

Bomb kills 30 at Shia leader's funeral in Pakistan

AP, AFP, Islamabad

A suicide bomber attacked the funeral of a slain Shia Muslim leader in northwest Pakistan yesterday, killing 30 people and triggering deadly rioting.

Rising sectarian attacks threaten to further destabilise nuclear-armed Pakistan just as it faces intense international pressure to crack down on Islamist militants.

Meanwhile, a top US official said Washington was worried that a five-day-old cease-fire in the restive Swat valley could "turn into a surrender" to Taliban insurgents behind beheadings, the bombings of schools for girls and

attacks on security forces.

Friday's explosion struck a 1,000-strong crowd streaming toward a graveyard in Dera Ismail Khan for the burial of Sher Zeman, a Shia leader who was gunned down in the city the day before.

Police official Ishtiaq Marwat said a suicide attacker killed at least 30 people and wounded more than 60 others, leaving shoes and torn clothing littering a bloodstained street. Some of the dead and injured were taken to the hospital in wooden handcarts. Gunfire broke out afterward and police said angry Shias fired on officers rushing to the scene. Marwat said two Sunni Muslim resi-

dents had been shot dead in the rioting.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but past attacks on Pakistan's minority Shias have been carried out by extremists from the majority Sunni community who regard the sects heretical.

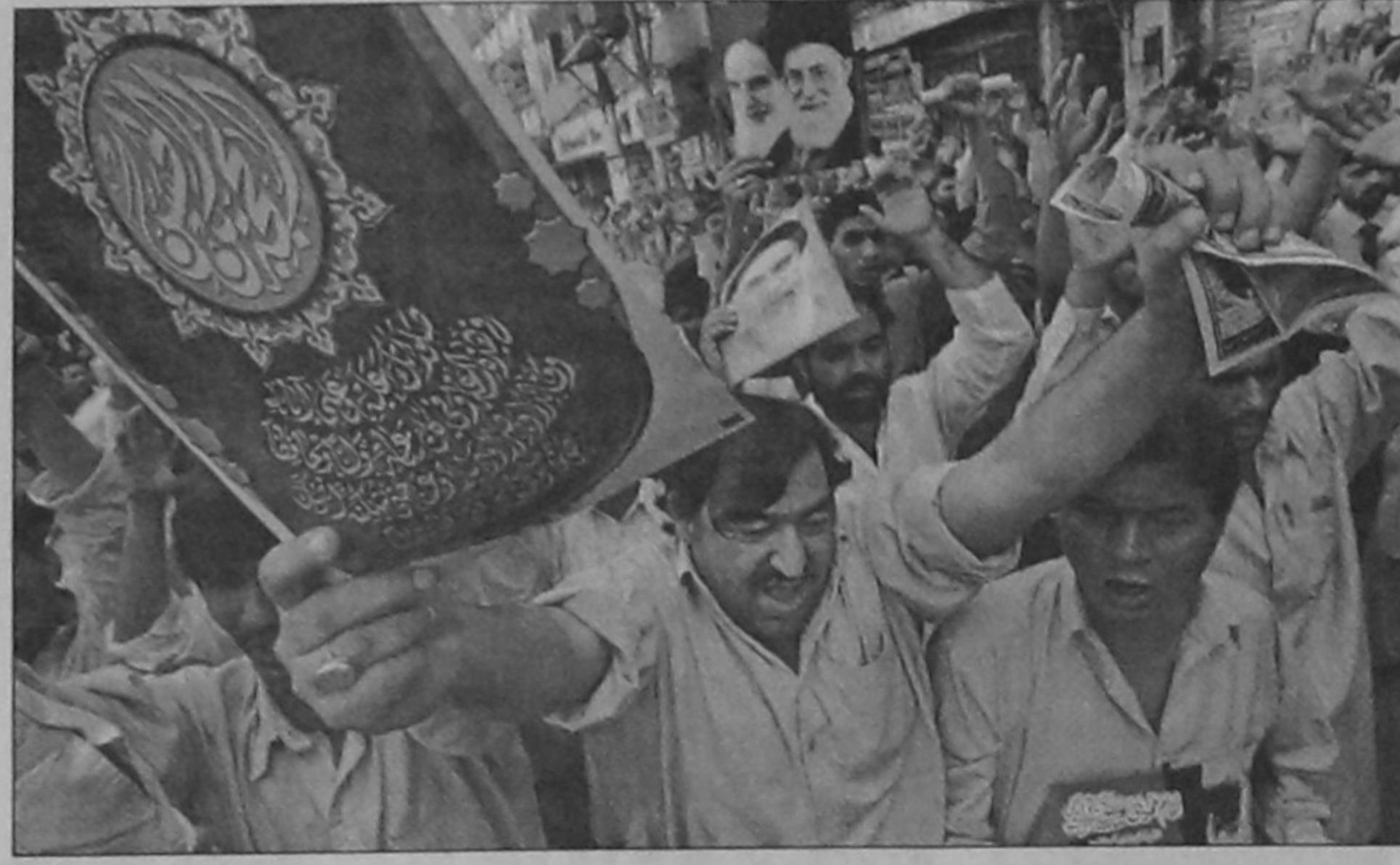
Fayyaz Hussain, a local Shia leader, said extremists were trying to start a wider sectarian conflict.

