



Pakistani human rights activists march at a peace rally in Lahore Saturday. The peace rally was organised to make an emphatic and vigorous appeal to both sides - Pakistan and India - of the divide to shun arms and make peace with each other in the larger interest of the country, region and posterity.

Deadline expires for Lankan civilians trapped in fighting

AFP, AP, Colombo

Fears grew yesterday for tens of thousands of civilians trapped in fighting in Sri Lanka as a government deadline expired for cornered Tamil Tiger rebels to allow non-combatants to leave the conflict zone.

President Mahinda Rajapakse had given the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) until Saturday night to provide civilians safe passage out of the small jungle area in the northeast where rebel forces are staging a last stand against a massive, year-long military offensive.

"LTTE terrorists continued worsening the suffering of the thousands of entrapped civilians ... ignoring the 48-hour ultimatum served for their safe passage," the defence ministry said.

It did not specify what action the military would now take, but army officials reported skirmishes and exchanges of gunfire in the 300 square kilometre (110 square mile) territory still under rebel control.

Sri Lanka's military captured two

camps used by the Tamil Tigers' suicide squad, killing 12 rebels and seizing a large number of weapons, officials said Sunday amid mounting concern for civilians trapped in the war zone.

The Tigers deny holding civilians and claim the military offensive is preventing them from fleeing. Although the 48-hour period did not amount to a ceasefire, the government was expected to step up its offensive starting Sunday.

The United Nations says up to quarter of a million non-combatants are trapped in the area, while the Sri Lankan government says the figure is closer to 120,000.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has spearheaded a growing chorus of appeals by the international community for the warring parties to allow the civilians out.

The UN children's agency Unicef says tens of thousands of children are among those caught in the firing line, and that babies as young as 10 days old have been wounded in the fighting.

"We have clear evidence that children are being caught in the crossfire, and that children are being injured and killed,"

said Unicef's regional director for South Asia, Daniel Toole.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) says "hundreds" of civilians have been killed this month and "scores" wounded.

Sri Lanka's government argues that such numbers are grossly exaggerated and denies any targeting of civilian areas, while also accusing the Tigers of using non-combatants as a human shield.

The LTTE says the civilians are free to leave but prefer to stay under rebel protection.

The UN arranged an evacuation of some 350 wounded people and their immediate relatives from the combat zone last week and the Red Cross is in talks with both sides to organise a further evacuation.

UN officials said the negotiations were continuing for a second day Sunday.

The government has designated a 35 square kilometre (13 square mile) "safe zone" inside rebel-held territory where it says civilians can shelter without fear of military bombardment.

Pak troops kills 16 militants in troubled Swat valley

AFP, Peshawar/Quetta

Pakistani troops killed at least 16 militants in the troubled northwestern Swat valley, the military said yesterday.

One soldier died and two others were injured during gunfights with militants over a 24-hour period in the town of Chaharbagh, it said in a statement.

"At least 16 militants were killed and many injured, in an exchange of fire with security forces near Deral, Aligrama and Chaharbagh in the last twenty four hours," the statement said.

It was not possible independently to verify the claim.

Government forces consolidated their hold over Chaharbagh, "considered to be a stronghold of the hardened militants," said the military statement, adding that five suspected militants were also arrested during a "search

operation" in the area.

Separately, militants shot dead a policeman whom they had kidnapped a night before, it added.

Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari and army chief Ashfaq Kayani Wednesday vowed to restore government authority in Swat.

Pakistan's military is battling extremists loyal to radical cleric Maulana Fazlullah, who is waging a violent campaign to introduce Islamic Shariah law in Swat, a valley that once attracted Western holidaymakers to its snow-capped peaks.

Earlier a man was killed and six people were injured when unidentified attackers lobbed a hand grenade at a police patrol in remote southwestern Pakistan, police said Sunday.

The grenade attack occurred late Saturday in the town of Khuzdar, some 330 kilometres (205 miles) south of Quetta, the capital of restive Baluchistan province on the border with Afghanistan and Iran.

Indo-Pak cooperation crucial for prosecution of Mumbai culprits Says Qureshi

PTI, Islamabad

Cooperation between India and Pakistan will be crucial for the successful prosecution of persons involved in the Mumbai terror attacks, Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi said today.

