm not going to respond to that question."

Biden, who recently visited Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iraq as a senator before being sworn in, said the good news from his last trip was that there is a great deal more cooperation going on now between the Pakistan military in its tribal area that has been ungovernable for the Pakistani government.

Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Area (FATA) -- "Waziristan, North Waziristan -- all that area we hear about, that is really sort of ungovernable. Not sort of, it's been ungovernable for the Pakistani government," Biden said.

"That's where the bad guys are hiding. That's where the al-Qaeda folks are, and some other malcontents."

"And so what we're doing is we're in the process of working with the Pakistanis to help train up their counterinsurgency capability of their military, and we're getting new agreements with them about how to deal with cross-border movements of these folks, so we're making progress."

In Afghanistan too "things are going to get tougher before they get better," Biden said.

What's happened, he said, is that because of a "failure to provide sufficient resources, economic, political and military," the situation has deteriorated a great deal and "Taliban is in effective control of significant parts of the country they were not before."

Pakistan imposes curfew as army battles Taliban

Four civilians killed, troops deployed after killing of Shia politician

AFP, Peshawar/Quetta

Four civilians were killed yesterday as troops pounded suspected militant hideouts in Pakistan's Swat valley after a curfew was slapped on the area, officials said.

Pakistan's military is battling extremists loyal to radical cleric Maulana Fazlullah who have launched a violent campaign to introduce Islamic Sharia law.

The authorities placed several towns under indefinite curfew late Sunday and issued a warning that "anybody violating the curfew will be shot at sight."

The move came after Fazlullah, in a speech over his FM radio station, released the names of 40 people including ministers, MPs and local government officials "wanted" by the Taliban.

Troops shot dead a civilian for violating the curfew in Chaharbagh town, a police official said.

Three others, including a woman, were killed when security forces pounded suspected militant hideouts in the same

area, the official said, requesting anonymity.

A military spokesman confirmed that an anti-militant operation was underway in the northwestern valley.

"Troops launched an operation against miscreants in Chaharbagh and Manglore areas and (are) targeting their hideouts with artillery, mortars and small arms," major Nasir Khan said.

In his radio speech, Fazlullah said: "These people encouraged military operations in the area and are responsible for the killings of Taliban and civilians," adding that they would be tried in Taliban courts.

Authorities downplayed the threat. "The government will not bow before these miscreants," provincial information minister Mian Ifkhar Hussain told AFP.

Militants meanwhile blew up a boys school on the outskirts of the valley's main town of Mingora and also attacked a girls school in the city, security officials said, adding that "troops repulsed the attack."

Swat, once a popular destination for Pakistani and foreign holidaymakers, has descended into chaos in recent months, with pitched battles between militants and security forces.

Meanwhile, paramilitary troops were deployed on the streets of Pakistan's southwestern city of Quetta Monday to quell violent protests against the killing of a Shia Muslim politician, police said.

Gunmen riding on a motorbike shot dead Ghulam Hassan Yousufi, a prominent Shia figure, in an attack claimed by a banned Sunni extremist group.

"The Frontier Corps (FC) has been called to assist local police control the law and order situation," senior police official Wazir Khan Nasir told AFP.

He said police were questioning at least 18 people arrested for suspected links to the assassinations.

The FC fanned out across the city centre after hundreds of protestors took to the streets and turned violent, setting ablaze private vehicles and smashing the windows of a bank in the main boulevard where Yousufi was killed.

Grateful thanks to BNP

FROM PAGE 1
calls me a thief."

Yesterday, while enacting the 'joke of the year', BNP explained the precise reason for their walkout. After having taken oath as the chief adviser to protect the constitution, President Iajuddin violated it by failing to hold the election within 90 days as prescribed in it.

Before we examine the question of election within the 90 days, we need to ask what prompted the president to become the chief adviser in the first place. Did not that step by itself constitute a gross violation of the constitution? Was not that the most unethical, immoral, and self-serving step imaginable? If anything, this single action significantly eroded public confidence in the highest legal instrument of our country and made it look like a plaything in the hands of rulers of the day.

Who made Iajuddin take this blundering, in fact suicidal, step? Clearly and unquestionably, it was BNP. If we recall, negotiations were on in Bangabhaban among the president, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Abdul Jalil to find a suitable replacement of KM Hasan when Bhuiyan suddenly suggested that the president becomes the chief adviser, and the willing (or shall we say compliant) Iajuddin readily accepted.

The constitution, under article 58C, provides a six-step process to find a suitable chief adviser. They are: 1) the immediate past chief justice; 2) the retired chief justice before him; 3) the last retired judge of the Appellate Division; 4) the retired judge of the Appellate Division before him; 5) any suitable person, qualified to hold the post of chief adviser and acceptable to all major political parties. Failing to find a suitable candidate after exhausting the aforementioned five steps, then and only then, the president may have recourse to the sixth step, and assume the office of the chief adviser (CA), in addition to being the president.