"This attack is yet another attempt to force us to leave Dera Ismail Khan, but we will face the situation and will stay here," Hussain said.

Relations between the two communities are under growing strain following a series of attacks. A car bomb killed 29



people and wounded scores near a Shia mosque in Peshawar in December. On Feb. 5, a suicide bomber killed 24 at a Shia mosque in a central city.



Pakistan a safe haven for terrorists: Hillary

PTI, Washington

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has said that the terrorists have found "safe haven" in Pakistan, a country, which she said is now under greater pressure because of the economic crisis.

In an interview to the ABC news, Hillary agreed with Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair that the economic crisis poses the greatest threat to the security now and this needs to be fixed urgently.

"That is not, in any way, to underestimate the importance of the continuing threat from terrorism, the instability in the Middle East and Afghanistan and Pakistan and elsewhere," she said according to a transcript released by the State Department.

Pakistan suffering because of ISI interference: Sharif

CNN-IBN, Islamabad

As the world watches Pakistan's truce with the Taliban in the Swat Valley, former Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has hit out at the ISI.

Sharif says Pakistan has been suffering losses because of ISI's interference in the government.

"The ISI has been interfering into Pakistan's administration and because of that the country has suffered great losses," said Sharif in an interview to Pakistan's Geo TV.

PHOTO: AFP
Pakistani Shia Muslims shout slogans during a protest in Karachi yesterday against the killing of Shia Muslims in a suicide attack in Dera Ismail Khan. A suicide bomber ran into a crowd of mourners at the funeral of a slain Shia Muslim leader in northwest Pakistan, killing 30 people and triggering a rampage by enraged mobs.

US voices dismay over Pak deal with Taliban

AFP, Washington

The United States on Thursday expressed concern to Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari that a deal allowing Sharia law in the volatile Swat valley amounted to a possible capitulation to Taliban militants.

US envoy Richard Holbrooke told CNN in an interview Thursday afternoon that he had spoken with Zardari by phone just hours earlier and expressed his "concern."

"It is hard to understand this deal in Swat," in the country's northwest, said Holbrooke, who returned this week from a regional tour that included visits to Pakistan, Afghanistan and India.

The agreement this week in Pakistan's Malakand area, which includes the Swat valley, has been widely seen as a government conces-

sion to Taliban Islamic militants to secure a ceasefire.

"I am concerned, and I know Secretary (of State Hillary) Clinton is, and the president (is), that this deal, which is portrayed in the press as a truce, does not turn into a surrender," Holbrooke said.

"President Zardari has assured us it is not the case."

The Pakistan president has described the deal as "an interim arrangement," said the US diplomat.

"He does not disagree that people who are running Swat now are murderers, thugs and militants and they pose a danger not only to Pakistan but to the US as well."

Last year, Pakistani forces launched an offensive to recapture the Swat valley from Taliban forces but the area remains restive.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

UNFPA Bangladesh invites applications from the eligible candidates for the following positions:

Position : National Programme Assistant - Education

Job Type : Service Contract

Duty Station : Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Duties:

- Maintains collaborative relationships with counterparts in GoB, NGOs' and civil society to address the emerging issues; Translates the component projects into activities and provides technical assistance for implementation in line with GoB Priorities and according to UNFPA Programme policies and procedures;
- Coordinates and liaises with government; UNFPA and other stakeholders; Takes responsibility for fund management, fund disbursement, follow-up and monitoring of funds and expenditure related with project activities;
- Provides and manages data inputs, logistical support, monitors project implementation and follow-up recommendations;
- Maintains information and database and developing database of project profiles for presentation to concerned parties;
- Organizes and conducts trainings, orientation workshops and programmes; international events including steering committee meetings.
- Maintain continuous liaison with the government and UNFPA for the processing of financial statement, subsequent arrangement for transfer of funds by the UNFPA as and when required.
- Provide expenditure forecasts and take action for budgetary revisions.

*This is a summarized version of the TOR
Detailed TOR will be discussed with the short-listed Candidates*

Qualifications & Competencies:

Must have a Masters Degree in Social Science/Education/Population Science including financial understanding from a recognized university. In addition to that 3-5 years of experience in RH/FP/Education Programmes. Certification in Finance/Accounting or experience in project budgeting, preparation of annual and physical and financial statements will be treated as added advantage.

Interested candidates are requested to apply along with a detailed CV/P11 form and a passport size photograph on or before **05 March 2009** by **4:30 pm** to **The Representative, UNFPA Bangladesh, IDB Bhaban (15th Floor), E/8-A Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.** Alternatively, CV/P11 can be send via e-mail to the following address: hr@unfpa-bangladesh.org. Detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) and P11 form can be obtained from UNFPA website www.unfpa-bangladesh.org/php/vacancy.php



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