Talking to journalists at the airport in his hometown of Multan, Qureshi described cooperation between the two countries "as the key to ensure successful prosecution of the culprits" involved in the

Mumbai attacks.

Later, addressing a press conference in Multan, Qureshi said he was hopeful that the sharing of the findings of Pakistan's investigation into the Mumbai attacks with India would defuse tensions between the two countries.

He said senior officials of the interior and law ministries are reviewing a report submitted by a team from the Federal Investigation Agency that had probed the Mumbai incident.

Pakistan is key to fixing Afghanistan militancy Says British military chief

AFP, London

Peace will only come to Afghanistan if Pakistan can sort out the militants on its side of the border, where US strikes are not helping, the head of Britain's armed forces told The Sunday Times newspaper.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Sturup said only politics, long term, could bring peace on both sides of the frontier.

The chief of the defence staff said that weaknesses in Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government were causing difficulties for the 8,300 British troops battling Taliban insurgents in the troubled south of the country.

"The weakness of governance in Afghanistan worries me considerably," Sturup told the weekly broadsheet.

"But governance is not just about what goes on in Kabul. We have to look at the wider picture."

"The Taliban movement -- and Taliban is now a catch-all phrase for ideologues, criminals, people with tribal grudges, people who are quite simply guns for hire to keep bread on the table -- is on both sides of the border."

"It makes no distinction between one side or the other. Some people move across. Some are based almost exclusively in Pakistan. Some are based exclusively in Afghanistan."

"It's impossible to distinguish between those two and actually, in my view, not necessary. The border is not relevant."

Sturup sympathised with the difficulties faced by the Pakistani military, admitting that its success so far had been "limited".

MUMBAI TERROR ATTACKS FBI wants to question Fahim, Sabbaudhin

PTI, New Delhi

Officials of Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) have requested to interrogate Fahim Arshad Ansan and Sabbaudhin - two terrorists arrested earlier by the Uttar Pradesh Police and questioned by Mumbai Police in connection with the 26/11 terror strikes.

The request was made through proper channels for questioning the two terrorists of banned Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), who were brought to Mumbai in December 2008 as a follow up to the probe into the 26/11 attack, official sources said.

Thirty five-year-old Ansan told his interrogators that he was asked by Pakistan's ISI to identify all the terror-hit places on "Googlemap.com" and is believed to share the extreme mindset of Osama bin Laden, the al-Qaeda chief. He claimed to be an ardent follower of Laden and had grown a beard like the global terrorist.

"After joining my job in Dubai, I also used to discuss about Jehadi activities and appreciate the actions of Osama. My co-workers called me as Osama as I was keeping a beard like him," the terrorist allegedly said during his interrogation.

Indian PM discharged from hospital

PTI, New Delhi

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was yesterday discharged from AIIMS, more than a week after he underwent a successful coronary by-pass surgery at the prestigious hospital.

"Prime Minister has been discharged from AIIMS. He was very cheerful and was enquiring about activities and happenings. He is on his way to recovery," Union Health Minister Ambumani Ramdoss told reporters here.

"I am sure he will recover quickly and it is going to take him about 2 to 3 weeks to come to office and work. In fact, in a week's time, he will start working from home."

PPP-PML-N rift deepening

Says Nawaz Sharif

THE DAILY TIMES, Lahore


Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif said on Saturday the rift between the PML-N and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was deepening with the passage of time, a private TV channel reported.

The former prime minister said the rift between the two parties was bound to grow wider if the PPP failed to honour its promises.

Talking to reporters after arriving in London, Nawaz, however, refused to comment

on various statements by Punjab Governor Salmaan Taseer, the channel said. The PML-N chief is in London for the medical checkup of his son, Hasan Nawaz.

Meeting: To a question regarding the possibility of his meeting with PML-Quaid President Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain, currently in London as well, Nawaz said no such possibility existed. The PML-N chief said those dreaming of his and Punjab Chief Minister Shahbaz Sharif's disqualification from contesting the polls should put their own houses in order.



