



Communist party of India-Marxist (CPIM) parliamentary candidate Mohammed Selim (C) gestures as he takes part in an election campaign march in Kolkata yesterday. CPI-M and eight other left-leaning and regional parties launched the campaign under the banner of the "Third Front," ahead of the April 16 to May 13 general elections.

Pak militants torch Nato trucks

AFP, Peshawar

Taliban militants in northwestern Pakistan torched eight trucks carrying supplies for Nato forces in neighbouring Afghanistan in a pre-dawn attack yesterday, police said.

A dozen more trucks and trailers were damaged when the militants, armed with automatic weapons and rockets, attacked a terminal on the outskirts of Peshawar city.

"Taliban militants fired four rockets on a truck terminal on the ring road on the city's

outskirts and destroyed eight trucks completely," local police official Gohar Khan told AFP.

"The militants also torched 12 more trucks and trailers."

Khan said police arrived during the attack, in which the two truck drivers were shot and injured, but the militants fled to the neighbouring tribal area.

"Our policemen exchanged gunfire with the militants for half an hour but they managed to escape," Khan said.

BSP will not align with any other party

Says Mayawati

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supreme Mayawati said on Sunday her party would fight the Lok Sabha polls on its own but did not rule out an alliance with the Third Front after the elections.

Hours before she hosts a dinner for Third Front leaders at her new residence in New Delhi, Mayawati ruled out any pre-poll alliance with other parties. Though she has ruled out any pre-poll alliance, the BSP chief had sent her trusted emissary Satish Misra to the launch function of the Third Front in Tumkur on Thursday - a move to keep all her options open.

"This time the Bahujan Samaj Party will fight the elections on its own. We are fully prepared and we will not align with any other political party," Mayawati

told reporters at a function in New Delhi on the birth anniversary of BSP founder Kanshi Ram.

She also refuted speculation that the dinner diplomacy was aimed to float a prime ministerial candidate for the Third Front, saying: "There will be no discussion on a prime ministerial candidate or pre-poll alliances, all that will be after the polls."

The BSP chief, who is known to be a keen contender for the country's top job, was silent on her own prime ministerial ambitions.

Declining to comment about her prime ministerial candidature, Mayawati said: "We will decide this after the election results."

"BSP believes in doing much and talking less... we hope to get good results in these elections."

"We (the BSP and the Third Front) will fight elections separately. And we will join together to keep both the BJP and the Congress out of

power," Mayawati said while releasing the party's election appeal.

She also expressed the hope that the Left parties would help the BSP to keep the Congress and BJP away from power.

She clarified that Sunday's dinner meeting with leaders of the Third Front was part of the house warming ceremony of her new address in the capital and had no political connotation.

She said her party would soon announce the seats it would contest.

Attacking the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government, the BSP supreme said: "We must not allow the same party to return to power."

Recalling Kanshi Ram's dream of the BSP coming to power at the centre, she said: "Our party is an alternative to the BJP and Congress."

"For the past 61 years, nobody has thought about the economic position of the

Taliban chief backs Afghan peace talks

Four Nato soldiers killed in blast

ANI, AFP, Kabul

Taliban leader Mullah Omar has given his approval for talks aimed at ending the war in Afghanistan and has allowed his representatives to attend Saudi-sponsored peace negotiations.

Mullah Omar has given the green light to talks, "said one of the mediators, Abdullah Anas, a former friend of Osama Bin Laden who used to fight in Afghanistan but now lives in London.

The breakthrough emerged after President Barack Obama admitted that US-led forces are not winning the war in Afghanistan and called for negotiations with "moderate Taliban".

A Sunday Times poll published today found that 64 percent of respondents favour talking to the Taliban to achieve a deal.

Some 69 percent said the aim of stabilising Afghanistan was not sufficiently worthwhile to risk the lives of British troops and 64 percent thought the war could never be won.

"Economic development and a workable reconciliation strategy are as crucial as boots

on the ground when it comes to dismantling the insurgency," said British Foreign Secretary David Miliband.

Although we have demonized the Taliban for years, it was Mullah Omar that said: "All problems can be solved at the negotiating table" before our invasion. They are not fools or demons if we just take time and talk and stop delivering ultimatums."

Meanwhile, four international soldiers in a Nato-led coalition fighting insurgents in Afghanistan were killed in a bomb strike Sunday, the International Security Assistance Forces said.

The insurgent Taliban movement claimed responsibility for the attack in the eastern province of Nangarhar.

"It was an IED (improvised explosive device). Four soldiers were killed," an ISAF spokesman at the force's Kabul headquarters told AFP.

The alliance force does not release the nationalities of its casualties but most troops in eastern Afghanistan are from the US military, which has about 38,000 soldiers in the war-stricken country.

Invitation To Bid (ITB)

Procurement of 100 units Desktop PC, 100 units UPS and 25 units Network Laser Printer



UNDP Bangladesh is launching an open international ITB and invites Sealed Bids from interested manufacturer/ authorized agents/ Dealers & Distributors with the detailed specification and price in supplying of the following Lot's/items:

Lot/Item	Description	Quantity
Lot 1.	Desktop Computer	100
Lot 2.	Network Laser Printer	25
Lot 3.	UPS	100

Submission of Bid: The envelope should state "Bid for 100 units Desktop PC, 100 units UPS and 25 units Network Laser Printer" and should be marked as 'Confidential'. The selection of Bids will be done based on the UNDP procurement rules and regulations and only the successful bidder(s) will be contacted. However, UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any bid(s) without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

All interested firms may request the Bidding Documents at the above address by formal request to UNDP that will register firm on the list of participants, so that any correspondence, questions regarding the bidding documents and their respective answers can be sent to all bidders.