Only the first step was exhausted. The president did not even try to explore the four other possibilities and opted for the sixth option, and assumed the CA's office. By not exploring the four steps clearly spelled out, President Iajuddin can stand accused of violating the constitution.

The question is, did he do so of his own volition or was he under the guidance of BNP and its leaders, Tarique Rahman and Khaleda Zia. Given Iajuddin's personality, his docile nature, ever subservient character, and his track record of never taking any ethical position over the past four years, it is impossible to imagine, much less to believe, that he could have taken such a major unconventional, not to mention unconstitutional, step without direct instruction from the then prime minister herself, or from someone who spoke on her behalf.

By all accounts and public actions he was a 'remote controlled' president, under the dictates of BNP leadership, especially of Khaleda Zia. So, President Iajuddin's violation of the constitution was dictated by BNP, and if any one should be accused of it, morally it should be the latter.

President Iajuddin was, at best, a partner in 'crime', so to speak, albeit a willing one.

Even after the above violation of the constitution, Awami League agreed to some conditions, to accept the caretaker government under President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin, and participated in the formation of the advisory council.

Till then there were clear possibilities of holding the election on time and within the 90 days. Instead of allowing the advisory council to function as per the constitution, President Iajuddin, at the dictates of BNP, created all sorts of obstacles and impediments to moving towards the scheduled polls.

As to the functioning of the caretaker government, there were numerous occasions when the advisory council's decisions, arrived at during meetings, were later overturned by the president through late evening press releases dictated from outside.

BNP's hold and monitoring of the president was, perhaps, epitomised by the emergence of a strange diminutive character who, it is rumoured, kept a mobile phone constantly on during the meetings of the advisory council, so it could be heard from outside and appropriate 'instructions' could be communicated to the president for his prompt compliance. When advisers complained about the character's presence, as he was a junior official, Iajuddin gave him the rank of a state minister, so he could formally sit in the council meetings.

Again on the question of the president failing to hold the election within the prescribed 90 days, let us not forget how four of the most respected advisers moved from pillar to post to bring about a consensus between the two major political parties, so the election could be held as scheduled.

No sooner some hint of an understanding would emerge, it would swiftly be scuttled by the president/chief adviser, dashing any hope of a timely election. The remote controlled president's interference became so intolerable and so obstructionist to the process of holding the election that the said four advisers were compelled to resign. They privately cited total lack of co-operation of the president and doubted his sincerity about holding a free and fair election.

In our eyes, President Iajuddin is guilty, not so much for violating the constitution which he did under pressure from his party (which does not lessen his responsibility), but more so for not rising to the stature of his office and realising that his was a role to set moral and ethical standards, to behave with the highest dignity and fairness, to act with such judiciousness and far sight that generations following would use it as something to compare others with. There he so tragically and disastrously failed himself and us.

There would not have been any interruption in our democracy, had he only allowed his conscience instead of BNP, to guide him.

India celebrates 60th Republic Day amid tight security

PTI, New Delhi

Kaleidoscopic images of India's rich cultural diversity and the might of its military were on full display on the magnificent Rajpath in New Delhi on Monday as the nation celebrated its 60th Republic Day amid an unprecedented security cover.

An impressive and colourful parade, a traditional attraction of the national event, marched down the thoroughfare connecting the Rashtrapati Bhawan and the historic India Gate as President Pratibha Patil took the salute from marching contingents.

Armed forces in battle regalia proudly marching before their supreme commander, scintillating show of air power, fascinating tableaux depicting the diverse culture and hundreds of colourfully-dressed dancing school children were part of the parade.

