



Pakistani men inspect the damage after suspected militants blew up a school building in Khyber region's Bara town, around 20km south of Peshawar on Saturday. Taliban militants blew up the school in the tribal town in northwest Pakistan causing severe damage to the building.

'PPP won't hinder Musharraf's high treason trial'

ANI, Lahore

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) would not create a hindrance in former President General Pervez Musharraf's high treason trial under the Article Six of the Constitution and would support any political party that takes the initiative in this regard, Pakistan Industries and Production Minister Mian Manzoor Ahmed Wattoo has said.

Addressing a press conference here, Wattoo said the PPP has a principled stand on the issue of Musharraf's trial and would not obstruct it. The Daily Times reports.

Responding to a question about the demand for the beneficiaries of the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) to step down, he said: "One could hold the office as long as he is not convicted."

26 drown, 232 rescued after Indonesian ferry sinks

AFP, Jakarta

Twenty-six people were killed and another 232 were plucked to safety after a ferry sank in heavy seas off Indonesia's Sumatra island on Sunday, an official said.

"So far 26 people have died and 232 are safe," said Nurdin Basirun, the district chief on Karimun island where the survivors have been brought after the ferry went down around 10:00 am (0300 GMT).

He said the search was ongoing despite rain and strong swells and the final toll could be higher. The actual number of passengers aboard the vessel was unknown and many might still be missing.

"We worry the number killed will increase. We're still in the process of searching and rescuing," he told AFP.

Sea transport director-general Sunaryo earlier quoted Basirun as saying 292 people had been rescued and four killed, but the Karimun chief said this information was inaccurate.

The 147-tonne Dumai Express was sailing from Batam island to Pekanbaru when it went down in high seas off Karimun, which is near Singapore in the north of the Indonesian archipelago, police said.

Fishermen were among the first rescuers on the scene and pulled many of the survivors to safety.

The ship's capacity was only 273 passengers and an investigation is underway to determine if overloading contributed to the accident, Sunaryo said.

"If it was overloaded that's against the rules and we won't tolerate that," he said.

"We will investigate if the ferry was fit to sail and if its documents were com-

plete. We'll also check whether the ship's captain and port master went ahead despite the bad weather or if the weather changed."

Overloading is a common practice on Indonesian ferries, leading to regular disasters despite repeated official promises to tighten and enforce safety regulations.

Corruption is a major problem, with ships selling more tickets than they should and packing ferries with cargo in addition to passengers.

Indonesian Navy spokesman Iskandar Sitompul said the vessel sank after being hit by waves as high as three metres (10 feet).

"We're not sure if anyone is trapped in the ferry. Those who have been rescued are traumatised," he said, adding that navy ships were helping with the search and rescue effort.

Delhi does not see a role for China in South Asia

Indo-US summit tomorrow

ANI, Geneva

Indian Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh is likely to use his four-day visit to Washington commencing Sunday, to firmly and emphatically reiterate and re-emphasise to the American leadership, that New Delhi does not see a role for China in South Asia, nor will it tolerate attempted third party guardianship initiatives in the region by Beijing.

Placing its strong objection to the reference made to South Asia in the joint statement issued by Presidents Barack Obama and Hu Jintao in Beijing this week, the Indian government has ensured that both the US and China retreat from their proposed mediating efforts on ties between

India and Pakistan.

According to sources, China has indicated its appreciation and respect for the Indian position for only having bilateral and direct talks with Pakistan and brooking no interference from outside.

"On China, we have a bilateral relationship with countries and we are not interested in a guardianship role with any, and not will we accept a guardianship role by any country," said a source.

Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao has said, "The Chinese have said that they respect our position and support direct talks between India and Pakistan."

The Chinese establishment seems to have been told that India will not accept any "guard-

ianship role" by any country.

During President Barack Obama's November 15-18 visit to China, a joint statement on regional and global challenges said: "The two sides welcomed all efforts conducive to peace, stability and development in South Asia. They support the efforts of Afghanistan and Pakistan to fight terrorism, maintain domestic stability and achieve sustainable economic and social development, and support the improvement and growth of relations between India and Pakistan. The two sides are ready to strengthen communication, dialogue and cooperation on issues related to South Asia and work together to promote peace, stability and development in that region."

