

US plans new drone attacks on Pakistan

Suspected missile strikes kill 11, suicide blast claims 11 more lives on Pak soil

AFP, AP, Washington/ Miranshah

Washington is planning new drone attacks on militant targets in Pakistan as part of its overall review of military strategy there and in Afghanistan, the Wall Street Journal reported yesterday.

Two suspected US missile strikes killed at least 11 militants in a tribal region of Pakistan near the border with Afghanistan on Wednesday and Thursday.

Intelligence officials from the United States and Pakistan are composing a "fresh list of terrorist targets for Predator drone strikes along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border," the newspaper said citing officials involved.

Meanwhile, a suicide bomber struck a

restaurant in volatile northwest Pakistan on Thursday, killing at least 11 people including pro-government fighters opposed to the country's top Taliban commander, intelligence officials said.

The attack Thursday morning occurred just outside the South Waziristan tribal region near the town of Tank at a roadside restaurant where some two dozen fighters loyal to Turkistan Bitani were eating, two intelligence officials told The Associated Press.

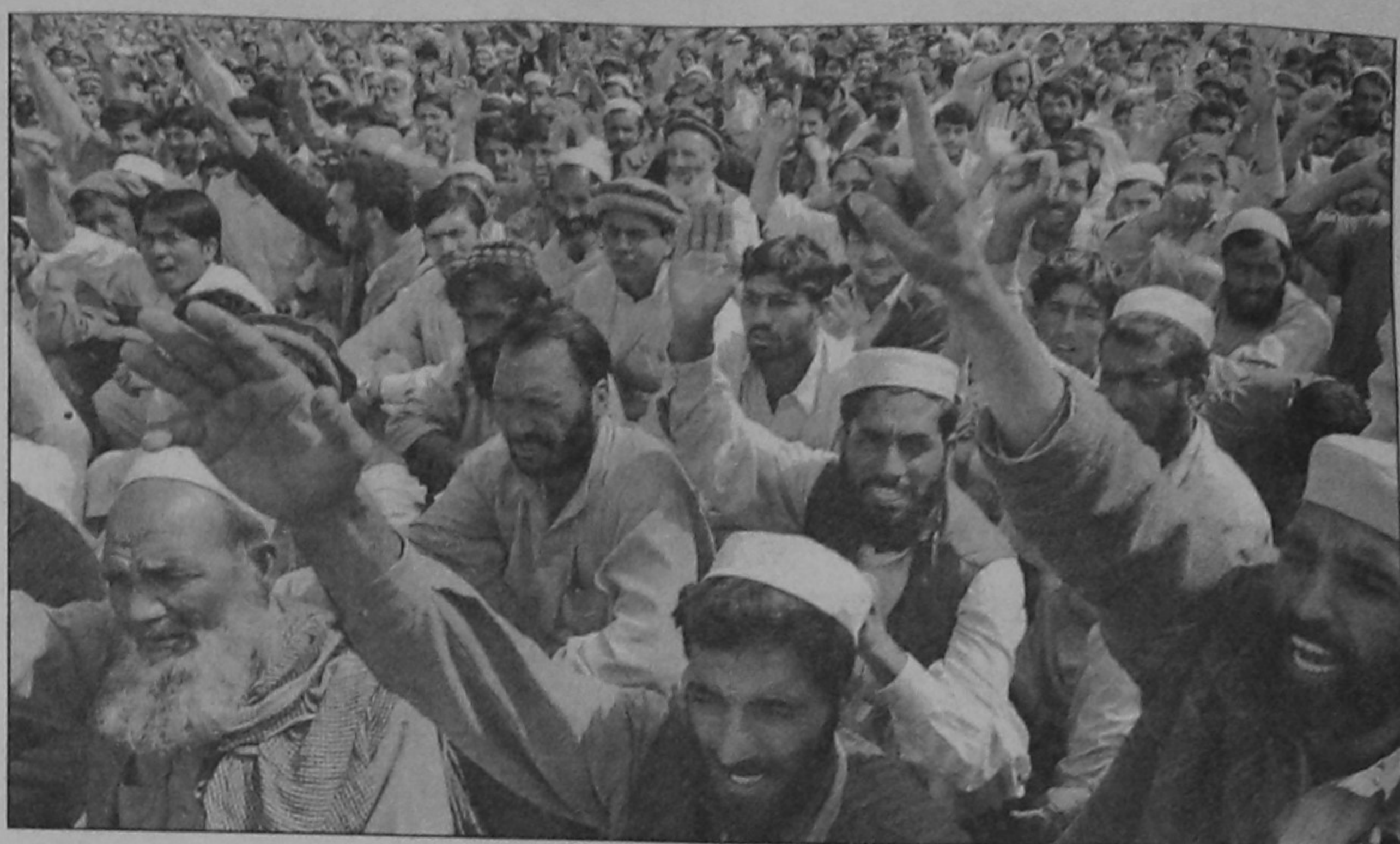
Several other people were wounded in the attack, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly to the media.

