



Pakistani policemen strike political activists with batons during an anti-government rally in Hyderabad on Thursday. Pakistan blocked activists from leaving the country's biggest city of Karachi and manhandled protesters into prison vans raising tensions at the start of an anti-government long march.

Pakistan's faceoff echoes crackdown by Musharraf

AP, Islamabad

With each image of police dragging demonstrators into vans, and each announcement of protest rallies banned, more and more Pakistanis are saying the same thing: "We've seen this before."

The fledgling civilian government's crackdown on opposition parties and activist lawyers behind calls for a mass protest march on the capital is hitting many of the same people targeted in a clampdown by former President Pervez Musharraf a move that

contributed to the military ruler's eventual downfall.

Many activists are now comparing President Asif Ali Zardari to the retired army chief a potentially worrying sign for Washington as it seeks a stable, friendly Pakistani leadership to tackle al-Qaeda and Taliban militants near the Afghan border.

"The only difference is that Musharraf was a military dictator while Zardari is a civilian dictator," said lawyer Rana Asad, who was jailed for 30 days in Musharraf's 2007 crackdown and plans to participate in the current round of protests.

Musharraf's firing of the Supreme Court chief justice in 2007 sparked a protest campaign by lawyers demanding an independent judiciary. As the movement grew, the leader imposed emergency rule rounding up opposition activists, firing dozens of judges and blacking out the independent media.

Musharraf, who had seized power in a 1999 military coup, said he was reacting to security threats the same reason cited now by the year-old civilian government.

Gilani orders foolproof security for Sharif

THE DAILY TIMES, Islamabad/Lahore

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani directed the Interior Ministry and Punjab Governor Salman Taseer on Thursday to provide foolproof security to Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif and ensure his safety.

The direction came after a meeting between PML-N Chairman Raja Zafarul Haq and Prime Minister Gilani to discuss threats to Nawaz's life. Raja handed over an anonymous threatening letter to the prime minister. The two leaders also discussed the political situation

in the country. Meanwhile, Interior Adviser Rehman Malik told the Senate on Thursday that intelligence agencies have warned that the Sharif brothers' lives were in danger and that a Mumbai-like incident could be replicated in Karachi.

Responding to PML-N parliamentary leader Ishaq Dar, he said that the government had urged the provincial governments, through a letter, to ensure foolproof security arrangements for the PML-N leadership. He said a copy of the letter had been forwarded to the Sharif brothers and to the Inter-Services Intelligence and Military Intelligence.

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's main opposition leader Nawaz Sharif opened the door yesterday to reconciliation with President Asif Ali Zardari amid a flurry of efforts to defuse a widening political crisis.

Sharif, locked in a standoff with Zardari since the Supreme Court last month disqualified him from contesting elections, made the comments in a television interview with Pakistan's flagship private channel Geo.

"I have no personal enmity with Zardari. If he shuns vested interest and sincerely fulfils his promises to reinstate judges and restore an independent judiciary, I am ready to cooperate with him," Sharif said.

Sharif has joined forces with lawyers to demand Zardari, who was elected last

September, act on promises to reinstate judges sacked by former military ruler Pervez Musharraf under emergency rule in November 2007.

The government is trying to head off a mass public rally, set to descend on Islamabad by Monday, by banning protests and arresting hundreds of activists in a crackdown that has sparked concern in the West.

Senior British and US diplomats have personally intervened to urge leaders in Pakistan to avoid violence amid growing political agitation.

Sharif confirmed that US regional troubleshooter Richard Holbrooke telephoned him late Thursday after speaking to Zardari.

"There is no need for back channel diplomacy or private and secret dialogue. I have not slammed my doors on dia-

logue," Sharif told Geo.

A flurry of top-level meetings were underway Friday in Islamabad, where Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and army chief of staff Ashfaq Kayani held separate talks with Zardari.

Kayani and the president discussed "regional security" and "professional matters," said a statement from the government.

The prime minister, who has distanced himself from Zardari over the Supreme Court ruling against Sharif, discussed the "current political situation" with the president, it added.

Sharif said that if Zardari showed sincerity he was "ready to give him another five years," after the president's current tenure expired in 2013.

"Of course there is a massive trust deficit, he has to

remove it," Sharif told the television station.

Musharraf removed independent-minded chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry and some 60 other judges in 2007, fearing that he would be declared ineligible to contest a presidential election while in military uniform.

The move triggered a countrywide protest, spearheaded by lawyers, which ultimately forced Musharraf to quit in August 2008. Zardari was elected president with Sharif's support a month later, and seven months after parliamentary elections returned a civilian government to power.

