



Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse (R) introduces outgoing Sri Lankan Chief of Defence Staff General Sarath Fonseka (L) to visiting Myanmar leader Than Shwe (C) at the Bandaranaike International airport in Colombo yesterday. Sri Lanka's top general, Sarath Fonseka, who is widely tipped to challenge President Mahinda Rajapakse in elections next year, submitted his resignation as chief of defence staff after a ceremony welcoming Myanmar's junta leader at the airport.

Lanka's top general quits military

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's top general, Sarath Fonseka, the architect of the army's victory over Tamil rebels who was switched to a more ceremonial position, quit Thursday, a military source said.

Fonseka, who is widely tipped to challenge President Mahinda Rajapakse in elections next year, submitted his resignation as chief of defence staff after a ceremony welcoming Myanmar's junta leader at the airport, the source said.

"He gave his letter of resignation this afternoon and expects the government to ensure his security because he was the main figure responsible for crushing Tamil Tigers,"

the source close to him said.

Fonseka, 58, the country's only four-star general, has been at loggerheads with the government in recent months after he was removed as army chief and made chief of defence staff, which has no command responsibilities.

There was no immediate word from the government.

Fonseka declared during a visit to the United States last month that he was willing to shed his uniform and take up "social work" if politicians did not take advantage of the end of the decades-old separatist conflict to ensure economic revival.

The source said he had asked for his resignation to be effective from December 1.

Lanka welcomes Myanmar junta chief

AFP, Colombo

Myanmar's junta leader General Than Shwe arrived in Sri Lanka on a state visit Thursday to be greeted by a 21-gun salute and guard of honour.

President Mahinda Rajapakse welcomed Than Shwe at Bandaranaike International Airport, before the Myanmar general was driven to the pilgrim town of Kandy, where the two are due to hold talks, officials said.

Sri Lanka and Myanmar both practise Theravada Buddhism and have had cultural and religious ties since the 11th century.

FRENCH SUB DEAL 'Zardari got \$4.3million in kickbacks'

PTI, Paris/Islamabad

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari allegedly received millions of dollars in kickbacks for the purchase of three French submarines for the Pakistani Navy in 1994, a French daily has reported.

Citing documents acquired by it, the daily 'Liberation' in Tuesday's edition claimed Zardari received \$4.3 million in kickbacks from the sale of three Agosta-90 submarines for 825 million euros (currently \$1.23 billion).

In addition, the daily said investigators believed that the non-payment of the full amount of the agreed kickbacks might have led to the deaths of 11 French nationals in a 2002 terror attack in the port city of Karachi.

Iran mission official shot dead in Pakistan

Seven 'plotting attacks' in Karachi detained

AFP, Peshawar

Gunmen shot dead a Pakistani spokesman for the Iranian consulate at point blank range as he set off for work in the northwestern city of Peshawar yesterday, police said.

Attackers targeted Abu Al-Hasan Jaffry, director of public relations and protocol at the consulate in Peshawar, shortly after he left home in his car, senior police official Nisar Marwat told AFP.

Bullet holes punctured his car, sending shards of glass on to the road, according to television footage from Peshawar, which has been hit by a wave of attacks.

The killing was condemned by Iran and the United States but the motive for the attack was not immediately clear.

Security officials said they suspected those responsible were part of the same group behind kidnappings last year in Peshawar of an Iranian diplomat and Afghanistan's ambassador-designate, and the killing of a US development worker.

ment worker.

Relations between Iran and Pakistan are warm but tensions rose last month when Tehran blamed Pakistan-based militants for a suicide attack that killed 42 people, including 15 members of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard.

Iran's foreign ministry condemned Jaffry's assassination.

The US embassy in Islamabad condemned Thursday's assassination, which it said "represents a new tactic by extremists hoping to isolate Pakistan from its supporters in the international community."

Meanwhile, Pakistani police said they arrested seven suspected Taliban militants on Thursday accused of plotting suicide attacks in the nation's financial capital Karachi.

"We have arrested seven men and recovered four explosive-filled jackets and detonators," city police chief Waseem Ahmed told a news conference. A large quantity of explosives were also seized in the Thursday raid, he added.



