



PHOTO: AFP

Supporters of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) take part in a torch rally in protest against the killing of their cadres by the police in Kathmandu on Saturday. Four of their cadres were killed when they clashed with the police in the western Nepal as police tried to evict thousands of activists who were squatting on government-owned land in the remote Kailali region.

Laden's location unknown for 'years', says Gates

AFP, Washington

The United States does not know where al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden is and has lacked reliable information on his whereabouts for years, US Defence Secretary Robert Gates has said.

The revelation from Gates, speaking in an interview with the ABC News "This Week" program to be aired Sunday, comes days after US President Barack Obama announced he would send 30,000 more troops to Afghanistan.

Asked if Pakistan was doing enough to apprehend Bin

Laden, Gates answered: "Well, we don't know for a fact where Osama bin Laden is. If we did, we'd go get him."

Referring to the last time US intelligence had a fix on Bin Laden's whereabouts, Gates said: "I think it's been years."

Bin Laden is believed to have escaped from Afghanistan into Pakistan in late 2001.

In excerpts of the interview released ahead of the broadcast, Gates also could not confirm reports about a detainee in Pakistan who claimed he had information on where Bin Laden was ear-

lier this year.

Part of the United States' reason for going to war more than eight years ago in the wake of the September 11 attacks was to kill or capture Bin Laden.

The al-Qaeda leader is seen as the chief mastermind of the 2001 attacks in the United States that killed nearly 3,000 people.

Immediately after the attacks, US government officials named Bin Laden and the al-Qaeda network as the prime suspects and offered a reward of 25 million dollars for information leading to his capture or death.

Maoist strike shuts down Nepal

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kathmandu

Capital city Kathmandu and other districts were hard-hit Sunday by a general strike called by Nepal's former Maoist guerrillas after clashes between security forces and homeless squatters during a demolition drive killed at least six people and triggered arson and looting in farwestern Nepal.

Despite the morning chill, hundreds of Maoist supporters began marching at key thoroughfares of the capital Sunday, burning tyres to bring traffic to a standstill and shouting slogans against the violence in Kailali district, a Maoist stronghold.

Zardari may 'pull a Putin' to become PM

Says Foreign Policy magazine

ANI, Washington

With the pressure from the opposition mounting and relentless attacks being carried out by a hostile media, chances are that Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari may try to replicate Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and opt to step down, a report in the Foreign Policy magazine said.

Since last month calls for Zardari to step down have increased following the release of a list of names of politicians who benefited from an amnesty law known as the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO). The controversial ordinance expired on November 28.

According to sources, amid the height-

ening pressure "Zardari could 'pull a Putin,' whereby he cedes power to Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and then, as head of his party, makes a play to have himself elected to that post."

However, the sources suggested that it is too early to predict that how successful such a move might be.

There are also reports about the powerful Pakistani Army readying a move against the President, which is based on the perception that he is moving too close to the US.

But the magazine said that military's intention to topple Zardari is not backed by the State Department leadership.

There has also been reporting that the military is readying a move against

Zardari based on the perception that he is complicit in compromising Pakistani sovereignty by moving too close to the United States.

But the perception that the military has either the will or the intent to upend Zardari isn't shared by the US State Department leadership, and experts also believe that though weakened, Zardari would continue on the chair for the time being.

"Zardari is a very shrewd person in that sense and I think he is going to make a deal with Nawaz Sharif in order to stay in power, but he probably has to give up something," said Barmak Pazhwak, programme officer at the United States Institute of Peace.

India seeks to strengthen ties with Russia

ANI, New Delhi

Stating that over the years, India and Russia have ensured that their multi-faceted relationship acquires greater depth and maturity, Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh on Sunday said that it would be his endeavour to take this partnership forward during his three-day visit to Moscow.

In a departure statement issued before leaving for Moscow on Sunday, Dr Singh said, "The Annual Summit is the principal mechanism for the advancement of our strategic partnership with Russia. This is a partnership based on the solid foundation of long-standing friendship, deep mutual trust

and strong convergence of interests. Over the years, our multifaceted cooperation with Russia has acquired greater depth and maturity through joint efforts. We seek to strengthen these ties further."

The key points of his discussion with the Russian president are going to be cooperation in areas of defence, civil nuclear energy, space, science and technology and hydrocarbons.

"At the Summit meeting with President Medvedev, I hope to review the status of our bilateral cooperation, including in the key areas of defence, civil nuclear energy, space, science and technology and hydrocarbons," he said.



PHOTO: AFP

Friends of Timur Parfiryev, a victim of the nightclub fire in Perm, attend his funeral at a cemetery outside Perm yesterday. The death toll from a blaze that swept through the Russian nightclub early Saturday rose to 112 and dozens remained in critical care on Sunday in one of the country's worst tragedies in recent memory.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kasab trial to end within a week

PTI, Mumbai

The 26/11 Mumbai terror attack trial is expected to be wrapped up within a week, with only 35 formal witnesses remained to be examined in the case in which Pakistani gunman Ajmal Kasab and two others are charged with killing 166 people.

