

Imran calls for mid-term polls in Pakistan

Major parties reject demand, PPP vows to stay put

ANI, Islamabad

The call for fresh general elections in Pakistan by Pakistan Tehrik-i-Insaf chief Imran Khan in the wake of the Supreme Court's verdict against the NRO has been rejected by all major political parties in the country.

Almost all-important parties, including the PML, are of the view that mid-term polls are not a solution to the political crisis being faced by the country.

The Dawn quoted Pakistan Muslim League-N spokesman Ahsan Iqbal, as saying that his party would fully support the Pakistan People's Party government in completing its constitutional term.

Instead of holding mid-term polls, he said, the PPP leadership should take realistic steps to resolve various issues, which

may include asking the beneficiaries of the National Reconciliation Ordinance to step down and get their names cleared by courts.

Iqbal also criticised the PPP for failing to introduce an agreed accountability law in two years, adding that matters could get out of hands if an impartial commission was not set up soon to handle all corruption cases.

Meanwhile, Jamaat-i-Islami chief Syed Munawar Hasan pointed out that mid-term polls would only help to bring another US ally to power after the ouster of a government that sacrificed national interests.

"People should rally around our 'Go America, go' campaign to force US forces to quit the region so that future elections can bring about a real change," he said.

Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam secretary general

Abdul Ghafoor Haideri said the government should ask the NRO beneficiaries to step down instead of giving an impression of confrontation with the judiciary.

He said that if a change was necessary it could be brought about inside parliament, instead of through fresh polls.

On the other hand Pakistan Punjab Governor Salmaan Taseer has said that no leaders from Pakistan's People's Party would resign from government over mere allegations, and added that they would continue to hold their constitutional posts until proven guilty.

"Allegations have been levelled against leaders of the PML-N and other political parties, their cases are pending in courts. Allegations will keep surfacing, but the government will continue its work," the Daily Times quoted Taseer, as saying.

As lawyers we have to hope for the best. We are always hoping," Kyi Win said. If the case is rejected, it is thought that they would have to appeal directly to the military government to try to get the conviction overturned.

The Nobel peace laureate, who is detained at her lakeside

Suu Kyi lawyers appeal against her house arrest

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's supreme court began hearing an appeal yesterday against the extended house arrest of detained opposition leader and pro-democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi.

The 64-year-old Suu Kyi was ordered in August to spend another 18 months in detention after being convicted over an incident in which a US man swam to her house. A lower court rejected an initial appeal in October.

During the hearing at the court in Yangon, which lasted about 90 minutes, Suu Kyi's legal team argued that her conviction was legally unsound, according to her main lawyer Kyi Win.

The judges later posted a notice in the court allowing the case to proceed. They were expected to call back the defence team and the prosecution to give further arguments at a later date.

"As lawyers we have to hope for the best. We are always hoping," Kyi Win said. If the case is rejected, it is thought that they would have to appeal directly to the military government to try to get the conviction overturned.

The Nobel peace laureate, who is detained at her lakeside mansion in Yangon, did not attend the hearing and journalists were barred. Witnesses said security was tight at the court, with plain-clothed policemen patrolling the area.

Myanmar's military rulers have kept Suu Kyi in detention for 14 of the last 20 years, since they refused to recognise the landslide win by her National League for Democracy in the country's last democratic elections in 1990.



PHOTO: AFP

This photo taken on November 4, shows Myanmar democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi following a meeting with US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Kurt Campbell (back R) at a hotel in Yangon. Lawyers for Suu Kyi filed an appeal against her extended house arrest sentence on Monday at the country's Supreme Court.



PHOTO: AFP

After a miraculous recovery from surgery, formerly conjoined Bangladeshi twins Krishna (left) and Trishna are released from Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne yesterday, a day before their birthday. (Story on page 1)

Order to keep Islamabad mosques closed at night

ANI, Islamabad

In the wake of a fragile security situation in the country, the Pakistan Government has ordered all mosques in Islamabad to be closed after Esha prayers to ensure that terror suspects don't stay in them at night.

