



PHOTO: AFP

Chief Minister of the western Indian state of Gujarat Narendra Modi (L) Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) prime ministerial candidate LK Advani (C) look on as senior BJP leader Purshottam Rupala addresses a rally while standing with Gujarat BJP election candidates in Ahmedabad on Friday.

Spotlight on multi-faith India as election campaign heats up

AFP, New Delhi

A Muslim-baiting speech ahead of India's elections next month has opened the door to a divisive campaign exploiting the country's religious fault lines.

The black sheep of India's Nehru-Gandhi dynasty, would-be Hindu nationalist MP Varun Gandhi, has prompted a major scandal after TV footage showed him whipping up anti-Muslim hatred while hunting votes in a northern Hindu heartland.

His Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would, he was taped telling a rally, "cut the head of Muslims" if it beats the incumbent Congress party in the polls that start next month.

Varun Gandhi is now in legal trouble and facing arrest -- as inciting violence is not taken lightly in a country susceptible to the occasional pogrom.

But the BJP is unrepentant, shrugging off calls from the Election Commission to drop him as a candidate.

Observers say debate on issues such as grinding poverty and other pressing social and

economic matters is once again being sidelined as the campaign goes sectarian.

But the fact remains that communal issues are still seen as vote winners.

"The effect of religion on Indian politics is staggering, and denying its influence would be a blunder by any political party," said political analyst Pran Chopra.

"Sectarian politics has a great degree of appeal. It can never vanish from Indian politics."

The scandal surrounding Varun Gandhi, analysts say, underscores some unsavoury facts about modern India -- a country that takes pride in its "world's largest democracy" badge and that wants to make the 21st century its own.

They say that more than sixty years after the subcontinent was drowning in the blood of partition, sectarian rabble-rousers can still score points.

"Hate has been employed as an effective tool to polarise in almost every election," noted Suhel Seth, a well-known television commentator and newspaper columnist.

Case filed against 'US meddling' in Pakistan

ANI, Karachi

A constitutional petition has been filed in Sindh High Court challenging the alleged meddling of US diplomats in Pakistan's internal affairs during the political crisis in the country.

In his petition, local lawyer Sohail Hameed claimed that after the invading Iraq and Afghanistan, the US government was now meddling in the internal affairs of Pakistan by using indirect methods.

The US is trying to control political parties through their influence, forcing the government of the day to enter into a compromise on the terms dictated by the opposition, he alleged.

ISI still backing al-Qaeda, Taliban: US admiral

AFP, Washington

The United States has vowed to put the heat on Pakistan's spies in its new regional strategy, with top officials openly accusing elements in powerful intelligence agency of abetting al-Qaeda.

President Barack Obama on Friday unveiled a plan to root out extremism in Afghanistan and Pakistan by boosting troops and drastically increasing civilian personnel and aid to the region.

Richard Holbrooke, the US special envoy to the region, said he would visit Pakistan again next week to follow up on the plan. Of all issues, investigating the nuclear-armed nation's spy network "is the most important," he said.

"The issue's very disturbing," Holbrooke told public television's "Newshour with Jim Lehrer," when asked if Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence

(ISI) was assisting al-Qaeda and Taliban extremists.

"We cannot succeed if the two intelligence agencies are at each others' throat or don't trust each other and if the kind of collusion you referred to is factual," Holbrooke said.

General David Petraeus, the commander of US forces in Afghanistan and Iraq, did not dispute that ISI elements have tipped off extremists to let them escape US-led forces.

"There are some cases that are indisputable in which that appears to have taken place," Petraeus told the same programme.

During the Cold War, the ISI worked with the CIA to arm Islamist groups that fought Soviet forces in Afghanistan. The ISI later backed the Taliban, which imposed an medieval brand of austere Islamic rule on the war-torn country.

Pakistan switched from top Taliban backer to frontline US ally after the September 11, 2001 attacks. But the ISI has long faced allegations of insubordination to Pakistan's government, now led by US-friendly civilian President Asif Ali Zardari.

The New York Times reported Thursday that US officials had found evidence that ISI operatives offered money, military supplies and even strategic planning to Taliban commanders.

Links between the Taliban and ISI "are very strong and some unquestionably remain to this day," Petraeus told public television. "It is much more difficult to say at what level."

Such open criticism of the ISI will be music to the ears of India, which accuses Pakistani intelligence of plotting attacks in divided Kashmir and involvement in last year's bloodbath in Mumbai that killed 165 people.

Sharif holds Musharraf liable for Pak crisis

ANI, Mardan

Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz chief Nawaz Sharif has held former President Pervez Musharraf responsible for the current crisis being faced by the nation.

He squarely blamed Musharraf for taking unconstitutional steps and making wrong policies.