"Of the total 331 formal witnesses, whose affidavits were submitted to the court recently, the evidence of 296 persons was led this week," Special Public Prosecutor Ujjwal Nikam told PTI.

Israeli military chief on first visit to India

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's army chief of staff, Lieutenant General Gabi Ashkenazi, has left on a trip to India, the first time the head of the Israeli military is visiting the country, the army said on Sunday.

Two peacekeepers killed in Darfur

AFP, Khartoum

Two Rwandan peacekeepers were killed in an attack on Saturday in Sudan's war-torn region of Darfur where insecurity is rampant, in the second such deadly incident in as many days, a UN source said.

Pakistan holds Bangladesh

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also ensuring Sri Lanka's semifinal berth after the islanders earlier thumped Bhutan 6-0.

Bangladesh made one change to the starting eleven from the game against Bhutan, opting for Mamun Miah in central defence, replacing Atiqur Rahman Mishu. Fielding a five-man defence, they were put under pressure from Pakistan who could ill afford a draw let alone a defeat in order to stay in contention for the semifinals.

Bangladesh, who looked in

total command against a weak Bhutan, found it hard to assert their authority in the midfield and the two strikers ran around without much purpose, let down by a lack of rhythm between them and the midfield.

It was an even contest though in the first quarter as both sides pressed yet failed to take command of the midfield.

The first attack on goal from Bangladesh came on 15 minutes when Pranotosh made a mazy run in the Pakistan half darting past two and placed the ball for Bangladesh's first match hero Enamul who saw

his shot being deflected off a defender for a corner. From the ensuing corner, Rajani Kanta Barman headed high above the bar, much to the chagrin of the partisan crowd.

Pakistan came close on 25 minutes when Mahmood Ali crossed one beautifully for Saifullah Khan who dived full length but failed to get his head on the end of it.

As the half wore on, Pakistan began to put in more attacks and confined Bangladesh inside their own half. Bangladesh were living dangerously and a total lack of

communication between Mamun Miah and Rajani Kanta Barman almost gave Pakistan an opening just before half-time. Arif Mahmood's drive from outside the box however, lacked vigour and the ball went wide of the bar. Bangladesh winger Mehedi Hasan Ujjal darted down the left flank a couple of times, provided a wonderful cross for the strikers on the 40th minute but the Pakistan defence held firm and cleared the danger.

Pakistan made two changes to their side in the second half to bring more verve in, while

Bangladesh stuck to the same eleven.

Ujjal once again showed his skills as he danced past two defenders inside the box in the 48th minute and unleashed a shot on target, but the Pakistan defence cleared for a corner. He took a swerving corner on which Enamul Haque jumped high and beat the goalie with a strong header only to find defender Mamood Ali clear from the goal line. Arman Aziz replaced Pranotosh, who had an ordinary night in the middle, on the hour mark in a bid to bring more rhythm in the

midfield.

As in the first half, Pakistan began to assert their authority as the game got towards the end. They struck a few dangerous attacks as confusion set into Bangladesh's play. A goalmouth melee almost gave way for a Pakistan opener, however this time striker Enamul Haque turned on his defensive duties to head away a feeble shot from Pakistan substitute Abdul Aziz just in front of the goal line. Bangladesh lived a few nervous moments as Pakistan found three free-kicks from the top of

the box, but they failed to capitalize on each occasion.

Bangladesh coach Shahidur Rahman brought fresh legs as he made a double-substitution with ten minutes of regular time remaining with Zahed Parvez and Atiqur Rahman coming in place of Mishu Mehedi Hasan and Zahid Hasan Emily respectively.

But that seemed to bring little change to the state of play or the end result, for that matter, as the two sides fought purposelessly towards the first scoreless match of the tournament.

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (IFT) FOR A. Erection & Commission of Plant B. Construction of Oil Tanks

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from reputed electrical and mechanical engineering contractors for (A) erection and commission of plant and (B) construction of base oil storage tanks for its expansion project in the existing site of Mobil Jamuna Lubricants Limited (MJLL) plant in East Patenga, Chittagong, under the following terms and conditions:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 01. Invitation for Tender Ref. & Date | : MJLL-GP-E&C-09; 8 December 2009 |
| 02. Description of Works | : (A) Erection and Commission of Grease Manufacturing Plant with Auxiliaries and (B) Construction of three (3) Base Oil Storage Tanks in the existing site of the MJLL Plant in East Patenga, Chittagong. |
| 03. Budget and Source of Funds | : MJLL's own |
| 04. Eligibility of Tenderer | : Reputed electrical and mechanical engineering contractor with substantial experience, minimum five (5) years, in plant erection and construction. Prospective Tenderer shall submit Completion Certificates for at least three (3) similar contracts completed during the last three (3) years at any Government sector; Autonomous Body, Corporation or Private sector organization. Prospective Tenderer must have Trade License, VAT registration, and TIN. |
| 05. Tender Security | : Tk 2,00,000 (Taka Two Lacs Only) in the form of Bank Guarantee. |
| 06. Price of Tender Document | : Tk 2,000 (Taka Two Thousand Only) per set by pay order only payable to Mobil Jamuna Lubricants Limited (non-refundable) |
| 07. Availability of Tender Document | : From 08.12.09 to 15.12.09 |
| 08. Location of Tender Selling, Submission, and Opening | : Mobil House, CWS (C) 9, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212 |
| 09. Closing Time & Date of Tender | : 11:00 AM (BST) on 30.12.09 |
| 10. Special Instructions | : MJLL reserves the right to accept or reject in part or whole of any or all Tenders. |