Zardari agreed with Sharif that Chaudhry and all other judges sacked by Musharraf would be restored 30 days after his election, but reneged on three written pledges to do so.



Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari (L) speaks with Army Chief General Ashfaq Kayani during a meeting in Islamabad yesterday to discuss the current political situation in the country.

বাংলাদেশ সেনাবাহিনী
পৰ্বদ সভাপতির কার্যালয়
প্রযুক্তিঃ ৫ আর ই ব্যাটালিয়ন
জেএমবি, শহীদ সালাহউদ্দিন সেনানিবাস

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ১/২০০৮-২০০৯

১। এতদ্বারা প্রকৃত টিকাদার/সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হতে ৫ আর ই ব্যাটালিয়ন, জেএমবি, শহীদ সালাহউদ্দিন সেনানিবাস এলাকায় ২০০ মিটার ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জকে ৩০০ মিটারে উন্নীতকরণের নিমিত্তে নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজসমূহের জন্য দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক। ১৮ফেব্রুয়ারি ওয়াশিংটন।

খ। ২০০ মিটার ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জ ৩০০ মিটারে উন্নীতকরণের নিমিত্তে মাটি ভরাট, গ্রাউন্ড লেভেলিং এবং ফায়ারিং পয়েন্ট নির্মাণ।

২। দরপত্রের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় সিডিউল আগামী ১৮ ও ১৯ মার্চ ২০০৯ তারিখে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (০৮০০-১৪০০ ঘটিকা) নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিস হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। আগামী ২৯ মার্চ ২০০৯ তারিখে উপরোক্ত অফিসে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বস্তু বেলা ১২০০ ঘটিকায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে দরপত্র খোলা হবে। যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

সভাপতি
প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়ন পর্বদ
প্রযুক্তিঃ ৫ আর ই ব্যাটালিয়ন
ক্ষুদ্রাঙ্গ ফায়ারিং রেঞ্জ

আইএসপিআর/সেনা/০৯/২১২১ জেএমবি, শহীদ সালাহউদ্দিন সেনানিবাস
জিডি-১৩১০ ফোনঃ ০৯২৩৪-৭৬০৪৩ বর্ধিত ২৬১৪



Prince William tells of 'emptiness' since Diana's death

AFP, London

Britain's Prince William spoke Thursday of his sense of "emptiness" on Mother's Day since the death of his mother, princess Diana.

William, 26, said the loss of a loved one was "one of the hardest experiences that anyone can ever endure" and told of his sadness at never again being able to say the word "mummy".

Diana died in a 1997 car crash in Paris alongside boyfriend Dodi Fayed. An inquest last year returned a verdict of unlawful killing, blaming the chauffeur's driving and pursuing paparazzi photographers.

CPI-M, Trinamool both hope to ride on Nano factor

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Singur, West Bengal

For Tata Motors' Nano, Singur may be history. But for rival parties in this rural hamlet where the abandoned factory of the world's smallest car still stands like a haunted mansion, it is the most potent weapon to sway voters in the Lok Sabha polls.

The ruling Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) is hoping to cash in on what it calls resentment among people at the Tatas being forced to wind up the project here in Hooghly district due to sustained protests by farmers allied to the Trinamool Congress.

"Common people here are

dissatisfied because they had perceived a future for their children in this project. But since it is not happening, they feel dumped. The opposition is responsible for this," Balai Sabui, a prominent CPI-M leader of the area, told IANS.

The Trinamool of course differs.

"I think we will win with a considerable margin from here. The Nano factor will play a positive role for us. People will choose us because they are fed up of the oppression by ruling parties," said Becharam Manna, the Singur Panchayat Samiti vice president and Trinamool leader who led farmer protests against acquisition of farmland for the project.

US missile strike kills 24 in Pakistan

Pak forces kill 18 militants

AFP, ANI, Peshawar

A suspected US missile strike destroyed a Taliban training camp in northwest Pakistan, killing 24 militants and al-Qaeda operatives, as well as wounding another 50, security officials said Friday.

Two missiles fired by an unmanned drone destroyed a Taliban training camp in Kurram, officials said, one of seven semi-autonomous regions near Pakistan's porous border with Afghanistan, where US troops are battling Taliban fighters.

"We have handed over 24 bodies after cleaning and wrapping them in cloth,"

Saidur Rehman, an official of the local charity Al-Khidmat Foundation, told AFP.

Local administration officials also confirmed that 24 bodies were recovered from the rubble having earlier said that 18 dead had been found.

A senior security official told AFP on condition of anonymity that 50 others, mostly militants, were injured and the dead included "foreigners" -- a reference to al-Qaeda militants.

No high-value targets were believed to have died, the official added.