However, cooperation between the

two allies is complicated by the belief held by US officials that operatives within Pakistan's top intelligence agency are "directly supporting the Taliban and other militants in Afghanistan, even as the US targets those groups," the report said.

Earlier Thursday, officials in Pakistan said two suspected US missile strikes killed at least 11 militants in a tribal region of Pakistan near the border with Afghanistan.

In particular, Washington is reviewing its drone programme, which the administration views as "a success" and is not expected to be cut, and is seeking to clarify under what conditions drone attacks should be used.



Pakistani displaced people from the troubled district of Bajaur shout slogans against police during a protest at the Jallozai camp near Pakistan's northwestern town of Nowshera yesterday. One man was killed and several were wounded when hundreds of people displaced by a Pakistan offensive in a tribal area bordering Afghanistan clashed with police on Wednesday.



An Indian Paramilitary trooper stands guard near the National Highway at Pampore, south of Srinagar yesterday. Fresh fighting broke-out between the Indian soldiers and heavily-armed militants along the Line of Control (LOC) when a group of rebels tried to infiltrate into India-administered Kashmir from the Pakistani-zone of the disputed region.

Militants warn of fresh attacks on Indian army in Kashmir

AFP, Srinagar

A Pakistan-based Islamist militant group warned Wednesday of fresh attacks against Indian troops, as the army said a "large number" of guerrillas were poised to infiltrate Kashmir.

Eight soldiers and 17 rebels died in protracted gun battles that started Saturday in Kashmir's Kupwara district, close to the Line of Control (LOC) that divides the Indian and Pakistani zones of the Muslim-majority Himalayan region, the Indian army said.

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) said its members were involved in the clashes, some of the fier-

est in recent years.

"The gun battles should serve as a message to India that the struggle for Kashmir's freedom is on with full vigour," Lashkar spokesman Abdullah Ghaznavi told AFP by telephone in Srinagar, in Indian Kashmir, from an unknown location.

Ghaznavi said Lashkar militants initiated the gun-fight by ambushing an army column in a forest area. He said the fighting left 25 Indian soldiers and 10 Lashkar militants dead.

The Indian army said the operation was launched by the soldiers after they were tipped off.

India faces another Mumbai-type attack

Warns US think tank

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Washington

Despite India's decision to move the Indian Premier League (IPL) cricket tournament to South Africa out of security fears, another major terror attack in the country is "inevitable," according to a leading US think tank.

Noting that fears of an overstretched security apparatus facing both the tournament and national elections prompted the move, which has already become politicised, Stratfor, a strategic think tank, said. "Despite the decisions, the Islamist militant threat to India remains."

Stratfor said it had "received indications early on from Indian security sources that the IPL tournament was a prime target for another large-scale Islamist militant operation following the November 2008 Mumbai attacks."

The Indian intelligence apparatus is thought to have warned the central government of a flood of specific threats against both Indian and foreign cricket players, it said. Warnings of specific threats against the players came from the governments of the states hosting matches, including Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

"Given that these two states respectively are home to the information technology hubs of Hyderabad and Bangalore - both of which have a heavy foreign presence - and are where multinational corporations doing business in India are concentrated, these states are at a particularly high risk of attack," Stratfor warned.

The decision to sacrifice the IPL tournament "which did not come easily for New Delhi, has already become politicised," it noted. But "It also does not signal an end to the Jihadi threat to India."

LTTE facing 'imminent' total defeat

Says minister

AFP, Colombo

Tamil Tiger rebels have lost more of their territory in northern Sri Lanka and their total defeat is now "imminent," a government minister said yesterday.

Government troops have confined Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighters to an area of 21 square kilometres (eight square miles), most of which is a government-declared safe zone, the minister said.

"Therefore, it is apparent that the LTTE are now at the imminent brink of defeat," said Keheliya Rambukwella, minister for foreign employment and the government's defence spokesman.

Meanwhile, Tamil Tiger guerrillas shot dead four farmers in Sri Lanka on Thursday as government forces kept up a major offensive against the rebels, the military said.

Gunmen from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) attacked the farmers about 160 kilometres (100 miles) south of the battle zone where the military says troops are close to defeating the separatists.

Heavy clashes have continued in the north-eastern district of Mullaitivu as soldiers take

on Tiger fighters trapped in a narrow strip of jungle, the military said.

Verification of the claims is impossible as independent journalists, most aid workers and international monitors are not allowed to travel freely in the area.