Note: If for any unavoidable reason or circumstance, the receipt and opening of tender cannot be held on stipulated date, the same shall be held on the next working day at the same time.

Mobil ইঞ্জিনকে রাখে সচল



PHOTO: AFP

Iraqi Zimnaco Saleh kisses his mother Fatima Hama Saleh with whom he was reunited 20 years after the Halabja massacre in the northeastern Kurdish village on Saturday.

Iraqi reunited with mother 20 years after gas attack

BBC ONLINE

A man who as a baby survived a chemical attack on the Iraqi city of Halabja in 1988 has been reunited with his mother.

Ali Pour was taken to Iran by Iranian soldiers who stormed the Kurdish city days after the gas attack by Saddam Hussein's forces.

Pour, now 21, had to wait for the results of a DNA test before it could be determined whose son he was.

His mother, whose husband and six other children had all died in the attack, fainted when she heard.

Five thousand people were killed in the Halabja attack, considered one of the worst atrocities of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Five other families were waiting to hear from a judge whether Pour was their missing son, but Fatima Mohammed Salih, 58, was found to be his real mother.

"I'm in a dream," Pour said as he comforted her, according to Associated Press news agency.

Career Opportunity

@ DACHSER Bangladesh

DACHSER Bangladesh Ltd., a subsidiary of DACHSER Group a Global Logistics & Freight Forwarding Company and Europe's one of top five leading logistics providers with HQ at Kempton-Germany is looking for intelligent and dynamic candidates for the following positions:

Sales & Marketing: Manager, Assistant Manager/s and Executive/s (Dhaka & Chittagong Office):

Qualifications: MBA / Masters in any discipline. With minimum 7-8 years of working experience for Manager, minimum 4-5 years of experience for Asstt. Manager and minimum 2-3 years of experience for Executive position in relevant field. Willing to take challenge and achieve sales targets by generating sales from different business channels. To focus on direct sales activities in Airfreight Import & Export, Sea freight Import & Export, Contract & Project Logistics. Should be strong connected with the local market to procure local business.

Air Freight, Operation Manager (Dhaka office):

Qualifications: MBA/Masters in any discipline. Must have 7-8 years of working experience for Manager and 5-6 years of experience for Asstt. Manager in relevant field. Should have good connection with the Air Lines as well as with customers engaged in export/import business. Should be capable to handle Air Freight operation independently.

Sea Freight, Manager (Dhaka Office):

Qualifications: MBA/Masters in any discipline with minimum 7-8 years of experience in relevant field in the same position. Should have strong connection with the Shipping Lines as well as with customers engaged in export/import business. Should be capable to handle Sea freight operation independently.

HR & Admin, Manager (Dhaka Office):

Qualifications: MBA (HR/ Management) with minimum 7-8 years of experience in relevant field in the same position in any multinational company. Should have sound knowledge on Human Resource Management including HR Planning, Analyzing & Job designing, Training and developing skilful employees, Performance appraisal and Bangladesh Labour law.

Accounting & Finance, Manager (Dhaka Office):

Qualifications: MBA (Finance)/ M.Com (Accounting/Finance) / CA (Inter.) Must have 7-8 years of experience in relevant field (Multinational Freight Forwarding & Logistics Company) as same position. Should have sound knowledge on practical Accounting, IAS, MIS, Budgeting & Planning, Company Act-1994, VAT and Taxation law/matters.

Logistics & Transportation, Deputy Manager: (Dhaka):

Qualifications: MBA / Masters in any discipline with minimum 4-5 years of working experience in relevant field. Should have sound knowledge in Logistics / Supply Chain, Transportation and Warehouse Management System.

Attractive compensation package and excellent working environment will be offered to the deserving candidates.

For the aforesaid position/s, fluency in English and Computer literacy are prerequisites. The candidates need to be proactive, hardworking and imaginative. If you think you are the right person we are looking for, send your CV along with recent passport size photograph. Position applied for must be marked on top of the envelope. Application should be reached at the following address on or before December 20, 2009.

The Executive Director
DACHSER Bangladesh Limited

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