

Pak FM to visit US for 'war on terror' review

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi will visit Washington this week for talks with US and Afghan officials on how to combat extremism and militancy in the region, officials said Sunday.

During the visit, which is to begin Monday, Qureshi is due to meet Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, US special regional envoy Richard Holbrooke and other senior members of President Barack Obama's administration, his ministry said.

# Pak militants consider permanent ceasefire

AFP, Mingora, Pakistan

Pakistani pro-Taliban militants yesterday said they would decide within days whether to call a permanent ceasefire in a wild region near the Afghan border after the government agreed to allow Islamic Sharia law.

Muslim Khan, spokesman for militant leader Maulana Fazlullah, said the hardliners would review their current 10-day truce in the Swat valley when it runs out on Wednesday.

"We declared a 10-day ceasefire just after the agreement was signed and you will see an exemplary peace prevail in the valley

once Sharia is enforced," Khan told AFP. "In the next five or six days, our Sharia is meeting and it will decide about a permanent ceasefire," he said.

The militants led a deadly campaign to enforce Islamic law until calling a truce last week, when authorities signed a deal recognising the code in the troubled valley.

Fazlullah said the ceasefire, widely seen as a concession by the Pakistani authorities, would be made permanent provided the militants were confident about the government's intentions.

"We can do a permanent ceasefire if the government builds confidence about its intentions," Fazlullah said on his illegal

radio station.

He was speaking after talks with pro-Taliban cleric Soofi Mohammad, who signed the deal with the government.

No date has been announced for when Sharia law would take effect. It is also not clear how the system, which supporters say will be faster than the penal courts, will be implemented or who will be responsible for justice.

Thousands of Fazlullah's supporters have spent nearly two years waging a terrifying campaign to enforce Sharia law in Swat, beheading opponents, bombing girls' schools, outlawing entertainment and fighting government forces.



Pakistani tribesmen gather around a Nato supply tanker after a bomb explosion near Landi Kotal on the main highway linking Peshawar city with the Torkham border crossing on Saturday. One person was killed and two wounded in the blast near a fuel tanker destined for Nato forces in Afghanistan.



Kashmiri Muslims shout pro-freedom and pro-Pakistani slogans during a funeral procession in Bomi Sopore some 65kms north of Srinagar yesterday. Thousands of Kashmiris held noisy anti-India demonstrations following the death of two young men in a shooting incident allegedly involving Indian troops.

## Naidu rules out support for BJP before or after polls

PTI, New Delhi

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, a key ally of the previous Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led NDA government, today said his Telugu Desam Party will never help L K Advani become Prime Minister nor support any BJP government at the Centre.

"No, no BJP Never. (There is) no question. We have no relations with BJP," he said when asked if he will support the BJP's Prime Ministerial candidate in the event of the saffron party forming the government after the Lok Sabha polls.

The TDP chief also made it clear that his party would not

have any truck with BJP before or after the general elections.

"No, no. Not even after polls," Naidu told PTI in an interview when asked whether there was any possibility of TDP having any alliance with BJP before and after the ensuing polls.

Naidu had said his party's tie-up with BJP and the Gujarat violence had a 'negative effect' on its minority vote bank in the 2004 Assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh.

"The Gujarat problem did have a negative impact on the minorities' support for TDP despite our government's numerous steps for their welfare," Naidu said.

## 14 militants killed in S Afghanistan

13 civilians killed in airstrike

AP, AFP, Kandahar/Kabul

A battle just outside southern Afghanistan's largest city has killed at least six Taliban fighters, while an airstrike against militants elsewhere in the south killed eight, officials said yesterday.

A battle in the Panjwayi district 25km west of Kandahar city began late Saturday after Taliban militants ambushed a police patrol, wounding two officers, said Abdullah Khan, the province's deputy police chief.

Nato and Afghan forces responded, unleashing bombs that could be heard by residents in Kandahar city. Khan said at least six militants have been killed in the fighting, which continued into Sunday.