বাংলাদেশ এনার্জি রেগুলেটরী কমিশন
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
টিসিবি ভবন (৪র্থ তলা), ১ কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা ১২১৫।

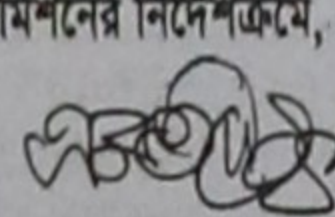
নং-বিইআরসি/পাওয়ার/ডিপিডিসি/বিতরণ-টারিফ/০০০২(অংশ-১)/০৩০৩ তারিখঃ ফেব্রুয়ারী ০১, ২০০৯ খ্রিঃ।

গণ-বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড ও ওয়েস্ট জোন পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড কর্তৃক বাংলাদেশ এনার্জি রেগুলেটরী কমিশনে দাখিলকৃত জোকা পর্যায়ে বিদ্যুতের মূল্যহার বৃদ্ধির আবেদনের উপর অনুরোধ গণ-সুনানীর তারিখ পরিবর্তন।

এতদ্বারা সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ সরকারের অবাধিতর জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ জোকা পর্যায়ে বিদ্যুতের মূল্যহার বৃদ্ধির বিষয়ে ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড ও ওয়েস্ট জোন পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর আবেদনের উপর গণ-সুনানী অনুষ্ঠানের তারিখ যথাক্রমে ফেব্রুয়ারী ০৪, ২০০৯ এবং ফেব্রুয়ারী ১৫, ২০০৯ সন্ধ্যা ১০.৩০ মিনিটের পরিবর্তে মার্চ ০৪, ২০০৯ এবং মার্চ ১১, ২০০৯ তারিখ সন্ধ্যা ১০.৩০ মিনিটে কমিশন কার্যালয়ে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

গণ-সুনানীর তারিখ পরিবর্তনের প্রেক্ষিতে জোকা পর্যায়ে বিদ্যুতের মূল্যবৃদ্ধি সংক্রান্ত ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড ও ওয়েস্ট জোন পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর আবেদনের বিষয়ে আত্মই যে কোন ব্যক্তি, প্রতিষ্ঠান বা সংস্থা যথাক্রমে ফেব্রুয়ারী ০৮, ২০০৯ ও ফেব্রুয়ারী ১৫, ২০০৯ তারিখের মধ্যে কমিশনে নাম তালিকাভুক্ত করে উক্ত গণ-সুনানীতে অংশ নিলে পক্ষে বা বিপক্ষে বিশ্লেষণনির্ভর যুক্তি/মতামত উপস্থাপন করতে পারবেন। উল্লিখিত আবেদন দুটি বিষয়ে সুনানী-পূর্ব লিখিত বক্তব্য/মতামত যথাক্রমে আগামী ফেব্রুয়ারী ২২, ২০০৯ ও মার্চ ০১, ২০০৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত কমিশন কার্যালয়ে গ্রহণ করা হবে।

কমিশনের নির্দেশক্রমে,

মেশকাত আহমেদ চৌধুরী
সচিব
ফোনঃ ৯১৪ ০১২৫



UN envoy Ibrahim Gambari (L) meets with Myanmar Foreign Minister Nyan Win (R) at the former war office in Yangon on Saturday. Gambari started his four-day visit to military ruled Myanmar for political reforms.

UN envoy in Myanmar meets Suu Kyi liaison

AFP, Yangon

The UN's top envoy to Myanmar on Sunday met the minister tasked with liaising with detained democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, an official said, in the latest talks aimed at nudging the junta toward reform.

Ibrahim Gambari's last trip to the military-ruled nation in August 2008 ended in deadlock, with Aung San Suu Kyi refusing to meet the Nigerian diplomat and her party dismissing the visit as "a waste of time."

On this four-day trip, which began Saturday, the United Nations has said Gambari wants "meaningful discussions with all concerned on all the points raised during his last visit."

But there is still no word on whether Gambari will be

granted a meeting with the reclusive head of state Senior General Than Shwe, or whether Aung San Suu Kyi will this time consent to meet with Gambari.

On Sunday, the UN negotiator met officials including Information Minister Kyaw Hsan and Foreign Minister Nyan Win in the commercial hub Yangon.