Obama tops Forbes list of world's most powerful people

AFP, Washington

The leader of a Mexican drug cartel made Forbes' magazine's list of the world's most powerful people, well ahead of France's President Nicolas Sarkozy and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

The magazine's list of the world's most powerful persons was led by President Barack Obama, followed by China's President Hu Jintao, and Russia's Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

Joaquin "Chapo" Guzman, head of the feared Sinaloa cartel, was number 41 on the Forbes list, published Thursday on the business magazine's website.

The magazine said he was believed to have shipped between six and 19 billion dollars worth of cocaine to the United States over the last eight years, using elaborate tunnels to evade border controls.

Poor response to PDB

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was hard or discouraging for investors.

To participate in this tender, bidders have submitted \$1 million bid bond for the 200 MW power plant, \$300,000 for 100 MW plant, \$240,000 for a 70 MW plant and \$150,000 for a 50 MW plant.

The payment term is hard and does not give investors confidence about timely payment of investment, comments an executive of a power company.

In addition, some investors are not fully confident about the government's payment capacity against such huge number of power projects taken up in one go.

All except one of these power projects will have dual-fuel system. They would have the system to run on natural gas or heavy fuel oil or diesel.

The lone gas-fired power plant will be set up in Ghorashal with 200 MW capacity. In this project, only two power companies submitted their bids -- South African Enterrios and Chinese North East Electric Power.

In the Gopalganj 100 MW dual-fuel plant, three companies submitted bids -- Enterrios, Korean Hyundai and local Energypac.

PDB sources say the readout price offer of Hyundai was found lowest in this bid.

There was only one bid by a single company China National Electric Ware & Cable Corp for Baghabari 50 MW and Daudkandi 50 MW projects. These tenders are likely to go for re-tender due

to lack of competition.

In Katakali (Rajshahi) 50 MW bid, Energypac, China National Electric Ware & Cable Corporation, Chinese Dong Feng and Korean Daewoo submitted bids. The readout price offer of Energypac was found as the lowest.

Egyptian Elsewedy, Hyundai, Dong Feng, Daewoo and Energypac filed bids for in Shantahar 50 MW project where Energypac's offer was primarily found to be the lowest.

In Faridpur 50 MW, the bidders are Hyundai, Dong Feng, Energypac and Daewoo and the lowest readout price offer was made by Energypac.

Hyundai, Energypac and Sumec Group of China filed bids for Bera (Pabna) 70 MW project and the offer of Sumec came out to be the lowest.

In Hathazari 100 MW project, Enterrios, Guang Dong Power of China and Elsewedy submitted bids. In Dohazari 100 MW, the participants are Enterrios and Guang Dong Power.

The PDB aims at completing the tender evaluation process within 45 days from today.

However, PDB is already running behind schedule with the evaluation of eight rental power projects in which 63 offers were dropped.

The PDB had targeted to complete the evaluation within three days or the first week of November. Sources say the evaluation would not be completed now before next week.



Filipino activists shout anti-US slogans during a lightning rally in Malacanang, Manila yesterday demanding the abolition of the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA), during a two-day visit by US Secretary of the State Hillary Clinton to the Philippines.

PHOTO: AFP

UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following positions. For detailed Job Descriptions, please visit our website: www.unicef.org.bd

POSITIONS:

- (1) WASH Project Officer (TA) - Coastal and other non-SHEWA-B areas
- (2) Project Officer (TA) - Information & Knowledge Management

Level: NO-B level of the United Nations local salary scale for both the positions

Last date of receiving applications: 25 November 2009

Please mark on the envelope the post applied for. Only short listed candidates will be called for written test/interview. Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.

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Certificate : January 15, 2010 (Application last date: January 12, 2010)

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Requirements:

- B.Sc in Computer Science from any reputed university
- Knowledge on VB/VB.net and MS SQL Server/Oracle
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- Willing to work under pressure
- Female Candidate will be preferable and age not over 30 yrs

Job responsibilities:

- Existing Software maintenance
- New Software development
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- Documentation

Being a deserving candidate please apply by own hand written application in English along with a complete CV, two recent passport size color photographs and photocopy of all academic certificates to Human Resources Manager, Renata Limited, House # 450, Road # 31, New DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206, or send to careers@renata-ltd.com within 20th November, 2009

Position applied for must be mentioned at the top of the envelope. Persuasion in any form will disqualify the candidate. Candidates who were unsuccessful in an earlier attempt need not apply.

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