In neighbouring Helmand province, an airstrike on a minivan killed eight militants late Saturday, said Daud Ahmadi, the governor's spokesman. Ahmadi said an informant told the government that insurgents were riding in the vehicle and

authorities told coalition military officials, which hit it with an airstrike.

Earlier the US-led coalition in Afghanistan confirmed Saturday that 13 civilians were killed in an operation against insurgents, with such casualties a major source of tension between Kabul and its allies.

The US military at first said that 15 militants were killed in air strikes in the western province of Herat late Monday but local officials said six women and two children were among the dead.

## Social safety net programmes

FROM PAGE 1

conference room.

"We have decided in principle to extend TR and food for work programmes to bring more poor people under the safety net during the lean period," food and disaster management minister Abdur Razzak told reporters after the

meeting, adding the food ministry would send a proposal to the finance ministry soon in this regard.

He said the government will bring all the ultra poor people under the social safety net gradually. The food minister said the current food stock is substantial following the procurement of 11.70 lakh tons of Boro rice and 1.51 lakh tons of aman rice.

The ministry had a stock of 1.87 lakh metric tons of rice for OMS operation that ended November 29 last year while it has five lakh tons of rice for current year.

When asked about the massive irregularities in implementing the programmes, the minister said "We have to run these programmes for at least development of the roads, playgrounds and schools in the rural areas."

Razzak said government would increase monitoring and evaluation activities to keep irregularities in the programmes at the marginal level adding local government bodies would implement the programmes.

"We have no immediate plan to introduce OSM as the price of rice in the market is coming down. But we will bring garment workers under the safety net providing them rice at lower cost," Razzak said adding that a mechanism will be finalised after discussions with the garment owners (employers).

He said the tea garden workers will also be provided rice and wheat at lower cost to ensure their food security. "Each person will get five kgs of rice a week when OMS will begin next month," he said, adding OMS will run during

March to April and October to November.

The minister said the government is also working out the modalities to reintroduce rationing in the country. "Its previous experience is not good. So, we are verifying every aspect to make it successful."

The meeting also decided not to procure wheat and aman rice from the farmers. "The government would neither fix any price for wheat nor make any internal procurement as price of wheat has sharply come down in the global markets," he said adding production of wheat is reducing day by day due to the global economic meltdown.

Razzak said wheat is usually imported from global markets. "Procurement in the local markets in the last three or four years was very low due

to price variation." He mentioned that the price per kg of wheat in global markets is around Tk 12 to Tk 15 while its production cost will be Tk 23 this year.

Pointing out the mismatch in the past in presenting data on food production and stock, he said the food and agriculture ministries and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) would now work together to provide reliable data on the food situation so that decisions can be taken in right time to face any crisis.

Committee members Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury and National Board of Revenue Chairman Muhammad Abdul Mazid and secretaries of the ministries concerned were present in the meeting.

**NATIONAL TUBES LIMITED**  
API LICENSEE AND ISO-9001:2000 CERTIFIED  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation)  
131-142 TONGI INDUSTRIAL AREA  
GAZIPUR-1710.

"আদমজী পাইপ" নামে খ্যাত এনটিএলের জিআই/এমএস/এপিআই পাইপ ব্যবহার করুন যা দীর্ঘস্থায়ী, পুনঃ ব্যবহারযোগ্য, নির্ভরযোগ্য ও নিরাপদ।

**INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE**

Sealed offers are invited by Managing Director, National Tubes Ltd. for supply of Hot Rolled Steel Strips from the genuine manufacturer / principal supplier through their authorised local Agent in Bangladesh for manufacturing of Gas & Oil Line Pipes, on C&F(C) Chittagong and C&F(C) Benapole basis.