PAK GRAFT AMNESTY Zardari in, Gilani out of NRO beneficiaries list

ANI, Islamabad

The list of political leaders and other prominent personalities who benefited from the controversial National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) has been made public.

While the list includes the names of President Asif Ali Zardari and 36 other politicians, including Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) chief Altaf Hussain, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and his wife are not on the beneficiaries list.

The list also names several bureaucrats, including Pakistan's Ambassador to the US Hussain Haqqani and Secretary General to the President Salman Farooqi.

While releasing the list of 248 beneficiaries, Minister of State for Law Afzal Sindhu said the fate of those benefiting from this dubious ordinance would be decided by the Supreme Court. The Daily Times reports.

Meanwhile, Haqqani has denied being an NRO beneficiary.

According to a private television channel, Haqqani said he is ready to appear before a court of law to support his cause.

"The National Accountability Bureau (NAB) has not filed any case against me. However, I am ready to appear in court if there is any case against me," Haqqani was quoted, as saying.



An injured bomb blast victim is wheeled into the Guwahati Medical College Hospital yesterday. Suspected separatists in northeast India set off two explosions on Sunday, killing seven people and wounding 50 more.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swine flu kills 4 hajj pilgrims

AFP, Makkah

Swine flu has killed four pilgrims in Saudi Arabia for the annual hajj, health authorities said on Saturday only a few days before the massive Muslim gathering reaches its peak.

An Indian man, a Moroccan woman and a Sudanese man -- all aged 75 -- died from A(H1N1), as had a 17-year-old girl from Nigeria, Saudi health ministry spokesman Khaled al-Marghlani said.

4 perish in Japan bar blaze

AFP, Tokyo

A fire broke out in a bar in downtown Tokyo yesterday, killing four people and injuring 16 others, both customers and staff, a fire department official said.

Firefighters rescued four men and brought them to a hospital but they were confirmed as dead, an official at the Tokyo Fire Department told AFP, adding that three 13 men and three women were also injured.

Three Lashker men arrested in Kashmir

PTI, Jammu

Security forces today arrested three activists of militant outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) in Kishtwar and Poonch districts of Jammu and Kashmir, police said.

Acting on a tip off, Rashtriya Rifles personnel arrested two LeT activists (Over Ground Workers) identified as Abdul Qadir and Farooq Ahmed of Kuror-Patnazi area in Kishtwar district today, they said.



General Secretary of India's Congress Party Rahul Gandhi greets supporters at an election campaign rally in Ranchi on Saturday. Assembly Elections are to be held in Jharkhand from November 25 to December 18.

Mumbai still vulnerable a year after terror attack

AP, Mumbai

The walls that the rockets blew out have not been repaired, and the plaster is a dense scattershot of bullet holes. Dozens of holes, blasted by grenades, pockmark the linoleum floors.

One year after the terror attack that left 166 people dead, the Chabad House -- a once-popular site with Jewish travellers where six foreigners were killed remains scarred, still, and quiet.

In part, that silence is a symptom of how much

remains unchanged since 10 militants with assault rifles fanned out across Mumbai last November 26, attacking hotels, a train station and other targets, paralyzing India's financial capital and shocking the country.

While Mumbai's large hotels and important business centres have paid richly to improve their own security, many worry that the city as a whole remains vulnerable to another assault from Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Pakistan-based group blamed for the attack, or other assailants. While

India is trying the lone surviving gunman, Ajmal Kasab, Lashkar-e-Taiba's leaders remain free in Pakistan.

"Nothing has changed to alter the vulnerabilities of Mumbai," said Ajai Sahni, executive director of the Institute for Conflict Management in New Delhi. "The only institutions that can protect against terrorism are state institutions. They are failing to do so. As a result private institutions are being forced to spend large amounts of money on largely ineffective security."

