



Mourners surround a convoy transporting the body of deceased Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPM) leader Jyoti Basu outside a hospital in Kolkata yesterday.

US drone strike kills 20 in NW Pakistan

AFP, Miranshah

A US drone attack yesterday killed 20 militants in an area of Pakistan's north-west tribal belt where local Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud reportedly escaped death days ago, officials said.

The attack took place in Shaktoi area, 40km southeast of Miranshah, the main town in the rugged tribal region of North Waziristan -- the same spot where US missiles pounded an extremist hideout on Thursday.

That raid triggered rumours that Mehsud had been killed or injured, but the chief of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) released an audio message late Saturday denying rumours of his demise and vowing revenge for the US

strikes.

Security officials said US drones appear to be tracking Mehsud amid a surge in the strikes by unmanned spy planes. Sunday's deadly bombing was the tenth US drone strike to hit Pakistan's tribal belt this month alone.

"The target was a militant compound," said a security official in the area. "Twenty militant deaths have been confirmed."

An intelligence official said that drone aircraft fired at least three missiles, while militants had ringed the demolished compound in the remote and mountainous area and were digging out the bodies.

"The drones are apparently tracking and targeting Pakistani Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud, whose presence is

frequently reported in the area," he said.

Another security official, who also asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of the US strikes, said it was too early to tell if any high-value militant targets were among the 20 killed on Sunday.

Mehsud released a new audio recording on Saturday to dispel rumours of his death Thursday, which the military had said they were investigating. The TTP said Mehsud left the site of the attack less than an hour beforehand.

"On the 16th of January, I am saying it again -- I am alive, I am OK, I am not injured... when the drone strike took place, I was not present in the area at that time," Mehsud said.

India, Nepal agree to boost bilateral ties

ANI, Kathmandu

India and Nepal yesterday agreed that recent meetings of bilateral institutional mechanisms had reinvigorated the bilateral relationship in key areas.

A joint statement issued by the governments of the two countries after the conclusion of External Affairs Minister SM Krishna's three-day visit to Nepal from January 15 to 17, said that all decisions taken in the framework of these mechanisms should be implemented in a timely manner.

They also decided that other institutional mechanisms should meet as soon as possible.

The statement said that Krishna had paid an official visit to Nepal at the invitation of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nepal Sujata Koirala.

'Worried' Pak govt plans to stifle AQ Khan

ANI, Islamabad

The Pakistan government is worried over the recent disclosures made by disgraced nuclear scientist Dr A Q Khan about state secrets to the international media, and has decided to take strong measures in this regard.

A high level meeting was called to look into the issue. The meeting was presided over by Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani himself.

Grief overwhelms India

Top leaders mourn Jyoti Basu' death

ANI, INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kolkata

Indian political leaders paid glowing tributes to Communist veteran Jyoti Basu yesterday terming his death 'a great loss' and described him as the architect of modern West Bengal.

The grief of Jyoti Basu's demise overwhelmed the entire political fraternity, as leaders expressed their heartfelt condolences as their last tribute to the Communist patriarch. He will always be remembered not just as the longest serving chief minister of West Bengal but also a leader who always stood by ethics in all seasons of his political career.

Former prime minister and senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sunday said the demise of Marxist leader Jyoti Basu had 'ended a chapter in the country's politics'.

"He was an able administrator and a hard working political leader. He not only created a record for being chief minister of West Bengal for the longest duration but took several visionary steps," Vajpayee said in his condolence message.

Union Finance Minister and head of West Bengal State Congress Pranab Mukherjee said: "He was architect of first United Progressive Alliance government. The nation lost a great Parliamentarian in him."

Former Lok Sabha speaker Somnath Chatterjee Sunday mourned the death of Communist patriarch Jyoti Basu, saying he had lost someone like his father.

"There will be none like Jyoti Basu again." This is how Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) general secretary Prakash Karat Sunday saluted a man he prevented from becoming the prime minister in 1996.

Bharatiya Janata Party president Nitin Gadkari described Jyoti Basu as "a leader who did politics of principles."

An aggrieved Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav, who wanted Jyoti Basu to occupy Prime Minister's post as the head of coalition, said: "In Jyoti Basu's death, a great era has come to its end."

Communist Party of India leader D Raja described Basu as "the finest Communist leader".

Union Home Minister P Chidambaram, on this occasion said: "It is a sad day for us as we remember the great son of India. He has served for many decades, not only the people of West Bengal, but India...he dedicated his entire life to the nation. He was a great patriot, great democrat and a great human."

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare Ghulam Nabi Azad said, "Jyoti Basu was not only one of the longest serving Chief Ministers in the country but also an extremely popular mass leader."

Iraq's 'Chemical Ali' to die for Halabja attack

AFP, Baghdad

Saddam Hussein's notorious enforcer "Chemical Ali" was sentenced to death on Sunday for ordering the gassing of Kurds in the Iraqi town of Halabja, a brutal attack that killed an estimated 5,000 people.

