



In this CCTV image taken off private Dunya Television yesterday shows in circle gunmen carrying their weapons as they leave on foot after the deadly ambush on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore. Pakistan faced fresh criticism over security lapses as police hunted for the gunmen behind the ambush.

PHOTO: AFP

## Lahore attack aimed at releasing LeT leader

Says Pak investigation agency

ANI, PTI, Lahore/ Islamabad

Pakistan investigative agencies are of the view that militants are using Tuesday's attack on the Sri Lankan cricketers in Lahore to facilitate the release of Lashkar-e-Toiba commander Zakir-ur-Rehman Lakhvi.

Lakhvi is currently detained at the Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi and is facing trial for his alleged role in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks.

According to sources, investigation agencies are saying that the attack was

planned and carried out by a Lashkar operative.

Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani's Adviser on Interior Affairs, Rehman Malik, had also said that the Lahore attackers wanted to hijack the bus carrying the visiting team.

On the day the attack on the Lankan team was carried out, Lakhvi and four other 26/11 suspects were to appear in front of an Anti-Terrorism Court in Rawalpindi.

The court extended the physical

remand of all five for another 14 days.

It has also been revealed that the security cover provided to the Lankan team was inadequate. Officials said that it was sheer luck the players were saved.

The LeT, however, has denied playing role in the Lahore attack.

"These allegations are a malicious attempt not only to malign the Lashkar, but also the ongoing freedom movement in Jammu and Kashmir," The News quoted a former LeT office-bearer, as saying.

Lanka not ruling out Tamil role in Lahore attacks: FM

AFP, Islamabad

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Rohitha Bogollagama said Wednesday he could not rule out the possibility that Tamil Tigers were involved in the attack on his country's cricket team in Lahore.

Seven Sri Lankan players, along with an assistant coach, were injured while eight Pakistanis, including six policemen, were killed in the attack launched as the team bus was heading to the stadium on Tuesday.

## Sharif warns Zardari of indefinite agitation

THE DAWN, Islamabad

Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) chief Nawaz Sharif has warned President Asif Ali Zardari that agitation will continue if he fails to restore the judiciary to its pre-Nov 3, 2007 position.

Speaking at the lawyers' 'National Conference' on Wednesday, Sharif said the country was still in the grip of a few generals and judges despite the February 18 polls

and return to democracy.

He appealed to people to participate in the lawyers' long march and sit-in.

Earlier, a large number of speakers, belonging to various political parties, retired generals, and members of civil society including Jamaat Islami chief Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Pakistan Tehrik Insaf chairman Imran Khan and others expressed their solidarity with the lawyers' movement and the upcoming long march.

The conference adopted a resolution that called for a peaceful and sustained long march followed by a sit-in until the fulfillment of its objectives.

The resolution said: "This conference is of the view that the actions of November 3, 2007, by former Gen retd Musharraf were unconstitutional which need to be repealed and the judiciary that existed on November 2 ought to be restored".

## Deal to cancel Gandhi glasses auction fails

AFP, New York

India rejected yesterday the last-minute offer by a US collector to cancel the controversial auction of Gandhi's iconic round glasses.

James Otis told AFP he would donate the glasses, sandals and other Gandhi belongings in exchange for India boosting health spending for the poor and using the memorabilia in an international exhibition.

## Red Cross worker killed in Sri Lanka war zone

AFP, Colombo

A local Red Cross employee has been killed in Sri Lanka's war zone, where government troops have cornered Tamil Tiger rebels after decades of ethnic conflict, an official said on Thursday.

The aid worker was helping to evacuate wounded civilians from the conflict zone when he was hit by shrapnel, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said, vowing to press on with its work in the area.

"One of our male workers was killed on Wednesday afternoon by shrapnel," said ICRC spokeswoman Sarasi Wijeratne, who identified the victim as Vaidel Vijayakumar, an ethnic Tamil.

"Despite this unfortunate incident, the ICRC will remain in the conflict area and continue with our humanitarian work."

Wijeratne said it was not clear who was responsible for the attack, which occurred after Vijayakumar helped injured civilians board an ICRC ferry taking them to safety.