China's mine blast toll rises to 87

AFP, Harbin

The death toll from a coal mine blast in northeast China climbed to 87 on Sunday as rescuers hunted for 21 workers still trapped deep underground in the nation's deadliest mine disaster in two years.

The explosion tore through the state-run mine in Heilongjiang province near the border with Russia, one of the largest and oldest in China, on Saturday after a build-up of gas, survivors said.

With the main entrance blocked with debris, rescue teams equipped with oxygen tanks are entering the shaft through an adjacent mine, braving the high gas levels to search for survivors, media reports said.



Bollywood star Shilpa Shetty ties the knot

AFP, Khandala

Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty, best known for winning the British version of television show Celebrity Big Brother, married in a lavish ceremony in western India yesterday.

Shetty, 34, wed London-based businessman Raj Kundra in Khandala, a hill resort near Mumbai, with friends, family and showbusiness colleagues attending the Hindu service and all-night celebrations.

The Indian actress became famous outside of her home country when she won the reality TV show in 2007 after being subjected to allegedly racial comments from fellow contestant Jade Goody.

Shetty has not broken through into major film roles, but she has remained one of Bollywood's most talked-about and photographed figures.

"This is it!" she wrote on her blog early Sunday, describing how her life had "been turned upside down, inside out in the past week as the marriage is nearing."

পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD. (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Institution of Engineers (IEB) New Bhaban (4th floor) Ramna, Dhaka-1000

স্মারক নং-১.১০/পিজিসিবি/ডিজিএম/প্রকল্প-২/২০০৯/৪৯৫ তারিখ: ১৮.১১.২০০৯ইং

১। নিলামকৃত মালের বিবরণ	পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ (পিজিসিবি) লিমিটেড এর আওতাধীন খুলনা-১১৩/৩৩ কেভি জিআইএস উপকেন্দ্র এবং খুলনা দক্ষিণ ২৩০/১০২ কেভি উপকেন্দ্র সম্প্রসারণ ও তৎসংলগ্ন ১৩২ কেভি সম্মেলন লাইন নির্মাণ কাজের জন্য আমদানীকৃত বিভিন্ন বৈদ্যুতিক মালামালের প্যাকিং কাঠ (ম্যাটেরিয়ালস) "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে জিভিতে" নিলাম বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র।
২। মালামালের অবস্থান	খুলনা-১১৩/৩৩৩ কেভি উপকেন্দ্র এলাকায়।
৩। নিলামকৃত মালের আইটেম সংখ্যা	১(এক) টি।
৪। বায়নার টাকার পরিমান	উদ্ভূত দরের ২৫% পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ (পিজিসিবি) লিমিটেড, মহাবলী, ঢাকার অনুকূলে তফসিল ব্যাংক কর্তৃক পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে দেয়।
৫। দরপত্র দলিল প্রাপ্তি এবং জমাদানের স্থান	টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক নিজ দেতার হেড প্যাডে আবেদনের মাধ্যমে টিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের যোগ্যতার সর্টিফট দলিলাদির মূল কপি প্রদর্শন পূর্বক (ক) উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক, প্রকল্প-২, বাড়ী-৬, রোড-২৩/৩, এলপান-১, ঢাকা (খ) উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক, সিভিলিয়ন-১, মানিকগঞ্জ, প্রকল্প-১, মহাবলী, ঢাকা, (গ) উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক, প্রকল্প-১, আফতাবনগর, রামপুরা ঢাকা ইহতে দরপত্র সংগ্রহ করিতে হইবে এবং শুধুমাত্র (ক) এর বর্ণিত দস্তাবেজ দরপত্র জমাদান করিতে হইবে।
৬। দরপত্র দলিলের মূল্য	প্রতি সেট টাকা ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশত) মাত্র অফারযোগ্য পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ (পিজিসিবি) লিমিটেড এর অনুকূলে যে কোন তফসিল ব্যাংক কর্তৃক পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে দেয়।
৭। টিকাদার প্রতিষ্ঠানের যোগ্যতা	সকল সরকারী/বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের তালিকাভুক্ত টিকাদার অথবা টেন্ডার লাইসেন্সধারী সব ধরনের ব্যবসারী যাদের হাল নাপাদ টেন্ডার লাইসেন্স, ভাউচ রেজিঃ ও আয়কর পরিশোধের প্রত্যয়ন পত্র ইত্যাদি রহিহাছে।
৮। দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৩.১২.২০০৯ইং অক্সি চলাকালীন সময়।
৯। দরপত্র দলিল জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	১৪.১২.২০০৯ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১০। দরপত্র দলিল খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	১৪.১২.২০০৯ইং বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
১১। কাজ/ডেলিভারী সম্পাদনের সময়	সরবরাহ/ডেলিভারী আদেশ জারীর তারিখ হইতে ৭(সাত) দিনের মধ্যে মালামালের প্রকৃত পরিমানের ভিত্তিতে সম্পূর্ণ অর্থ পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে ১৫ (পনের) দিনের মধ্যে সম্পূর্ণ মালামাল (যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে জিভিতে) বুঝিয়া নিতে হইবে। উক্ত সময়ের মধ্যে সম্পূর্ণ মালামাল গ্রহণ না করিলে পরবর্তীতে কোন দাবী গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।
১২। মালামাল পরিদর্শন	অগ্রাধী প্রতিষ্ঠান সমূহ অত্র দস্তাবেজ প্রাপ্ত অনুমতি/সহযোগীতা গ্রহণ পূর্বক উল্লেখিত ঠিকায় রক্ষিত মালামাল সরেজমিনে পরিদর্শন করিতে পারিবেন।