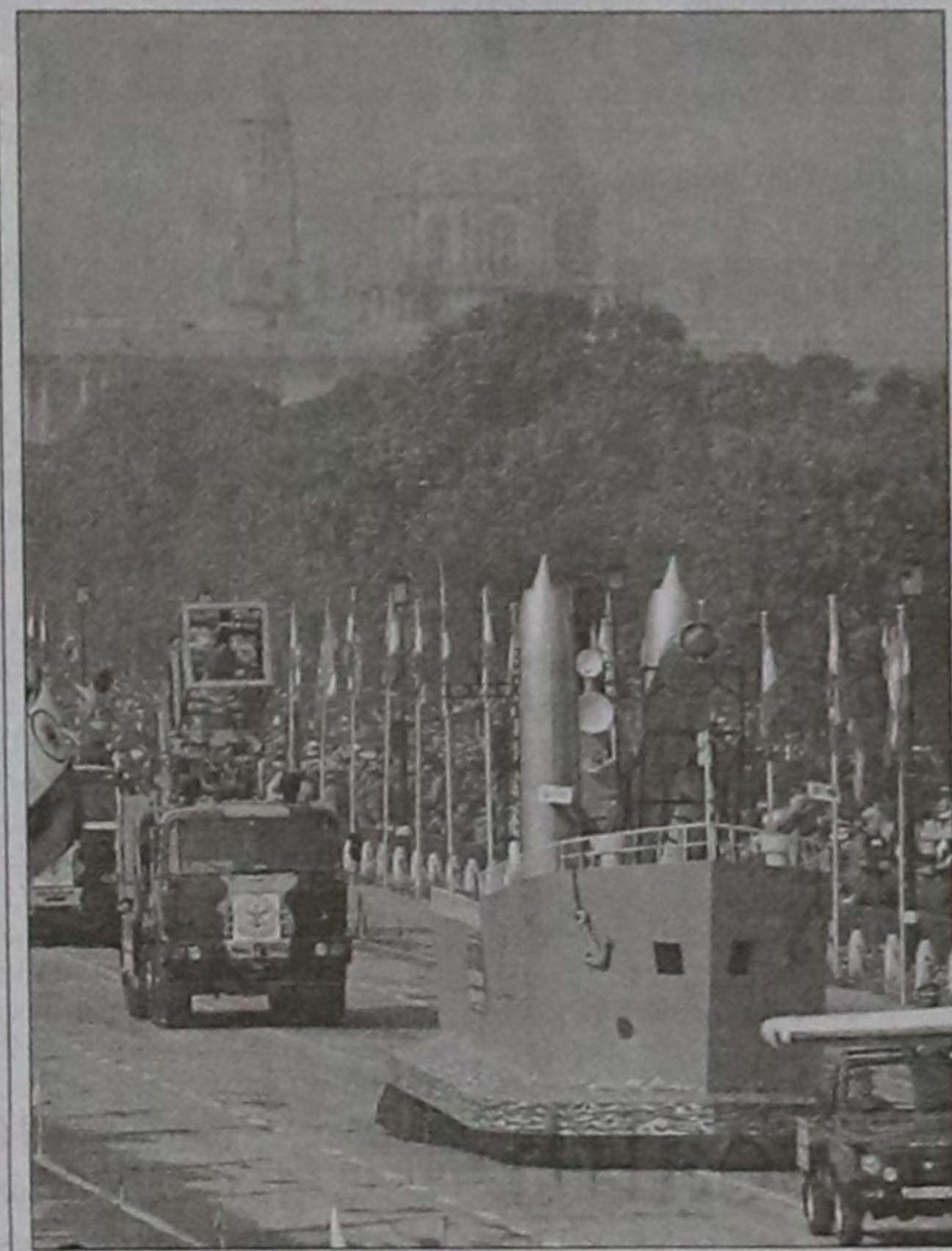


PHOTO: AFP

Brahmos Missile replicas are displayed during India's 60th Republic Day parade in New Delhi yesterday. India celebrated the day with a grand military parade in New Delhi held under strict security conditions, two months after the terror attacks on Mumbai.