Ali Hassan al-Majid will die by hanging, the state-run Al-Iraqiya television channel said, having been found guilty of the attack in the northeast of the country as the Iran-Iraq war drew to a close in 1988.

The ruling is the fourth time that Majid, better known by his macabre nickname, has received a death sentence.

Three-quarters of the victims at Halabja were women and children, in what is now thought to have been the deadliest gas attack ever carried out against civilians.

"This judgment is a victory for all Iraqis, humanity and the Kurds because Halabja is the biggest crime of modern times," said Majid Hamad Amin, minister of the martyrs and displaced in the Kurdish regional government.

"Halabja is not only a Kurdish case but it is an issue for all Iraqis and the rest of the world," he added.

A close cousin of Saddam, Majid earned his ghastly moniker for ordering poisonous gas attacks in a brutal scorched-earth campaign of bombings and mass deportations that left an estimated 182,000 Kurds dead in the 1980s.

Major powers fail to agree on new Iran sanctions

AFP, New York

Representatives of six major powers ended a meeting in New York Saturday to mull a response to Iran's nuclear defiance without reaching agreement, a Russian official said.

"We had a very sober assessment," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told reporters. "It is inconclusive in the sense that we did not make any decisions

right away."

The closed-door working luncheon, which lasted a little over two hours, grouped the five permanent members of the UN Security Council -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- plus Germany.

Beijing, which has been cool to the prospect of slapping a fourth round of sanctions on Tehran backed by the West, sent a lower-level diplomat, while the other countries

were represented by political directors of their respective foreign ministries.

State Department spokesman Philip Crowley insisted Thursday that "it will be a useful meeting to have regardless of the Chinese representation."

Diplomatic sources said the European Union-hosted meeting of the so-called P5+1 was preceded by a two-hour gathering of the four Western members of the group.

'Crack unit' being trained by US to seal off Pak nukes

PTI, INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, London/ Islamabad

Alarmed by a slew of terror attacks on sensitive military installations in Pakistan, the US is putting in place "a crack unit" of its elite troops to seal off that country's nuclear weapons and ensure they do not fall into the hands of militants, a media report claimed yesterday.

The US army is training the crack unit so that it could seal off and snatch back Pakistani nuclear weapons in the event of militants, "possibly from inside the country's security apparatus," getting their hands on a nuclear device or materials that could make one, The Sunday Times reported.

It said the specialised unit would be charged with recovering the nuclear materials and securing them.

The move follows a series of attacks on sensitive military installations over the past two years, several of which housed nuclear facilities, and rising tension that has seen a series of official complaints by the US authorities to Islamabad in the past fortnight," the report said.

BRAC
75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
Phone : 8824180 - 7, Ext : 2032.

Invitation for Tender (IFT) for Purchase of Education Materials

Project Name	BRAC Education Program (BEP)
Source of Fund	DC Fund
Tender Package No	BEP(DC)-EM/01-10
Reference No & Date	IFT/BRAC/BPD-BEP/10-05 January 14, 2010
Tender Name	Education Materials
Time of Delivery	As per our Tender Schedule.
Price of the Tender Documents	Tk.500.00 (Five Hundred) only.
Tender Security	3% of Total Tender Value.
Tender Documents Available	Accounts Department, Annex Building, 75 Mohakhali, BRAC Center, 4 th Floor, Dhaka-1212.
Date & Time of Selling Documents	January 20 to January 27, 2010 Between 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.
Tender Dropping Place, Date & Time	Procurement Department, Ground Floor, BRAC Center, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. January 28, 2010 between 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.
Tender Opening Place, Date & Time	3 rd Floor Conference Room/ Class Room/ Canteen, BRAC Center, January 28, 2010 at 2:30 pm.

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Quotations are invited from the bonafide manufacturers/dealers/distributors & Suppliers for Supply the following items of Pan Pacific Sonargaon. The detail specifications, terms and conditions are mentioned in the Tender Schedule.

Sl. No.	Name of the Items.	Quantity
01.	Rectangular Banquet Table (Small) (Re-tender)	50 Nos.
02.	Rectangular Banquet Table (Large) (Re-tender)	25 Nos.
03.	Banquet Round Table (Re-tender)	50 Nos.
04.	Replacement of the existing underground section of Gas Pipeline (Re-tender)	01 Lot.
05.	Fills of Cooling Tower (Re-tender)	3000 Pcs
06.	Refrigeration Compressor with Condenser Fan Motor (Re-tender)	02 Sets.
07.	Petrol Engine Driven Fire Pump (2 nd -re-tender)	01 Set.
08.	Water Motor Pump (Re-tender)	15 Nos.
09.	Polycum Conference Phone Sets	02 Nos.

Interested bidders may obtain tender schedule from the Purchasing Department, PPSD and Assistant Manager Liaison, HIL on submission of a letter on their respective letterhead up to **February 3, 2010** during office hours on payment of Tk.1,000 for Sl.No-1 to 6, Tk.500 for Sl No-7 and Tk.300 for Sl.No-8 to 9 (each item) (non-refundable). The bids will be received in both the places up to 02:30 p.m. on **February 4, 2010** and will be opened on the same day at 03:00 p.m. in Purchasing Department, PPSD in presence of the bidders, if any.

Tender must be supported by an Earnest Money amounting to 5% of quoted price in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any schedule Bank in favor of Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka. Any tender, which is not accompanied by the required Earnest Money, shall not be considered.

Pan Pacific Sonargaon / HIL authority reserves the right to accept / reject any tender in part or in full or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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National Budget Training – Requests for Proposals

Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) seeks a qualified Bangladeshi organization to provide training in budgeting and financial analysis principles to Parliament officials. This work will be contracted under the USAID-funded Promoting Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (PROGATI) Project.

Objective. Train approximately 10 Parliament officials in budgeting and financial analysis practices.

Tasks. The selected organization will complete the following tasks:

1. Assess current skills of parliament staff to participate in training events;
2. Develop training curriculum and materials;
3. Conduct one training course (one day) on Linking Budget and Policy;
4. Conduct one training course (two days) on Understanding Ministry of Finance Reports;
5. Conduct one training course (two days) on Gender Sensitive Budgeting;
6. Conduct one training course (one day) on Budget Classification;
7. Conduct one training course (three days) on Program and Capital Budget; and
8. Conduct one training course (three days) on Revenue Projections.

Proposals. Interested organizations should submit proposals including the following information [maximum 8 pages].

1. Cover letter, with address details, contact information and contact person [1 page].
2. Organizational profile, including management structure and core staff expertise in related areas of work [2 pages].
3. Qualifications, presenting previous experience with module development and training implementation on similar topics and to similar target audience undertaken as lead firm in last five years and client reference information [2 pages].
4. Technical approach, describing (a) how you will conduct the required tasks; (b) the roles and responsibilities of all persons proposed for the work; (c) proposed resource persons for training; and (d) how training will be relevant and practical to target audience [3 pages].
5. Detailed timeline for completing the five (5) tasks noted above. [not included in proposal page limits]
6. Clear and detailed budget estimates for all labor, travel and material costs necessary to complete all tasks [not included in proposal page limits].

Proposals will be assessed on both technical and cost proposals. Technical and cost proposals should be submitted as separate documents. Do not include attachments or promotional documents with your submission. Note that this enlistment does not in any way commit DAI to enter into contact or partnership with any organization.

DAI will host a bidders' conference to answer questions on this RFP on Tuesday, January 19 2010 at 11 AM. The meeting will be held at House 54/A, Road 16, Block A, Banani, Dhaka.

Electronic submissions are encouraged, and should be sent to progatiol@yahoo.com with "Budget Training" in the subject line. Written submission should be delivered to House 54/A, Road 16, Block A, Banani, Dhaka in sealed envelope addressed to "PROGATI Grants Manager". All submissions are due by 14:00 hours on **Thursday, January 28 2010**. Only short listed organizations will be contacted.

Capacity Building on Financial Accounting – Requests for Proposals

Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAD) seeks a qualified Bangladeshi organization to provide training in financial accounting to local civil society organizations. This work will be contracted under the USAID-funded Promoting Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (PROGATI) Project.

Objective. Train local organization finance staff in financial accounting principles and practices.

Tasks. The selected organization will complete the following tasks:

1. Assess current skills of finance staff to participate in training events;
2. Develop training curriculum and materials;
3. Conduct one training course (six days) for 15 entry level staff in Dhaka;
4. Conduct one training course (six days) for 15 intermediate level staff in Dhaka;
5. Conduct one training course (six days), for 30 entry level staff in Khulna; and
6. Conduct one training course (six days), for 30 entry level staff in Chittagong.

Proposals. Interested organizations should submit proposals including the following information [maximum 8 pages].

1. Cover letter, with address details, contact information and contact person [1 page].
2. Organizational profile, including management structure and staff expertise in related areas of work [3 pages].
3. Qualifications, presenting similar project undertaken as lead firm in last five years, include information on task and outputs, client reference information, and period of engagement [1 page].
4. Technical approach, describing how you will conduct the required tasks and including explanation of roles and responsibilities of all persons proposed for the work [3 pages].
5. Detailed timeline for completing the five (5) tasks noted above. [not included in proposal page limits]
6. Clear and detailed budget estimates for all labor, travel and material costs necessary to complete all tasks [not included in proposal page limits].

Proposals will be assessed on both technical and cost proposals. Technical and cost proposals should be submitted as separate documents. Do not include attachments or promotional documents with your submission. Note that this enlistment does not in any way commit DAI to enter into contact or partnership with any organization.

DAI will host a bidders' conference to answer questions on this RFP on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 at 3 PM. The meeting will be held at House 54/A, Road 16, Block A, Banani, Dhaka.

Electronic submissions are encouraged, and should be sent to progatiol@yahoo.com with "Accounting Training" in the subject line. Written submission should be delivered to House 54/A, Road 16, Block A, Banani, Dhaka in sealed envelope addressed to "PROGATI Grants Manager". All submissions are due by 14:00 hours on **Thursday, January 28, 2010**. Only short listed organizations will be contacted.