"There is no doubt that none, except Pervez Musharraf, is responsible for the current crisis because of his wrong policies, especially in the backdrop of NWFP. It was Musharraf, the ex-general, who had not only bulldozed all the democratic institutions of the country, but also placed the serving Chief Justice under house arrest along with his other colleagues for the first time in the country's history," The Nation quoted Nawaz, as saying.

The former Pakistan premier said that only the implementation of the Charter of Democracy (CoD) is the solution of all challenges being faced by the country.

"For democratic revolution in the country, it is need of the hour that we should implement CoD. If this document is followed in letter and spirit, I guarantee that the country will come out of the crises smoothly," he said.

Addressing the Provincial Executive Council meeting in Mardan, Nawaz said that the judiciary was restored because of the people of NWFP's commitment to have a free and independent judiciary.



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani (R) listens to Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, son of slain former premier Benazir Bhutto and Chairman of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) during a meeting in Islamabad. Zardari executed a climbdown on Saturday in calling for an end to governor's rule in Pakistan's most politically important province.

Zardari ends governor's rule in Punjab

Pak court to hear Sharif appeals tomorrow

AFP, Islamabad

President Asif Ali Zardari executed a climbdown yesterday in calling for an end to governor's rule in Pakistan's most politically important province.

"As we move towards a better future, I wish to announce that we should recommend the lifting of the governor rule in Punjab," Zardari told parliament in a keynote speech.

Zardari imposed governor's rule in Punjab, which controls

more than 60 percent of seats in parliament, on February 25 after a court disqualified the two top leaders of the opposition Pakistan Muslim League-N (PML-N) party.

The move effectively gave Zardari direct rule of Punjab because the governor was a member of his Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Political parties have long battled for control of the huge province, where the PPP had wanted to establish its own government.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Supreme Court will begin hearing from Monday appeals against the disqualification of opposition leader Nawaz Sharif and his brother from holding office, officials said Friday.

The court on February 25 disqualified Sharif and his brother Shabbaz from contesting elections and holding public office, a decision, which caused widespread protests and flung the country into weeks of political chaos.



PHOTO: AFP

Iranian Secretary of Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Saeed Jalili (L) gestures as he speaks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (R) during a meeting at Singh's residence in New Delhi yesterday. Jalili is in India for a two-day official visit.

'US will not get involved in Kashmir issue'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Washington

The United States has made it clear that it would steer clear of the Kashmir issue as it seeks to involve India and other key stakeholders in the region in its new strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"We don't intend to get involved in that issue," President Barack Obama's National Security Adviser, Gen James Jones, told reporters Friday when asked if the US expected to address issues between India and Pakistan, particularly Kashmir, as part of its new regional approach.

"But we do intend to help both countries build more trust and confidence so that Pakistan can address the issues that it confronts on the western side of the nation," he said referring to Pakistan's tribal areas which Obama and other US officials have described as terrorist safe havens.

"But no, Kashmir is a separate issue," Jones said. "But we think that the times are so serious that we need to build the trust and confidence in the region, so that nations can do what they need to do in order to defeat the threat" posed by al-Qaeda and Taliban terrorist groups.

"As America does more, we will ask others to join us in doing their part," he said referring to Obama Administration's plans to "forge a new contact group for Afghanistan and Pakistan that brings together all who should have a stake in the security of the region."

The proposed group will include America's NATO allies and other partners, the Central Asian states, Gulf nations, Iran, Russia, India, and China, Jones said noting, "All have a stake in the promise of lasting peace and security and development in the region."