WANTED



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PHOTO: AFP

Handout photo shows yesterday sketches of four men suspected of participating in the deadly ambush of the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore.

## Footage raises new questions about Pakistan attack

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan faced new questions about its security forces yesterday as dramatic footage emerged of the cricket attackers making a leisurely getaway from the scene of their deadly assault.

The images of the gunmen calmly walking off, without police or security forces chasing them, will add to the speculation swirling around the brazen daytime attack on Sri Lanka's cricket team Tuesday that left eight people dead.

Pakistan is steeped in political violence, and suspicion has fallen on Islamic militants linked to al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Police have brought in around two dozen people for questioning but say none are linked to the attack.

Up to 12 men attacked the convoy of umpires, coaches and players with automatic weapons, grenades and a rocket launcher as it made its way to the cricket ground in the city of Lahore. The attackers fled without a trace.

The new footage, captured by closed-circuit cameras, showed two suspects wearing rucksacks and ambling down the road, apparently untroubled after the carnage took place. They then jump on motorbikes and speed off.

"We are doing our best to unravel the conspiracy," Lahore police chief Habib-ur-Rehman told AFP. "Raids are being mounted, leads are being followed," he said. "We believe we are on the right track in the investigation."

Police released sketches of four suspects but have not made any breakthroughs in the case. No one has claimed responsibility for the assault, which killed six police and two civilians, and wounded 19 people.

More than 1,600 people have been killed in attacks in Pakistan over the past 22 months, and al-Qaeda and Taliban militants have forged a de facto safe haven in the country's rugged and lawless northwest along the border with Afghanistan.

## Pakistan a bigger threat to US and world than Afghanistan

Says US diplomat

ANI, Kabul

Nuclear powered Pakistan poses a greater threat to the world and a bigger challenge to the United States than Afghanistan, a top US diplomat has said.

Deputy Chief of Mission in Kabul, Christopher Dell, has warned that Pakistan is a bigger threat to world peace because of the fact that it is a nuclear armed country, and the current political instability has made matters worse.

"It is certainly one of those nuclear armed countries the instability of which is a bigger problem for the globe," The Guardian quoted Dell, as saying.

"Pakistan is a bigger place, has a larger population, it's nuclear-armed. It has certainly made radical Islam a part of its political life, and it now seems to be a deeply ingrained element of its political culture. It makes things there very hard," Dell added.

Dell expressed fears that the in the coming days the

region may witness more attacks on the allied forces after the Pakistani Taliban groups formed a common front to attack Nato in Afghanistan.

He said that the 'War on Terror' will be on a decisive mode this year after the Obama administration's decision to send in 17,000 more troops in Afghanistan.

Commenting on the Swat peace deal, Dell said the accord may not yield desired results, as previous such pacts have fallen apart.

## AGP-BJP polls tie-up hits roadblock

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Guwahati

The pre-poll tie-up between the opposition Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in Assam for next month's parliamentary polls has hit a major roadblock with the two parties failing to strike a formal deal.

A scheduled joint press conference on Wednesday by the AGP and the BJP in New Delhi, where an announcement of the seat sharing deal between the two parties was to be made, was postponed indefinitely at the last minute.

The official reason cited for the postponement of the announcement was due to the death of the brother of a BJP leader from Assam.

"There are no differences and the seat sharing deal is on," AGP president Chandra Mohan Patowary told IANS on phone from New Delhi.

But there seems more to it with party sources hinting about serious differences between the two parties over the prestigious Guwahati parliamentary seat.

"In principle we have decided to leave the Guwahati seat to the BJP, but we want a candidate to be put up by the party other than their national vice president Bijoya Chakraborty," a senior AGP leader said, requesting not to be named.

"The BJP is sticking to its demand to field Bijoya as their Guwahati candidate, while we want someone else to contest from the seat," he added.

The AGP is averse to the candidature of Chakraborty as she had on earlier occasions "belittled" some legislators of the regional party, whose assembly constituencies fall within the Guwahati Lok Sabha seat.



PHOTO: AFP

Indian bus passengers wait in front of a bus shelter adorned with a Congress Party election billboard of party president Sonia Gandhi (L), Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (R) and party general secretary Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi yesterday.