Pakistan's Interior Minister Rehman Malik conveyed the decision to the Ulama after talking in a rally in Islamabad on Sunday to promote religious harmony during Muharram.

According to the Dawn, the orders would be implemented in Islamabad, but it may be followed in other parts of the country by provincial governments.

The paper quoted Islamabad's Deputy Commissioner Amir Ali Ahmed, as saying that the Ulama had assured the government that they would keep mosques locked after Esha prayers and reopen them for Fajr prayers.

"It is feared that suspects can hide in mosques at night and carry out their nefarious designs (terrorism activities) in the day time," the official said.

The possibility of any suspect staying in mosques at night has increased after the local administration decided to keep a close watch on the clients of hotels, inns and guesthouses.

CLIMATE SUMMIT

Britain blames China for 'farcical' talks

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown yesterday accused countries of holding the UN climate summit to ransom as bitter recriminations swirled over the outcome of the negotiations.

Summit host, Danish Prime Minister Lars Loeke Rasmussen, admitted leaders had been left with too much to do by their negotiators while Britain said the meeting had lurches into farce and pointed the finger of blame at China.

Brown warned that lessons must be learned from the way the negotiations were carried out.

"Never again should we face the deadlock that threatened to pull down those talks. Never again should we let a global deal to move towards a greener future be held to ransom by only a handful of countries," he said.

While Brown refrained from naming countries, his climate change minister Ed Miliband said China had led a

group of countries that "hijacked" the negotiations which had at times presented a "farcical picture to the public".

The agreement finally put together by a select group of leaders set no target for greenhouse-gas emissions cuts and is not legally binding -- omissions Miliband blamed on Beijing.

"We did not get an agreement on 50 percent reductions in global emissions by 2050 or on 80 percent reductions by developed countries," Miliband wrote in The Guardian newspaper.

"Both were vetoed by China, despite the support of a coalition of developed and the vast majority of developing countries," Miliband's aides told The Guardian that Sudan, Bolivia and other left-wing Latin American governments were included in the criticism.

China, the world's top polluter, resisted pressure for outside scrutiny of its emissions. It has given the warmest

welcome to the accord. "With the efforts of all parties, the summit yielded significant and positive results," Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said in a statement.

France's Prime Minister Francois Fillon, on a visit to Beijing, trod delicately but he showed Europe's frustration with the outcome.

"France, like all of the European Union, would have wanted the Copenhagen Accord to go a bit further," he said, while adding that the agreement should serve as a stepping stone for a more comprehensive agreement.

His comments echoed those of US President Barack Obama who acknowledged that all of the world's polluters would quickly have to do more after the "extremely difficult and complex negotiations" needed in Copenhagen.

Rasmussen, who came in for widespread criticism over his stewardship of the summit of around 130 leaders, said the agreement was "better than nothing".

UN calls for restraint

Nepali Maoist strike turns violent

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kathmandu

An alarmed UN called for restraint as the general strike enforced by Nepal's former Maoist guerrillas entered the second day Monday amidst reports of widespread violence.

Police said 72 protesters were arrested and almost an equal number of people, including security forces, injured while more than a dozen vehicles were vandalised and shops and

industries attacked.

Nepal's Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, who returned from the Copenhagen climate summit Sunday, headed for a hospital in the capital to enquire about the condition of a deputy superintendent of police, Dilli Chaudhary, who sustained serious head injuries during clashes and is said to be in critical condition after an emergency operation.

"I call on all groups to exercise restraint, to avoid provocation and to reduce tension through

dialogue," the UN's top human rights official in Nepal, Richard Bennett, said in a press statement.

Bennett, who heads the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal, said the display of violence was "some of the worst on the streets of Kathmandu for several years, perhaps since Jana Andolan-II (the pro-democracy protests against deposed king Gyanendra's army-backed reign in 2006)".

The militants seized the building near police headquarters in Gardez, capital of eastern Paktia province, at about 10:00 am (0530 GMT) and began firing at security forces as they surrounded the building, an official said.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the assault, which was still continuing at midday with police and two remaining gunmen firing at each other in central Gardez, the capital of eastern Paktia province.