The detailed bid documents are available: parvin.akter@undp.org. Hardcopy of specifications are also available at the Procurement Cluster of UNDP, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Bids must be submitted before 16.30 hrs on 05 April 2009.

Israel was ready to sign peace deal

Says Olmert

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's outgoing Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said yesterday that his government had been ready to sign a peace deal with the Palestinians but that they had lacked the courage to do so.

"The peace negotiations with the Palestinians had made a big step forward and were more interesting and deeper than any talks held in the past by any government, including (then premier, now outgoing Defence Minister) Ehud Barak at Camp David (in the United States in 2000)," Olmert said.

"The fact that we haven't reached one (a peace agreement) so far is due to the weakness and lack of courage on the part of the Palestinian leaders," he told the weekly cabinet meeting, likely to be one of his last.

"We were ready to sign a peace deal but the Palestinians unfortunately did not have the courage to do so," he said.

A spokesman for Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas slammed the remarks.

"What Olmert says is entirely false," Nabil Abu Rudeina told AFP.

"The proposals (during the talks) did not include conditions for the creation of an independent Palestinian state on all Palestinian territory occupied in 1967 with east Jerusalem as its capital."

"Israel did not present a single map and not a single serious position that could lead to a real peace on the base of two states," he said.

In November, Abbas charged that he had been unable to reach agreement with Israel on a single issue in 12

Khatami to quit race for Iran presidency

AFP, Tehran

Iran's reformist ex-president Mohammad Khatami is considering withdrawing from the June presidential election, local news agencies Fars and Mehr reported yesterday.

Mehr quoted a source close to Khatami as saying the former president during a meeting with members of his campaign had indicated he would withdraw. It did not say when the official announcement was expected.

Fars reported that Khatami had decided to withdraw from the election race but gave no details.

A close aide of Khatami told AFP that there "was no decision yet."

Goody close to end, wants to be remembered as a fighter

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, London

Cancer-stricken British reality television star Jade Goody who is reported to be close to her end has said in a final interview that she wants to be remembered as a fighter.

Goody, 27, hopes to be remembered as a colourful and vibrant character who refused to be crushed by her cancer battle, daily mail.co.uk reports.

Goody is said to be "on the edge of a precipice" as her condition deteriorated Saturday night leading to fears she may not live more than a day.

The actress said she thought people would think of her as "a mouthy bird who irritated and entertained people in equal measure".

"But I also want to be remembered as the girl who put up a fight and would never let herself get beaten down. I was given a death sentence but I didn't let it kill me."

North South University

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 - Candidates selected must submit documents of leave of approval from their respective employers.
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- For professionals: Two letters of reference, one from the employer/immediate superior and the other from academic institution last attended
 - For fresh graduates: One letter of reference from academic institution last attended

Female candidates are encouraged to apply

Application Fee : TK. 500/- Interested applicants are requested to collect the Application Form from:
(The office of the Director of Accounts) : Star Tower (7th Floor)
North South University, 12 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka- 1213.

Application Form Distribution: 1 April - 15 April 2009 Application Deadline : 20 April 2009
Admission Test: 1 May 2009 Time: 09:30 am - 11:30 am

For further information, please contact:

MPPG Program Office, Department of General and Continuing Education
Flat: 10B, House # 22, Ataturk Tower, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka 1213, Bangladesh.
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Memo No. APSC/Pro-01/2009/326

date: 14/03/2009

"Invitation For International Tender"

01.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Power Division		
02.	Agency	Ashuganj Power Station Co. Ltd		
03.	Procuring Entity Name	Convener, Procurement Committee, APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria		
04.	Procuring Entity District	Brahman Baria, Bangladesh		
05.	Invitation for	a) Supply of Disposable Filter Pad for GT-1 & GT-2 of CCGP, APSC b) Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 150 KW Air Compressor Motor for Unit No.5, APSC		
06.	Invitation Ref No	Memo No. APSC/Pro-1/2009/326		
07.	Date	14/03/2009		
08.	Procurement Method	International Open Tendering Method		
09.	Source of Funds	APSC'S Own Fund		
10.	Tender Publication Date	14/03/2009		
11.	Tender Last Selling Date	28/04/2009 during office hour		
12.	Tender Closing Date and Time	29/04/2009 at BST 12:00		
13.	Tender Opening Date and Time	29/04/2009 at BST 12:30		
14.	Name & Address of the Offices			
a.	-Selling Tender Documents.	(i) Director (Purchase), Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Bhavan (9 th floor), Motiheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 (ii) Manager (Finance), APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria		
b.	Receiving & Opening Tender Documents	Office of the Convener, Procurement Committee, APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria		
15.	Eligibility of Tenderer	Renowned Supplier having experience of supply as specified in the Tender Document		
16.				
SL No	Name of Item	Price of Tender Documents	Amount of Tender Security	Completion time
a.	Supply of Disposable Filter Pad for GT-1 & GT-2 of CCGP, APSC	Non refundable Tk. 1,000/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	US\$ 850.00 or BDT 60,000/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	60 days from the date of L/C opening
b.	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 150 KW Air Compressor Motor for Unit No.5, APSC	Non refundable Tk. 1,000/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	US\$ 500.00 or BDT 35,000/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	90 days from the date of L/C opening
17.	Name of official Inviting Tender	A.M.M Sazzadur Rahman		
18.	Designation of official Inviting Tender	Convener, Procurement committee		
19.	Address of official Inviting Tender	Ashuganj Power Station Co. Ltd. Ashuganj, B-Baria, Bangladesh.		
20.	Contract details of official Inviting Tender	Tel: 0088-08528-74033 Fax: 0088-08528-74044, E-mail: procurement@apscl.com , Website: www.apscl.com		
21.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders			

(A.M.M Sazzadur Rahman)
Convener
Procurement Committee,
APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria