



Pakistani anti-government lawyers hold posters of Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari in army uniform during a protest in Lahore yesterday. Zardari, whose popularity ratings are at rock bottom, is locked in a standoff with the main opposition leader Nawaz Sharif over demands that he reinstate judges sacked by former military ruler Pervez Musharraf.

Kiyani not plotting a military takeover

Says US military commander

AFP, INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Washington/Brussels

The top US military commander has expressed confidence that his Pakistani counterpart, General Ashfaq Kiyani, is committed to civilian rule and is not plotting a military takeover.

"He is committed to a civilian government, he is committed to the democracy that's there," Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Admiral Mike Mullen told PBS television Friday.

"And in my view, the last thing in the

world he wants to do is take over as President Musharraf did."

The US and European Union are "extremely concerned" by the political crisis in Pakistan but doesn't believe there is a 'high probability right now' of the military intervening.

The situation 'continues to deteriorate very, very slowly under a political leadership which is very challenged because of the totality of the crisis,' Admiral Michael Mullen, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Mullen, said in an interview with PBS, the public broadcaster.

But the Pakistan army chief, General Ashfaq Kayani, is 'committed to a civilian government' and doesn't want to take over as his predecessor Pervez Musharraf did in 1999, he said.

"Pakistan is a country with nuclear weapons," Mullen said. "It's 165 million people and should we move to a point where somehow there is a theocratic government there with nuclear weapons... that's something that keeps me up."

The US is obviously watching the unfolding crisis 'very carefully,' he said.

Gaza offensive is a 'holocaust': Laden

AP, Cairo

al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden has called Israel's offensive on Gaza a "holocaust" and blamed Arab leaders for not doing enough to stop the fighting in his latest audio recording aired on Al-Jazeera.

Bin Laden accused some Arab countries of "collaborating" with Israel on the offensive earlier this year that killed about 1,300 Palestinians in Gaza. He did not name any specific Arab countries in the brief audio recording played on Al-Jazeera Saturday.

The Arabic satellite network did not say how it obtained the recording, and the authenticity of the tape could not be verified.

No split between Zardari and Gilani, says Malik

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Islamabad

Cautioning that Pakistan's unity was at stake, Interior Minister Rehman Malik Saturday sought to dispel reports of differences between President Asif Ali Zardari and Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani, even as he urged the agitating lawyers to come to the negotiating table rather than marching on Islamabad to enforce their demands.

"There are no differences between the president and the prime minister," he said at a press conference here, adding: "This is disinformation being spread by our enemies."

"Let us not head toward another East Pakistan," he said, while appealing to the protesting lawyers to abandon their 'long march' and sit for talks with the government.

The reference was to the agitation in the erstwhile East Pakistan after the 1971 elections

that eventually led to the creation of an independent Bangladesh. The agitation began after then military dictator Gen. Yahya Khan refused to accept the electoral verdict that saw the Awami League of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman emerge as the largest party in the National Assembly, the lower house of parliament.

"I appeal to you to come for talks. Please postpone your agitation. Your march is against the unity of the nation," Rehman maintained.

"If at all there has to be a march, let us march to Swat, to FATA. Let us march for the country," he stated.

"I again appeal to you. Please consider the interests of the country. Don't march to Islamabad. Let's talk and resolve our issues," the interior minister said, adding: "The long march cannot be against the interest of Pakistan."

US looking to retool Pakistan relationship

AFP, Washington

Former president George W. Bush recast the US relationship with India, forging closer ties. Could President Barack Obama do the same for US policy towards its nuclear-armed rival Pakistan?

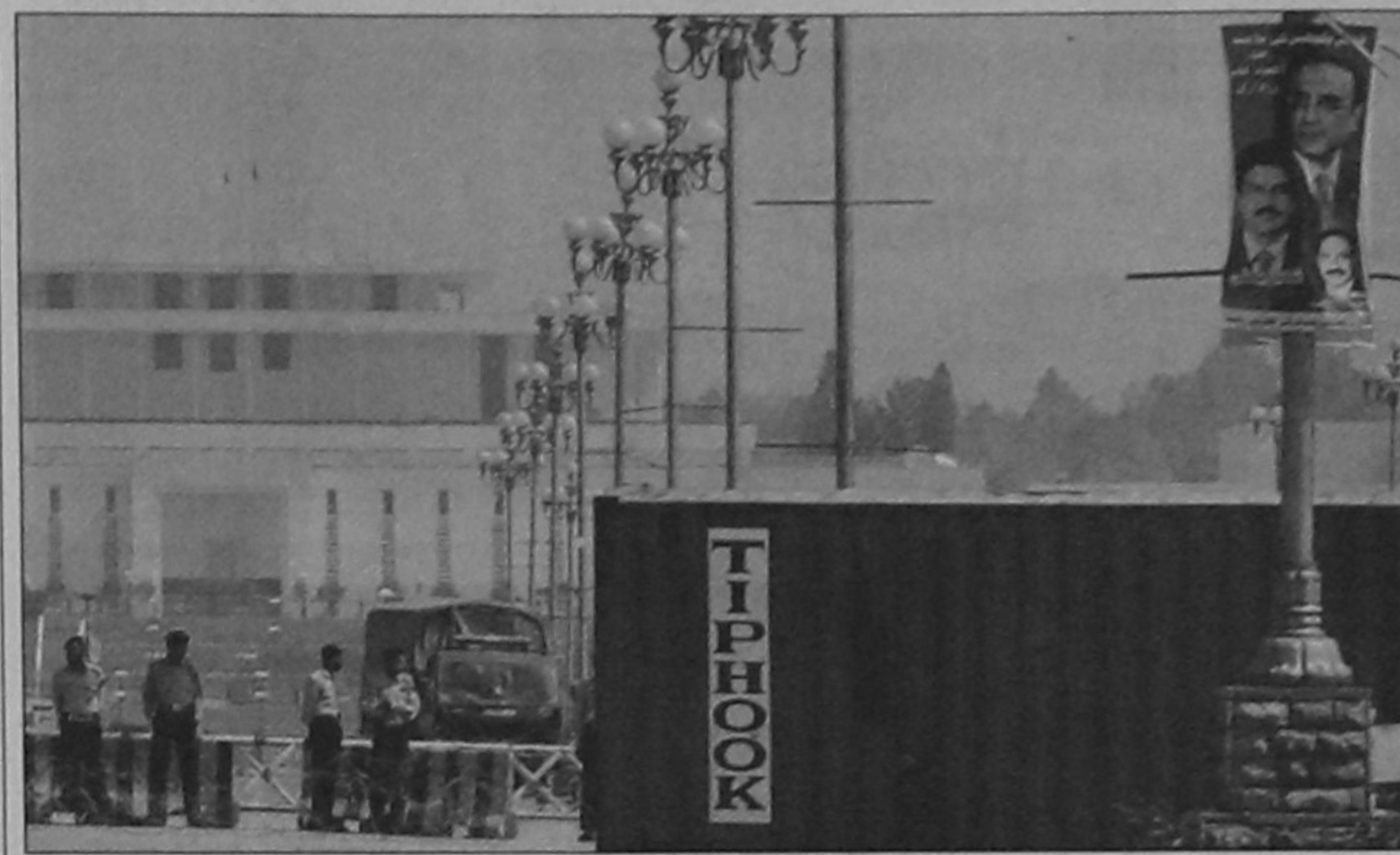
Upon taking office January 20, Obama ordered a sweeping review of the US strategy for fighting the war in Afghanistan, and US military and diplomatic officials say the road to victory there runs through neighbour Pakistan.

Obama is set to unveil his new approach before a major international summit on Afghanistan on March 31 in The Hague -- but already the US Congress is looking

to shape US military and development aid to steady Pakistan's democracy and bolster its fight against Islamist extremists.