Dhaka Power Distribution Co. Ltd.				
(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)				
Biddut Bhabon (3 rd Floor), 1 Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka - 1000.				
Invitation for Tender				
1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resource / Power Division		
2.	Agency	Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC)		
3.	Procuring Entity Name	DGM (Technical), Grid O&M Circle, DPDC		
4.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka		
5.	Invitation for	As stated in serial No. 13		
6.	Invitation Ref. No. & Date	DPDC/DGM/Grid O&M Circle/1 201/08/407, Date 22/01/09		
KEY INFORMATION:				
7.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)		
FUNDING INFORMATION				
8.	Budget and Source of Funds	DPDC's Own Fund		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION				
9.	Tender last Selling Date, Closing & Opening Date and Time	Last Selling Date & Time	Closing & Opening Date	Closing Time
		19/02/09 3:00 PM	22/02/2009	12:00 Noon
10.	Name & Address of the office for selling Tender Document, receiving & opening tender.	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <p>Selling</p> <p>Office of the (a) GM (Technical), SOS, DPDC, 3, Sonargoan Road, Katabon, Dhaka (b) DGM (Technical), Grid O&M Circle, DPDC, 3, Sonargoan road, Katabon, Dhaka (c) Manager (Technical), Grid South, DPDC 12/1/B, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000</p> </div> <div> <p>Receiving & Opening</p> <p>Office of the Deputy General Manager (Technical), Grid O&M Circle, DPDC, 3, Sonargoan Road, Katabon, Dhaka</p> </div> </div>		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER:				
11.	Eligibility of Tenderer	<p>(i) All tenderers regardless of whether enlisted or not enlisted with the Employer may submit Tenders providing they otherwise qualify. The Required average annual turnover shall be greater than Tk. 20.00 Lacs over the last 3 (Three) years</p> <p>(ii) The Required number of similar contracts completed shall be minimum 1(One) over a period of last 2 (Two) years. The copies of all the documents & certificate must be duly attested not below the rank of Manager of DPDC</p> <p>(iii) The minimum liquid assets or credit facilities will be Tk. 10.00 (Ten) lacs for lot-1, Tk. 5.00 (Five) lacs for lot-2 & Tk. 0.50 (Point Fifty) lac. for lot-3</p>		
12.	Price of the tender Document & Amount of Tender Security	As stated in Serial No. 13. The amount of Money shall be payable in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft issued from any schedule Bank in Bangladesh in favour of Deputy General Managing (Technical), Grid O&M Circle, DPDC for individual Lots		
PARTICULAR OF LOTS				
Lot Nos.	Description of Work	Price of Tender Document	Tender Security Money	Time for completion of Works
01 (One)	Yearly repair and maintenance work of 132/33 kV gnd substation and 33/11 kV substation under Manager (Tech.), Grid South	Tk. 1,000.00	Tk. 50,000.00	12 (Twelve) Month
02 (Two)	Yearly repair and maintenance work of 132 kV and 33 kV overhead line under Manager (Tech.), Grid South	Tk. 750.00	Tk. 25,000.00	12 (Twelve) Month
03 (Three)	Repair work of damaged portion to the boundary wall at Char-Syedpur 33/11 kV Substation under Manager (Tech.), Grid South	Tk. 200.00	Tk. 2,000.00	1 (One) Month
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS:				
14.	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Engr. Md. Aktarur Rahman		
15.	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Deputy General Managing (Technical), Grid O&M Circle, DPDC		
16.	Address of Official Inviting Tender	3, Sonargoan Road, Katabon, Dhaka		
17.	Special Instruction	<p>(a) Tenderers should participate separately for each lot</p> <p>(b) All other instruction is described in the tender document</p> <p>(c) If it is not possible to receive and open the tenders on the schedule date for any unavoidable circumstances, the same will be received and open on the flowing working date at the same time and same venue</p> <p>(d) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Tenders in any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever</p>		
Engr. Md. Aktarur Rahman Deputy General Managing (Technical), Grid O&M Circle, DPDC				

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Military Engineer Services
CMES (Army) Dhaka
Dhaka Cantt



Invitation for Tenders

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence
2.	Agency	Military Engineer Services (Army)
3.	Procuring entity name	CMES (Army) Dhaka
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
5.	Invitation for	Procurement of works
6.	Invitation Ref No	4000/Adv/23/E-4
7.	Date	19 Jan 2009
8.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
9.	Budget and source of funds	Government of Bangladesh (Revenue)
10.	Project/programme code	Job No 11/Others of 2008-2009.
11.	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Replacement of Filter Material including improvement of 3x existing Filtration Plant at Jalalabad Cantt, Sylhet.
12.	Tender publication date	28 Jan 2009
13.	Tender last selling date & time	09 Feb 2009 on 1400 hours.
14.	Tender closing date and time	11 Feb 2009 on 1200 hours.
15.	Tender opening date and time	11 Feb 2009 at 1230 hours.
16.	Name & address of the office(s)	
	Selling tender document	CMES (Army) Dhaka, Dhaka Cantt.
	Receiving tender document	CMES (Army) Dhaka, Dhaka Cantt.
	Opening tender document	CMES (Army) Dhaka, Dhaka Cantt.
17.	Eligibility of tenderer	MES enlisted contractor 'D' & 'E' class & equivalent class contractors enlisted with other govt/sami govt/other organisation having security clearance from DGFI along with up-to-date attested photocopy of Trade license, VAT Reg. & IT certificate & bank statement.
18.	Brief description of works	Replacement of Filter Material including improvement of 3x existing Filtration Plant at Jalalabad Cantt, Sylhet.
19.	Price of tender document	Tk. 750.00
	Lot No	Identification of Lot
	Location	Tender security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order in favour of CMES (Army) Dhaka Cantt (Taka)
20.	a. Jalalabad cantt.	GE (Army) Jalalabad
		Taka 30,000/-
		03 (three) months
21.	Name of official inviting tender	CMES (Army) Dhaka, Dhaka Cantt.
22.	Designation of official inviting tender	Lt Col
23.	Address of official inviting tender	CMES (Army) Dhaka, Dhaka Cantt.
24.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No. 8754120 (Civil) Fax No. 88-02-8754120 E-mail
25.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

ISPR/Army/09/1933
GD-448

CMES (Army) Dhaka
Dhaka Cantt