Malaysian PM to resign on April 2

AP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's prime minister announced yesterday he will resign April 2 and hand over power to his deputy, completing a transition one year in the making after the ruling coalition's shock drubbing in general elections.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi relinquished the presidency of the United Malays National Organisation party, which leads the ruling National Front coalition, earlier this week to Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার				
পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ				
বাংলাদেশ				
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি				
"The Public Procurement Regulation-2008" মোতাবেক ২০০৮-২০০৯ অর্থ বছরে পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজের নিম্নবর্ণিত আসবাবপত্র/মালামাল সরবরাহের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশের ত্রিদার/সরবরাহকারীর নিকট হইতে সীলনামহরযুক্ত খামে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।				
১	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	:	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ	
২	সংস্থা	:	পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ, বাংলাদেশ	
৩	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	:	পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)	
৪	সংগ্রহ সত্তার জেলা	:	ঢাকা	
৫	দরপত্রের বিষয়	:	খাটিয়া ক্রয়	
৬	দরপত্রের সূত্র নম্বর	:	স্মারক নং-পুলি/৬৬৭	
৭	তারিখ	:	২২/০৩/২০০৯খ্রিঃ	
৮	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	
৯	বাজেট ও অর্থনৈতিক বাত	:	জিওবি	
১০	দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির সর্বশেষ তারিখ	:	০৮/০৪/২০০৯খ্রিঃ	
১১	দরপত্র জমা প্রদানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	০৯/০৪/২০০৯খ্রিঃ সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকা	
১২	দরপত্র খোলা এবং মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	:	০৯/০৪/২০০৯খ্রিঃ তারিখ ১২.০০ ঘটিকা, দরপত্রদাতা বা মনোনীত প্রতিনিধিদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি থাকে)।	
১৩	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী অফিস ও ঠিকানা	:	পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ, বাংলাদেশ, মিরপুর-১৪, ঢাকা।	
১৪	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তির স্থান	:	এ-এ	
১৫	দরপত্র দাখিলের স্থান	:	এ-এ	
১৬	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	:	এ-এ	
১৭	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা	:	"The Public Procurement Regulation-2008" অনুযায়ী সরকারি/ব্যবসায়িক সংস্থা/বেসরকারি অন্য যে কোন সংস্থা সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের/সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতা।	
১৮	দরপত্রের সহিত যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা প্রদান করিতে হইবে	:	সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা সংক্রান্ত ত্রিদারী লাইসেন্স, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, হালনাগাদ আয়কর সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি সার্টিফিকেট ইত্যাদি।	
১৯	লট নং	:	কাজের বিবরণ	সিডিউলের মূল্য
১			পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজের ফোর্সের ব্যবহারের জন্য খাটিয়া সরবরাহ	২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকা
২০	বিশেষ আবেদনঃ			
ক. বাজি বা প্রতিদানের স্বত্বাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাডে আবেদনপূর্বক পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ, বাংলাদেশ, ঢাকা হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় দরপত্র সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে।				
খ. দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিম্নবর্ণিত কার্যালয় হইতে জানা যাইবে।				
গ. অনুমোদিত বরাদ্দের আলোকে কার্যদেয় প্রদান করা হইবে। এতদসংক্রান্ত কোন আপত্তি গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।				
ঘ. দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করিতে হইবে।				
ঙ. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কার্য দর্শনায়ে বাস্তবিক দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা রাখে।				
শেখ ওমর ফারুক পরিচালক (প্রশাসন) পক্ষে-রেজিঃ পুলিশ স্টাফ কলেজ বাংলাদেশ				

জিডি-১৬১০

Vacancy Announcement

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh invites applications from highly qualified, energetic and experienced professionals who wish to join UNDP's dynamic working environment, for recruitment in the following positions for the 'Support to the Electoral Process in Bangladesh'.

1. Project Officer (1 Post)
2. National System/Network Administrator (1 Post)
3. National Senior Programme (1 Post)
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5. Computer Operator (2 Posts)
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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 11 April, 2009.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants.



Bangladesh Bank

Request for Expression of Interest
Central Bank Strengthening Project (CBSP)

Individual Consultant: National IT Specialist (ERP)

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payment under the contract for hiring of some National IT Specialist for the Central Bank Strengthening Project (CBSP) to facilitate automation in the area of Banking & Treasury, ERP, Data Warehousing, Office Automation, Intranet and CIB Online etc.

The National IT Specialist for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) will be responsible for the oversight and implementation of automation of the ERP (Accounting, Budget, Purchasing and HR-Payroll etc) system as specified in the vendor's proposal to meet the requirement of BB under CBSP.

The main objective and scope of work is to act as the individual responsible for project management and implementation of the ERP component of the CBSP, taking delivery of the system on behalf of Bangladesh Bank and coordinating work between Bangladesh Bank and the selected vendor and will report to the Project Director (CBSP). The selected specialist will work for a period of 12 (twelve) months that may be extended by mutual agreement.

The National IT Specialist for ERP should be minimum graduate in Science/Business/IT related subjects and must have experience of implementing online integrated ERP systems, particularly as the replacement for manual systems; extensive knowledge of ERP applications including data integrity, data security, networking and branch/back office operations; must have extensive IT project management experience and planning skills; must have working knowledge of IT audit requirements for automated systems; must be conversant with the change management process normally associated with ERP implementation process. The applicant must have sufficient experience (minimum ten years including senior management position) of the ERP systems implementation, management and support.

The Bangladesh Bank now invites eligible applicants (individual consultants) to indicate their interest in providing the services. Applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (complete CV with expected remuneration).

The specialist will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Specialist by World Bank borrowers, January 1997 (revised September 1997, January 1999 and May 2002). Interested specialist may obtain further information at the address below from 0900 to 1700 hours. Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below by April 08, 2009.

Nazneen Sultana
Executive Director (Computer)
Bangladesh Bank, Head Office

Dhaka, Bangladesh

Tel: 880-2-9557551

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