Reference No.	Quantity and description of goods	Earnest Money	Price of Tender documents	Closing / opening date and time	Source of finance
COM/1V/STRIPS-3000/TENDER-06/09	3000 MT Hot Rolled Steel Strips (API Spec.) (Quantity may be increased or decreased)	US\$ 37,500.00 Or Tk. 26,00,000/-	Tk. 3000.00 (Taka three thousand) only (non-refundable)	Closing 16-03-2009 at 11:00 A.M. Opening on the same day at 11-15 A.M.	Cash / Any United Credit

In case of unavoidable circumstances the offer will be received on the next working day and opened on the same place and time. Tender documents may be obtained during working hours (excepting on opening date) on cash payment from the following offices & the offers will also be received and opened in the Purchase Dept. of the same offices:

- The Controller of Accounts, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation, "BSEC BHABAN", 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
- The Asstt. Chief Accounts Officer, National Tubes Ltd., Tongi, Gazipur.

(DR. MD. AMIRUL MOMIN)  
Addl. Chief Engineer (Commercial)  
Phone : 9802737

**Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)**  
Engineering Cell  
TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

**Invitation for Tenders**

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh

1	Ministry/Division	Commerce.
2	Agency	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).
3	Procuring entity name	Executive Engineer, TCB, Dhaka.
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka.
5	Invitation for	Snowcam and some miscellaneous works.
6	Invitation Ref. No.	Tender No. 04/2008-2009.

**KEY INFORMATION**

7	Procurement method	OTM (national).
---	--------------------	-----------------

**FUNDING INFORMATION**

8	Budget and source of funds	TCB's own source.
---	----------------------------	-------------------

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

9	Tender last selling date	08-03-2009
	Date	Time
10	Tender closing date and time	09-03-2009 12:00 noon
11	Tender opening date and time	09-03-2009 12:15pm
12	Name & address of the office(s)	Address
	- Selling tender document (principal)	Sonali Bank, Kawran Bazar Branch, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka.
	- Receiving tender document	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), Engineering Cell, TCB Bhaban, 1 No. Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
	- Opening tender document	Office of the Secretary, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), TCB Bhaban, 1 No. Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

13	Eligibility of tenderer	Class-I (civil contractors) Having experience in successful completion of at least 1 (one) number of civil works of Tk 10 (ten) lac in a single tender in government/semi government/autonomous organisation during last 3 (three) years.
14	Brief description of goods or works	Snowcam, sanitary and collapsible gate.
15	Brief description of related services	Outside snowcam, repair of sanitary works and collapsible gate.
16	Price of tender document (Tk)	Tk 500.00 per set.
	Lot No.	Identification of lot
17	1	04/2008-2009
	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)
	TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar	Tk 16,500.00
	Completion time in weeks/months	45 days

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

18	Name of official inviting tender	Md Manzil Morshed.
19	Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB).
20	Address of official inviting tender	Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), 1 No. Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
21	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 9113754 Fax No. 880-2-9113582 e-mail: tcb@bdonline.com
22	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

**Executive Engineer**  
Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)  
1 No. Kawran Bazar, Dhaka

GD-976

## Ministry

FROM PAGE 16

making as advisers to the parishads, whose advices the parishads are bound to implement.

The immediate past caretaker government dropped the MPs' upazila parishad controlling privileges from the 2008 ordinance.

Dhaka University Prof Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday that the Upazila Parishad Ordinance 2008 could make the upazila parishad system strong, as it is more advanced and democratic than the 1998 act.

"The upazila parishad system will be weakened, hampering its ability to function properly, if the ordinance is not ratified," he said, adding that political control over the parishads will increase, if lawmakers are made their advisers.

Gazi Abdul Hadi, newly elected chairman of Dumuria upazila of Khulna, told The Daily Star last night, "The parishads will become useless, if MPs are made their advisers, as they will make the parishads the rubber stamp for their whims."

"I think a balance between the 1998 act and the 2008 ordinance is needed for an effective upazila parishad system," he added.

Echoing him, chairman of Godagari upazila of Rajshahi, Ataur Rahman, said the role of elected representatives was undermined in the 1998 act.

Experts said the 2008 ordinance has a number of good provisions, which are necessary for making the local government system effective, democratic, and pro-people.