## More valuables

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houses in Patnitala upazila of Naogaon district early yesterday.

The arrestees are Zohra Khatun, mother of BDR soldier Zahangir Hossain and his maternal uncle Abdus Salam.

The recovered booties include 14.5 tolas of gold ornament, Tk 1.50 lakh in cash, two cameras, one DVD player, five wrist-watches and three cell phones sets.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab men held Abdus Salam from his house at Patnitala village at about 3:00 am and recovered some valuables, looted during the BDR carnage in Pilkhana of Dhaka.

Following his confessional statement, they recovered the rest of the booties from Zohra's house at Amair Khamarpara village.

Zahangir was among the rebels at BDR headquarters and fled away from it with the looted valuables, said Maj Shah Ali, commander of Rab camp at Joypurhat.

Zahangir called his uncle Salam at his rented house in Dhaka and handed him over the goods requesting him to take those to their home. Later, he joined the headquarters as per the government order, according to the source.

On Wednesday, Rab also held father of a BDR jawan at Chalitabari in Bogra and recovered valuables worth about Tk 12 lakh looted during BDR mutiny.

## Admission Summer 2009

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- Must pass EWU admission test. Students having a score of 550 in TOEFL and 500 in GRE are admitted directly without an admission test.

For information about admission eligibility & requirements visit us at [www.ewubd.edu](http://www.ewubd.edu)

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## South Asian Water (SAWA) Fellowship

for Diploma and M.Sc. Studies in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies (BCAS) announce recruitment of 4th batch of SAWA fellows in the Post-graduate Diploma (PG.Dip.) in Water Resources Development (WRD) and M.Sc. (WRD) programs at IWFM, BUET. These degree programs are focused on IWRM.

The fellowship program is organized by the Crossing Boundaries (CB) Project (Regional Capacity Building on IWRM and Gender & Water in South Asia) with financial support from the Netherlands Government. The CB project is administered by

- SaciWATERS (South Asian Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies), Hyderabad, India and
- Irrigation and Water Engineering group at Wageningen University, the Netherlands.

Other partner institutes from South Asian region are Anna University and Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) from India, University of Peradeniya from Sri Lanka and Nepal Engineering College from Nepal.

### SAWA Fellowship

Five fellowships will be provided for pursuing PG.Dip. (WRD) (Tk.10,000/- per month for full time students).

Seven fellowships will be provided for pursuing M.Sc. (WRD) (Tk. 10,000/- per month for full time students and Tk. 7,500/- for part time students).

Fellows will have opportunities to attend regional workshops and form network with fellows in other partner institutes of South Asia.

### Preference will be given to women candidates

### Admission Requirement

For admission in PG Dip. (WRD) an applicant must have either a four year Bachelor's degree in Engineering/ Agriculture/ Physical science/ Biological science/ Environmental science/ Urban & Regional Planning/ Economics/ Agricultural Economics or an equivalent degree from any recognized institution. A candidate not having a four year Bachelor's degree must have a Master's degree with honors.

For admission in M.Sc. (WRD), an applicant must have either PG. Dip. (WRD) or its equivalent or Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering/ Water Resources Engineering/ Agricultural Engineering/ Environmental Science or its equivalent.

In addition, all other rules and regulations of BUET regarding admission will be applicable.

### Deadlines for Application

Last date of application for admission and fellowship is **March 31, 2009**. Application materials can be collected from BUET Registrar's office. Classes commence on May 02, 2009.

### Selection Procedure

Candidates for fellowship will be selected on the basis of two stage written examination/interviews, one for admission and one for fellowship. The schedule of examination/interviews will be announced on April 13, 2009 and can be seen at the IWFM notice board, BCAS (House 10, Road 16A, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212) and IWFM website.

### Contact

For further details, please visit [www.buet.ac.bd/iwfm](http://www.buet.ac.bd/iwfm) or contact IWFM office at 9665650-80, Ext. 7506 or mail to [msalamkhan@iwfm.buet.ac.bd](mailto:msalamkhan@iwfm.buet.ac.bd). Important dates and notifications will be regularly updated on the website.