Prior to the total collapse of a Norwegian-brokered ceasefire in January 2008, the LTTE ran a mini-state that spanned about a third of the island.

Earlier this year, the military seized the political and military headquarters of the Tigers and vowed to completely defeat the rebels by April, a victory that would end one of the world's longest-running civil wars.

There was no immediate word from the Tigers, who have been fighting for more than three decades to carve out a separate Tamil state on the ethnic Sinhalese-majority island.

Verification of battlefield claims is impossible as independent journalists, most aid workers and international monitors are not allowed into the conflict zone.

Rambukwella said the fighting was now moving into a phase of intense close-quarters combat.

PMK dumps Congress, ties up with AIADMK

PTI, Chennai

The PMK, a constituent of the ruling UPA at the Centre, is all set to join the AIADMK-led front in Tamil Nadu as the party's top policy making body, the General Council, decided at its crucial meeting.

The meeting, attended by all senior leaders, including PMK founder Dr S Ramadoss and his son and Union Health Minister Dr Anbumani, took a final decision to align with the

AIADMK, which has reportedly offered seven Lok Sabha seats and one Rajya Sabha seat, party sources said.

Ramadoss will now call on AIADMK supremo Jayalalithaa to ink the seat sharing pact, the sources said.

She has also invited MDMK leader Vaiko and leaders of CPI-M and CPI, allies of AIADMK, for tea this evening. She would sign the seat sharing agreements with these parties, AIADMK sources said.

Pak senator to sue Musharraf for Baluch leader Bugti's murder

ANI, Quetta

Problems for former Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf seem to be increasing day by day following the filing of a petition in the Supreme Court seeking his trial on sedition charges.

Addressing a press conference with the PPP leader Nabeel Gabool here, National People's Party Senator Sanaullah Zehri Zehri accused Musharraf of plotting the murder of Akbar Bugti and said he would soon file a case in this regard.

He also called for Musharraf to be put on trial for initiating a military offensive in Baluchistan in which several innocent people have died.

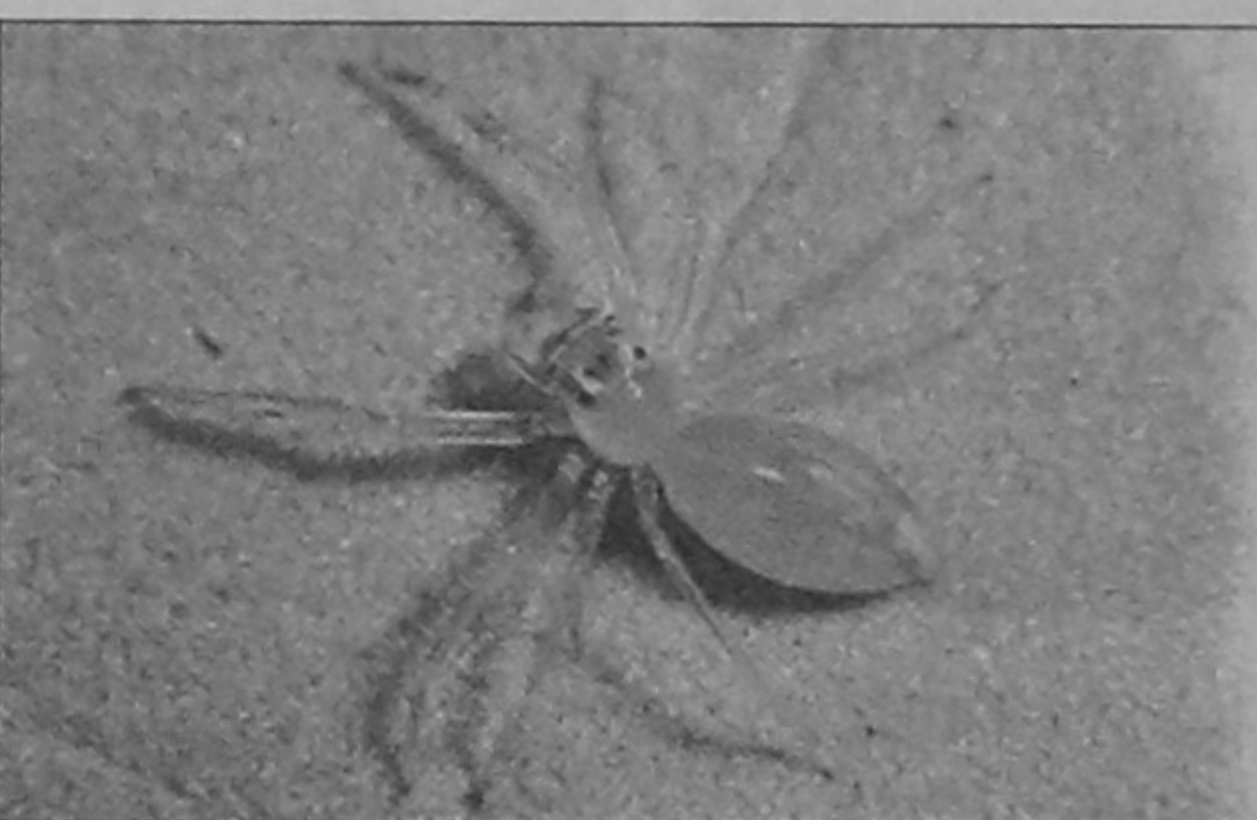
US offers \$5m reward for Baitullah Mehsud