Another security official said most of the dead were Afghan Taliban.

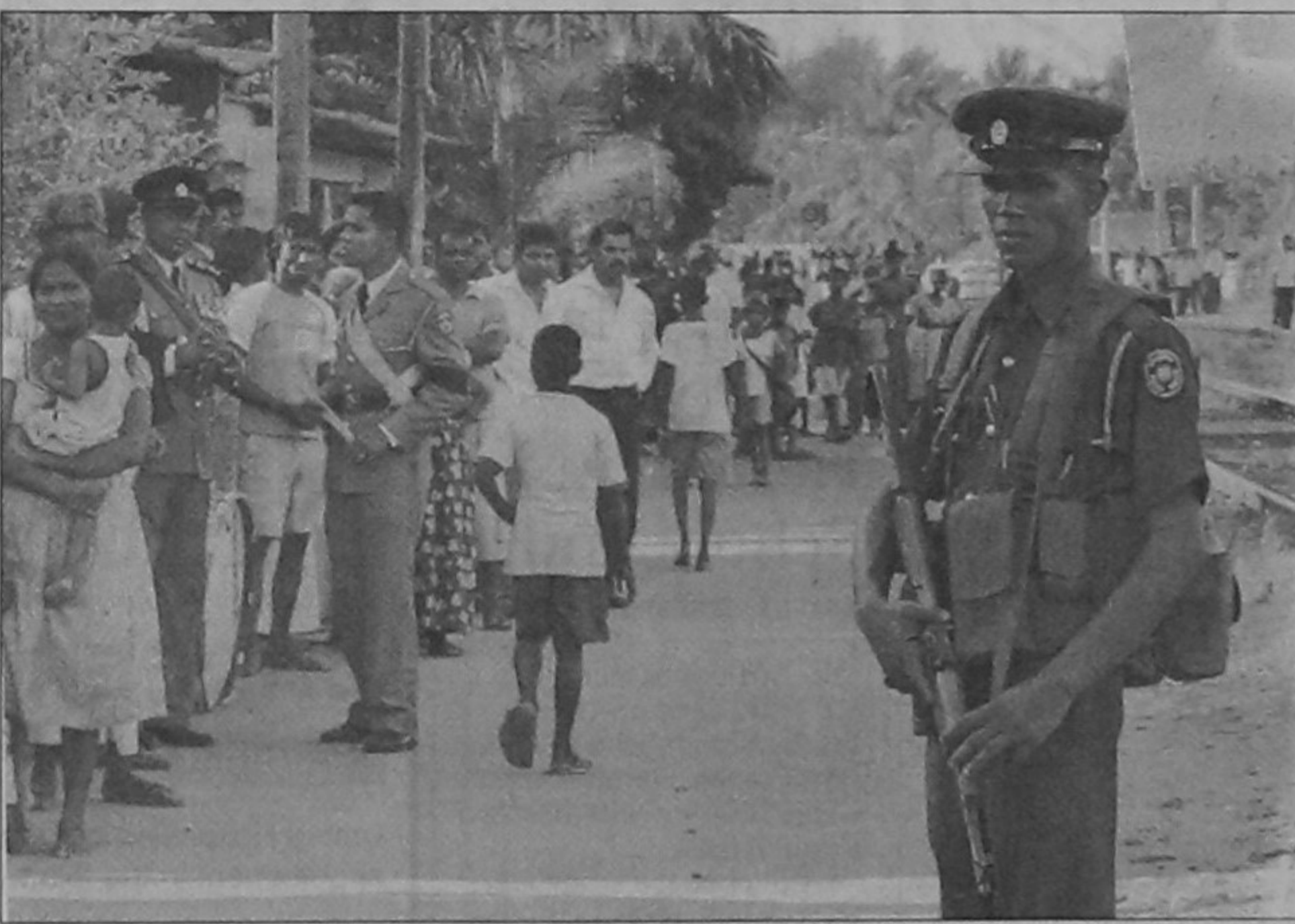
Taliban militants sealed off

the area after the strike late Thursday.

More than 30 such strikes have killed over 330 people since August 2008, shortly before key Washington ally President Asif Ali Zardari was elected.

Meanwhile, Pakistani security forces on Thursday have killed 18 militants in Mohmand Agency bordering Afghanistan, Frontier Corps sources said.

Shelling was carried out in Gorgaray, Shapri and Malaghani Baba areas by Pakistani army helicopter gunships on suspected militant hideouts in the Mohmand region.



Sri Lankan policemen stand guard during the funeral of Inspector Gilshan Fernando, (40), in the Colombo suburb of Moratuwa on Thursday. Fernando, a body guard of Postal Services minister Mahinda Wijesekera, was killed in a Tamil Tiger suicide bomb attack in the south of the island on March 10.