About the annual budget of the parishads, the 2008 ordinance says draft copies of the parishads' annual budgets must be posted on notice boards at least for fifteen days before finalisation, so the people may give their suggestions and views.

According to the ordinance, the central government must consult the Local Government Commission before disbanding any elected upazila parishad.

The ordinance also makes it mandatory for upazila parishads to publish citizens' charters declaring the public services they provide.

**Arannayk Foundation**

**Solicitation for Expression of Interest to Serve on the Board of Directors**

**I. Background:**  
The Governments of Bangladesh and the United States jointly established the Arannayk Foundation (Bangladesh Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation) in 2003 as the Tropical Forest Conservation Fund (TFCF) under the bilateral agreements that the two governments signed within the framework of the US Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA). The Arannayk Foundation serves as the Secretariat of the TFCF and implements environmental programs in Bangladesh through local organizations. Arannayk's main objective is to help protect forests and associated biodiversity assets in Bangladesh. The fund supports forest conservation activities implemented by relevant organizations such as NGOs, academic and research organizations.

The TFCF is governed by a seven member Board of Directors; one each from the US and Bangladesh Governments, and the remaining five representatives from a broad range of civil society, scientific/research and academic, and community organizations involved in forestry and environmental protection and development.

**II. Objective:**  
The Government of Bangladesh is soliciting expressions of interest from individuals from organizations highlighted above to serve as members of the Board of Directors of the Arannayk Foundation for three years commencing from July 2009. The positions are purely honorary in nature.

**III. Board Member Responsibilities:**  
The Board of Directors pursues the objectives of the Foundation as set forth in the Memorandum of Association and manages and oversees the affairs, in accordance with the Articles, including the responsibility to make grants or provide other financial assistance to stakeholders. The Board of Directors exercises full management and financial control of the Foundation.

**IV. Qualification:**  
Board members should have a demonstrated commitment to forest biodiversity conservation, with interests, knowledge, and experience related to conservation of biodiversity and tropical forests, and a capacity for leadership in this field. They should be recognized by peers and colleagues within their respective communities as "bridge-builders" of national standing. Individuals must have at least a bachelor degree and be fluent in Bangla and English. Individuals should have at least 15 years of relevant professional experience and leadership capability with commitment to forest biodiversity conservation. Individuals are expected to have proven skills in strategic planning, financial management, business plan development, grant proposal review and fund raising. Individuals must have a reputation for public spiritedness, honesty in financial and personal spheres, strategic mindset, fairness in decision-making based on facts, non-partisan in matters related to conservation priorities, and commitment to problem-solving. The organization with which s/he is associated must be a recognized organization either registered with NGO Bureau or any other accredited associations.

Desired additional individual qualifications include:

- Demonstrated abilities in senior management areas such as adaptive management, objectives achievement, staff evaluation and motivation, grant proposal review, and grant evaluation.
- Demonstrated organizational development skills such as fund raising, priority setting, managing organizational growth, advanced information management, and donor proposal development and review.
- Proven skills in public presentation, meeting management, coordination and liaison skills, and conflict management.
- Computer literacy (ability to use a computer for preparing documents, receiving and sending email, etc.)

**V. Evaluation Criteria:**  
Eligibility of the Interested Individuals will be rated by using the following evaluation criteria:

Criteria	Points
Academic Relevance (Education, Language, Computer Literacy and Other Skills as illustrated in Section IV)	20
Experience	
Organizational Management	20
Prior Board Membership	20
Leadership	
Contribution to the National Development Process	10
Contribution to Environmental Protection and Conservation	10
Breadth of Experience (fund-raising, business plan development, and fiscal processes)	20

**VI. Selection Process:**  
A committee consisting of representatives from both the US and Bangladesh governments and the current Board of Directors, who represent leading environment and development NGOs in Bangladesh, will review the applications to select new Board members.

Interested individuals and organizations that meet the above criteria are requested to submit their expression of interest within **15 March 2009** to the Post Box No. A-24, C/O. Daily Star, 19, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka 1215.