The assailants stormed a building near police station shortly before 10 am, said provincial government spokesman Rahullah Samon. He said three of the attackers died in the fighting one of them wearing a suicide vest that detonated.

Eastern Afghanistan is one of

Taliban in suicide vests attack Afghan city

They seize building, spark gun battle: 3 killed

AFP, AP, Khost

late 2001.

"It's now over. They were five people and three of them have been killed," the provincial police chief, General Azizuddin Wardak, told AFP. Three civilians, including a woman, plus a police officer were wounded, he added.

A purported Taliban spokesman, speaking from an unknown location, said the Islamist militia carried out the operation.

General Wardak said earlier that four militants were killed but said subsequent checks showed that two of the four were wounded civilians.

The militants were armed with rifles, rocket launchers and grenades, and were wearing bomb-packed suicide vests, the police chief said.

Their bombs went off under police fire, he said. He did not give further details, saying the incident was being investigated.

Security forces surrounded the residential apartment block about 200 metres (yards) from a quick reaction police unit, he said.

Coordinated gun and suicide attacks, usually targeting Afghan government officials and security installations, have become increasingly frequent.

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Date: 17 December, 2009

International Tender: Extension of Closing Date

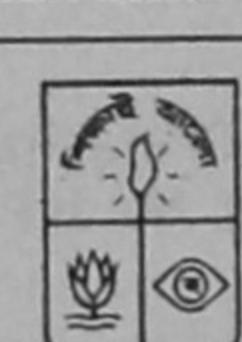
Jalalabad Gas T&D System Ltd invited international tender for Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 12 inch Diameter 600 RF Schedule/80 Senior Type (Dual Chamber) Orifice Meter on Turnkey Basis in Debpur, Sylhet, Bangladesh published in The Daily Janakantha on 04-11-2009, The Bangladesh Observer on 05-11-2009, The Daily Star on 07-11-2009 and The Daily Ittefaq on 11-11-2009 (Invitation for Tender No: JG/Debpur/Orifice Meter/2009/438, dated: 1 November, 2009).

Due to requests from potential bidders, the deadline for submission and opening of the said tender is extended to 21st January, 2010 instead of 23rd December, 2009.

All other terms & conditions of the tender and corrigendum published earlier will remain unchanged.

GD-5743

General Manager (Planning)



Institute of Information Technology (IIT)

University of Dhaka

Post Graduate Diploma in Information Technology

Admission Notice, Session- January 2010

Applications are invited from the prospective students desiring to take (one-year) course for the Postgraduate Diploma in Information Technology (PGDIT), to be offered by Institute of Information Technology, University of Dhaka. Twenty four (24) students will be taken on the basis of merit. Applicants must satisfy the following requirements

1. Citizen of Bangladesh

2. Age must be less than 40 years on 1/1/2010

3. Minimum 2 years graduation in any discipline, with Mathematics (including Algebra/Statistics) as a subject at H.S.C/A-Level or Bachelor's level. No third class/ division (or equivalent) in any public examination

Admission test will be held in two phases. Written examination will be held to test Quantitative, Analytical and English Language proficiency. Successful (written test) candidates will have to appear a viva voce for final selection to enroll in PGDIT.

Application forms can be downloaded from the website of IIT and to be submitted to IIT office at University of Dhaka, on payment of TK. 700/- in cash (non-refundable) between 10.00 am to 4.30 pm.

Schedule for Admission Procedure:

Last Date to Submit the Application	January 19, 2010, Tuesday
Venue & Time for Written Test	IIT Building, 3:00 pm., Friday, January 22, 2010
Publication of Result of Written Test	January 24, 2010, Sunday
Date of Viva Voce	January 26-27, 2010, Tuesday and Wednesday
Publication of the List of Eligible Candidates	February 02, 2010, Tuesday
Orientation and Classes Begin	February 11, 2010, Thursday

For the downloadable Application Form, Admission Brochure and latest news on admission please go to <http://iit.univdhaka.edu>

N.B. Classes will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday to Sunday.

GD-5747

Director

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