দরপত্র দরদাতা অথবা মনোনীত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বী দরপত্র খোলার সময় উপস্থিত থাকিতে পারিবেন। নিম্ন স্বাক্ষরকারী কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সমুদয় দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(প্রকৌশলী ফরিদ উদ্দিন আহমদ) উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক ও প্রকল্প পরিচালক প্রকল্প-২, পিজিসিবি, ঢাকা।

Lanka govt had failed to make adequate welfare provision for Tamils

AFP, Colombo

The Sri Lankan government has failed to make adequate welfare provision for the 136,000 Tamil civilians it plans to release from internment camps, rights activists and opposition parties said Sunday.

Heading international calls for the camps to be closed, the authorities said the remaining detainees -- held since the military finally crushed the Tamil Tiger rebels in May -- would be allowed out.

Many observers welcomed Saturday's announcement, but warned the government that it must organise a structured resettlement programme.

"We are insisting that the International Committee of the Red Cross or the UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) should be present when people are resettled," said Nimalka Fernando, spokeswoman for the Democratic People's Movement.

She said the government's plan to "haphazardly" send the civilians back to their villages was "seriously flawed".

The main opposition United National Party (UNP) said the Tamils were leaving the much-criticised camps without receiving any long-term help in providing themselves with food or rebuilding their homes and livelihoods.

Blair's lie led to 'failed' British mission in Iraq

ANI, London

The British mission in Iraq faced "critical failure" because former Prime Minister Tony Blair misled the nation by claiming that Britain's objective was "disarmament, not regime change" and that concealment constrained the planning process for the military action, according to secret government reports.

Hundreds of pages of secret government reports on "lessons learnt" obtained by The Telegraph shed new light on "significant shortcomings" at all levels.

Frank classified interviews with British Army commanders reveal that Blair misled MPs and the public throughout 2002.

The need to conceal

Britain's real objective in Iraq from Parliament resulted in a "rushed" operation "lacking in coherence and resources" which caused a "significant risk" to troops and "critical failure" in the post-war period.

Operations were so under-resourced that some troops went into action with only five bullets each. Others had to deploy to war on civilian airlines, with some of them having their weapons confiscated by airport security.

Commanders reported that the Army's main radio system "tended to drop out at around noon each day because of the heat".

One described the supply chain as "absolutely appalling", saying: "I know for a fact that there was one container full of skis in the desert."