"He also met with relations minister Aung Kyi," said a government official who did not want to be named as he was not authorised to speak to the media. He refused to reveal what was discussed.

Suu Kyi's appointment to coordinate junta contacts with Aung San Suu Kyi in October 2007 was seen as a major sop to the West after the violent suppression of anti-junta demonstrations in September that year.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Bhola PWD Division, Bhola

Memo No. 144 Date: 29/01/2009 Eng
16/10/1415 Bang

Invitation for Tenders
(Open Tendering Method)

01. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Home Affairs.
02. Agency	Public Works Department (PWD).
03. Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer, Bhola PWD Division, Bhola.
04. Invitation Ref No. & date	Memo No. 144 date: 29/01/2009.
05. Procurement method	Open tenders method (P-W-3).
06. Source of fund	Government of Bangladesh.
07. Project name	Construction of Bangladesh Coast Guard South Zone Base at Bhola.
08. Tender no.	21/2008-09.
09. Tender name	Construction of Bangladesh Coast Guard South Zone Base at Bhola. SH. Constn. of Sailor's Barrack Bldg. Internal sanitary & water supply arrangement. Internal electrification.
10. Time for completion of works	1000 (one thousand) days.
11. Price of tender document	Tk 2,000 (two thousand) per set of tender document.
12. Tender security amount	Tk 35,50,000/- (Thirty-five lakh & fifty thousand) only.
13. Last date & time for selling of tender documents	04-03-09 during office hours.
14. Last date & time for submission of tender document	05-03-09 up to 12.00 noon.
15. Tender opening date & time	Tender will be opened on 05-03-09 at 12.30pm in the office of the Executive Engineer, Bhola PWD Division. Intending tenderers or their authorised representative may remain present during opening of tenders.
16. Eligibility of tenderers	This invitation for tender is open to eligible tenderers as mentioned below: (a) Reputed contractors/construction firms who have minimum 5 (five) years of general experience in building construction works. (b) Constn. firms who have successfully completed constn. of similar nature of work amounting to Tk. 720.00 (seven hundred twenty) lakh in a single tender in government/semi-government/corporations/autonomous organisation incl. sanitary & water supply arrangement and electrification. The work certificate for successful completion of a constn. work shall have to be issued by the officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer of concerned department/organisation duly certified by the Executive Engineer of PWD of that district under whose jurisdiction the work has been done. (c) The tenderers shall have a minimum average annual construction turnover during last 5 (five) years of Tk. 790.00 (seven hundred ninety) lakh. Necessary supporting documents from the concerned authority shall have to be submitted with the tender. (d) The minimum amount of free funds (liquid assets) cash flow and/or credit facilities net of other contractual commitments of the successful tenderer shall be 130.00 (one hundred thirty) lakh statement from the concerned bank/authority shall have to be submitted with tender. (e) The tenderer must have up-to-date VAT registration, TIN certificate, trade license and original money receipt to be enclosed along with the tender. (f) Other required eligibility and conditions of the tender are shown in tender data sheet of tender documents.
17. Name and address of the offices for selling tender document	Office of the all Executive Engineers under Bansal PWD Zone, Bansal, anyone selected Division under PWD Zone Khulna, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Dhaka PWD Division-1, under PWD Zone, Dhaka, Director (Engineering), Bangladesh Coast Guard, Headquarter, Dhaka/Zonal Commander, Bangladesh Coast Guard, South Zone, Bhola and Divisional Commissioner Office, Bansal.
18. Name and address of the office for receiving tender	Office of the Executive Engineer, Bhola PWD Division, Bhola.
19. Special instructions	i) The tenderers shall duly fill in the form W-1 as per format given in tender submission sheet (TSS) and form W-2 as per format given in tender information sheet (TIS). ii) Rates must be quoted both in figures & in words for each item of works where the provision for quoting rates by the tenderers has been kept in the tender schedule of items attached herewith. iii) The authority reserves the right to ask for analysis for all/any items of works. iv) If the tenderer submits any false/incorrect or forged certificate, the tender security may be forfeited.
20. Brief description of item and related works is	Civil, sanitary & water supply arrangement and EI works detailed followed by tender schedule.

Md. Zakir Hossain
Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Bhola