N Korea again closes border to S Korea

AFP, Seoul

North Korea yesterday again closed its border to South Koreans working at a joint industrial estate, just three days after reopening the frontier, officials said.

The South's unification ministry said the move stranded about 250 people including three foreigners who intended to return Friday from Kaesong, the Seoul-funded estate built just north of the border.

"Our government expresses deep regret over a recurring situation and urges

North Korea to immediately normalise (cross-border) passage," ministry spokesman Kim Ho-Nyoun said.

On Monday the communist country switched off military phone and fax lines, which are used to approve border crossings. It was protesting at an ongoing US-South Korean military exercise, which it sees as a rehearsal for invasion.

The North reopened the frontier without explanation a day later but kept the lines switched off, requiring the exchange of hand-delivered letters to approve crossings.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Police Headquarters
Dhaka

Corrigendum of International Tender Notice

Invitation for International tender notice published in different national dailies as per memo No. E&T/17(2008-2009) dated 01/01/2009 is hereby amended as follows:

SI No	Identification of lot	Item and No	Present demission
1.	Lot No-1	Supply, installation, commissioning & maintenance of IP PBX for DMP on turn key basis and training.	This tender has been postponed

Md Sibgat Ullah, ppm
AIG (E&T), Bangladesh Police
Police Headquarters, Dhaka
Phone: 9564779
E-mail: aige_t@police.gov.bd

GD-1292

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
সিকিউরিটিজ ও এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন
জীবন বীমা টাওয়ার (১৬, ১৭ ও ২১ তলা)
১০, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০, বাংলাদেশ

সূত্র নং-এসইসি/প্রশাসন/৩০১৫/৯৭-৮৪৫ তারিখঃ ০৫/০৩/২০০৯ইং

ব্যবহারের অনুপযোগী (বর্জিত) মালামাল
বিক্রয়ের জন্য দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সিকিউরিটিজ ও এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশনের জীবন বীমা টাওয়ারের ১৫, ১৬ ও ২০তম তলায় রক্ষিত কিছু পুরাতন মালামাল (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে) বিক্রয় করা হবে। মালামালের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে। প্রতিটি সিডিউল নগদ ১০০/- (একশত) টাকা মূল্যে কমিশনের প্রশাসন শাখা থেকে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। এ ধরনের মালামাল ক্রয় করতে আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠান/ব্যক্তির নিকট হতে তাদের নিজস্ব লেটারহেডে প্যাডে/পাদা কাগজে সীলমোহরযুক্ত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

বিক্রিতব্য মালামাল অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে প্রশাসন শাখার সাথে যোগাযোগ সাপেক্ষে পরিদর্শন করা যেতে পারে। দরপত্র আগামী ৩০/০৩/২০০৯ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২৩০০ টার মধ্যে কমিশনের ১৫তম তলায় রক্ষিত দরপত্র বস্তু জমা দিতে হবে এবং প্রাপ্ত দরপত্রগুলো ঐ দিনই বেলা ৩:০০ টায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেউ থাকেন) খোলা হবে। সর্বোচ্চ দরদাতাকে কমিশন সিদ্ধান্তের ৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে মালামাল বুঝে নিতে হবে।

সদস্যব মালামালের তালিকাঃ

ক্র. নং	মালামালের বিবরণ	পরিমাণ (কম/বেশী হতে পারে)	একক মূল্য	দরপত্র সিকিউরিটি
০১.	গাড়ির পুরাতন যন্ত্রাংশ	১০০ কেজি		সর্বমোট ১০,০০০/- টাকা
০২.	গাড়ির টায়ার	৩০টি		
০৩.	সেলোয় (২০৩০) ফটোকপি মেশিন	১টি		
০৪.	টেলিফোন সেট	২০টি		
০৫.	শ্রীভিৎ ভের জোয়ার	৫টি		
০৬.	টিউব লাইট	১০০০ পিস		
০৭.	পুরাতন টেলিফোন ফ্যান	৪টি		
০৮.	পুরাতন খবরের কাগজ	২০০ কেজি		
০৯.	কাগজ (NRB application Form and Valid-invalid list)	৫০০ কেজি		
১০.	কম্পিউটার এক্সপেরিয়েন্স	১৭টি আইটেম		
১১.	কমিশনের ব্যবহৃত বর্তমান পিএবিএক্স সিস্টেম	১টি		

কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের সর্বময় ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

মোহাম্মদ আবুল হাসান
উপ-পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)

জিডি-১৩১৯