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Washington

The US has offered a \$5 million reward for information on Baitullah Mehsud, a senior leader of the Tehrik-e-Taliban who is linked to the assassination of former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto.

Gordon Duguid, State Department acting deputy spokesperson, said: "Mehsud is regarded as a key al-Qaeda facilitator in the tribal areas of South Waziristan in Pakistan."

Pakistani authorities believe the January 2007 suicide bombing at the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad was staged by militants loyal to Mehsud. Press reports have also linked Mehsud to the assassination of former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto and the deaths of other innocent civilians, a statement quoting Duguid said.



This Conservation International (CI) photo shows a jumping spider, Orthrus sp., found in a rainforest during a CI led Rapid Assessment Programme expedition of Papua New Guinea's highlands wilderness in 2008.

Scientists find new species in PNG

AP, Sydney

A brilliant green tree frog with huge black eyes, jumping spiders and a striped gecko are among more than 50 new animal species scientists have discovered in a remote, mountainous region of Papua New Guinea.

The discoveries were announced Wednesday by Washington DC-based Conservation International, which spent the past several months analysing more than 600 animal species the group found during its expedition to the South Pacific island nation in July and August.

BRAC
75, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
Phone : 8824180 - 7, Ext : 2032.

Tender for TV Spot Airing.

Project Name	BRAC Health Program (TB)
Source of Fund	Donor Fund
Tender Package no.	BHP (TB) - Ad/02/09
Reference and date	IFT/BRAC/BPD-BHP/09-10 March 23, 2009
Name of Item	Airing of TV Spot on Television for TB
Duration	From April, 2009 to March, 2010
Price of Tender Documents	Tk : 1,000/- (Non-Refundable)
Name and address of the Office Selling Tender Document	Accounts Department (4 th Floor), Annex Building, BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
Date and Time for Selling Tender Document	From 29 March to 08 April 2009 Time: From 9.00 am to 3:00pm.
Name and address of the Office Receiving & Opening Tenders	BRAC Procurement Department (BPD), 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
Date and Time for Submission of Tenders	On April 09, 2009 Time: From 9.00am to 2.00 pm
Date and Time for Opening of Tenders	April 09, 2009 Time: 3.00 pm.

PUBALI BANK LIMITED
REGISTERED OFFICE
26, DILKUSHA C/A
DHAKA-1000.

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for kind information of all concerned, that the Board of Directors of Pubali Bank Limited, in its 703rd Meeting held on 25th March 2009 at 2.30 P.M. took the following decisions:-

- i) The 26th Annual General Meeting of the Bank will be held on 14th May, 2009 at 11.00 A.M. at Bank's Auditorium (13th floor), Head Office Building, 26, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
- ii) The Board recommended dividend for the year ended 31st December, 2008, in the form of Stock at 30% B i.e. 3(three) Bonus Shares for every 10(ten) Ordinary Shares held as on Record Date.
- iii) 9th April, 2009 will be "Record Date". The Shareholders whose names will appear in the Share Register of the Company/Depository on the Record Date will be entitled to the Stock Dividend (Bonus Share).

By order of the Board,

Dated: Dhaka
25th March 2009

AFM Asaduzzaman
General Manager and
Company Secretary

Vacancy Announcement

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Bangladesh, invites applications from highly qualified, energetic, and experienced development professionals who want to join UNDP's dynamic working environment, for recruitment in the following position for the "Rural Employment Opportunities for Public Assets" Project

Financial Monitoring Officer : 3 Positions

[The successful incumbents will be stationed in two districts each: a) 50% Habiganj & 50%Narsingdi; b) 65% Sathkira & 35% Barguna; c) 65% Sirajganj & 35% Feni]

European Commission (EC) has signed an agreement with the Government of Bangladesh to support a project known as Rural Employment Opportunities for Public Assets (REOPA). UNDP is under a contribution agreement with EC providing Technical Assistance to REOPA Project through a Capacity Strengthening Team (CST).

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than **10 April 2009**.