Lawmakers are trying to learn from past efforts and convince Pakistan's people that Washington has a heartfelt stake in their political and economic fortunes, and is not merely looking out for US interests, experts say.

The result is an approach likely to vastly expand US economic aid, while tying military help to pledges from the country's armed forces to do more against extremists as well as promises to stay out of the country's political and judicial life, lawmakers and aides say.



Policemen are deployed at container barricades erected by the authorities in front of President House in Islamabad yesterday. Pakistan sealed off city exits to activists trying to march on the capital and stopped a key lawyer from boarding a flight, widening a crackdown on protests that have sparked turmoil.



Activists from the Burmese Kuki Students' Democratic Front shout slogans during a protest in New Delhi yesterday against the Tamanthi Dam and Multipurpose Project on the International Day of Action for River, Water and Life.

Pakistan should follow its commitment with tangible action: Pranab

PTI, AFP, New Delhi

A day after India handed over to Pakistan more evidence regarding the Mumbai terror attacks, External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee today said he expected Islamabad to follow up its commitment with "tangible action."

"Words and commitments should be followed by tangible action," he told a press conference here when asked whether he was satisfied with

Pakistan's handling of the investigation into the Mumbai attacks. Mukherjee pointed out that India has been demanding Pakistan to dismantle terror infrastructure on its soil, handover to Delhi fugitives under the Indian law, and bring the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror strikes to justice.

"Question is not (about) objective satisfaction or dissatisfaction. It is a question of certain hard facts," he said.

Afghan father, 4 sons killed in US raid

AFP, Kabul

A Nato soldier was killed yesterday in Afghanistan, where police said a father and four of his adult sons died in a separate US-led raid.

The International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) did not give the nationality of the soldier, who became the 55th foreign troop to die in Afghanistan this year.

Sheikh Helal

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Representation of the People Order, the contenders whose applications were rejected during scrutiny could have also filed appeal against acceptance of nomination of Helal along with application against the rejection.

Sheikh Helal, who was elected MP in seventh and eighth parliaments, did not contest the December parliamentary elections since he was convicted under the emergency power rules and went into hiding.

On January 12, the High

Court granted bail to the former AL lawmaker who was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment in a corruption case and seven years' in an extortion case during the rule of immediate past caretaker government.

Sheikh Helal is the son of Sheikh Naser Rahman, younger brother of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Both Bangabandhu and Naser were killed on Aug 15, 1975, along with other members of the family.

Meanwhile, three appeals were filed with the EC against rejection of applications during

scrutiny by the returning officer of Rangpur-6 constituency.

Applications of Motaharul Huq Bablu, Nur Alam Miah and Haider Rahman Miah, all independent candidates, were rejected on Mar 11.

Now the six constituencies will go to polling on April 2. They are Bogra-6 and 7, Kurigram-2, Rangpur-3 and 6 and Kishoreganj-6.

Meanwhile, the returning officer will scrutinise today the applications of aspirants for the 45 reserved seats for women in parliament.

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THE POSITION:

The position under this post will be the Head/Team Leaders Sales & Marketing Dept. reporting to the Managing Director of this group and shall be responsible to lead and command a team dedicated sales personnel for achieving the company's target.

SKILLS REQUIRED

The position requires for the individual to have at least 12 years of demonstrated sales & marketing experience in real estate/housing sector. He must have verifiable accomplishments in strategically planning, implementing and improving the sales status of this organization. He will be responsible for achieving new and fresh sales of homes and shop-lots with target-based collections from home and abroad. The aspirant must possess effective communication & motivational skills, be a hands-on decision maker with a charismatic approach to the sales maturity. He will have an MBA or Masters degree in Marketing from any reputed university.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES

1. To find out the appropriate customer segments of the homes, shop-lots and other products and approach them efficiently.
2. To ensure targeted monthly net collection from new sales of homes, shop-lots and other products by maintaining separate sales office/entity.
3. To do, plan and execute all sorts of formulation, tactic and methodology for the sales and marketing of the said products in minimum promotional expenditure.
4. To lead the team members for achieving excellent sales outcome from home and abroad by organizing/attending Housing Fairs, Road-shows and other promotional activities.
5. To prepare suggestions and guidelines for the new real estate projects or projects extensions as well as the demand of homes/products along with their pricing, location feasibility and customers & prospects.

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The position deserves the most attractive compensation packages for the successful candidates.

If you are interested to build a challenging career in this position send your application with detailed resume and photo to following address or mail to <icsgroup@icgsbdonline.com> or <info@pinkcitybd.com> by 25th March 2009.

N.B: Only short-listed candidates will be intimated for the recruitment process.

Director Operations
The Human Resource Department
ICS BUSINESS GROUP

Dizen Garden, Gr. Level, 49 Lake Circus, Kalabagan, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205, Fax: 880-2-8118513, Email: icsgroup@icgsbdonline.com, info@pinkcitybd.com, website: www.pinkcitybd.com



Fiber @ Home

Fiber @ Home Limited, House-11/A, Road-130, Mehnaz Mansur Tower (1st Floor), Gulshan-1 Dhaka-1212, Tel: +880 6662303036-37 web: www.fiberathome.net

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

1. Procuring Entity	Managing Director, Fiber @ Home Limited
2. Invitation for	1) Design, supply, delivery, installation, testing, commissioning, training, maintenance and support services for GPON based FTTx system and element management system. 2) Supply, installation, testing & commissioning of necessary equipment and related services for a nationwide dwdm/mspp optical Transmission system and Dhaka city optical transmission system on turn-key basis. 3) Supply and testing of Optical Fiber Cables, Joint Closures and Related Accessories on turn-key basis.
3. Invitation Ref No.	1)FAH/PMO/RFP/001-2009 2)FAH/PMO/RFP/002-2009 3)FAH/PMO/RFP/003-2009
4. Date of Invitation	15 March, 2009
5. Tender Document Selling Date & place	a) Starts 15 March, 2009 b) Ends 22 March, 2009 From Project Management Office, Fiber @ Home Limited, House-11/A, Road-130, Mehnaz Mansur Tower (1st Floor), Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, Dhaka.
6. Place, Time & Date of Pre-bid meeting	30 March, 2009 at 11:00 at the Conference Room of Fiber @ Home Limited, Gulshan, Dhaka
7. Tender Closing Date, Time & Dropping Place	19 April, 2009 at 14:00 Hrs Fiber @ Home Limited, Gulshan, Dhaka.
8. Tender Opening Date, Time & Place	19 April, 2009 at 14:30 Hrs Fiber @ Home Limited, Gulshan, Dhaka.
9. Eligibility of Tenderer	Contractor having proper experience of doing such work.
11. Tender Document Price	Tk. 14,000 (Fourteen thousand) only in cash or Pay Order (non-refundable) in the name of "Fiber @ Home Limited" for each of the three tenders separately with an application in official pad. Vendors having no local office/representative in Bangladesh may participate with an application fee of USD \$200 (Two hundred) by TT payment to Fiber @ Home's Citi Bank NA A/C No. G01000020061800 with notification to munasir.choudhury@fiberathome.net
12. Earnest Money in the form of Pay Order or Bank Guarantee favouring:	1)FAH/PMO/RFP/001-2009 – BDT 35,00,000 (Thirty five lakh) or USD\$ 50,000 (Fifty thousand) 2)FAH/PMO/RFP/002-2009 – BDT 21,00,000 (Twenty one lakh) or USD\$ 30,000 (Thirty thousand) 3)FAH/PMO/RFP/003-2009 – BDT 14,00,000 (Fourteen lakh) or USD\$ 20,000 (Twenty thousand)
13. Official Inviting Tender	Project Manager Project Management Office, Fiber @ Home Limited House-11/A, Road-130, Mehnaz Mansur Tower (1 st Floor), Gulshan-1 Dhaka-1212, Tel: +880 6662303036-37 Project Manager for Managing Director Fiber @ Home Limited