INTERNATIONAL

US regrets past 'grave mistakes' in Pakistan

AFP, Islamabad

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates took on his critics in Pakistan yesterday, apologising for past "grave" mistakes as he Afghanistan in 1989. works to bolster ties with Washington's key ally in the fight against al-Qaeda.

in three years and first under US President Barack Obama, Gates tried to reassure a public and leadership sceptical of Washington's plan to tackle militancy and turn around the warin Afghanistan.

drastically deteriorate since joining in Washington's "war on terror" in 2001 and balks at complaints from US officials that it is not doing enough to tackle militant groups.

US drone strikes targeting Islamist fighters in Pakistan also

Says Chidambaram

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE,

Home Minister P

Chidambaram declared ves-

terday that states had agreed to

coordinate actions against

Maoist guerrillas and that the

government's goal was to

reassert authority in rebel

"(Our aim is) to reassert the

civil administration to be

Afghanistan bans

Afghanistan yesterday banned the use of a fertiliser chemical

also used to make bombs,

giving farmers and other

holders a month to turn in

Protesters, meanwhile,

blocked roads and chanted

angry slogans against the

United States and the Afghan

government for a second day

southwest of Kabul, amid

killing of four people in a

village by Nato forces in vola-

tile Ghazni province.

chemical used

to make bombs

bastions.

AP, Kabul

their supplies.

stir anger in the Muslim nation, while many Pakistanis voice bitterness over US abandonment of the region once the Soviet Union withdrew from

"I was in government in the early 1990s, when Russia left the region and the United States In his first visit to Islamabad largely abandoned Afghanistan and cut off defence ties with Pakistan -- a grave strategic mistake driven by some wellintentioned but short-sighted US legislative and policy decisions," said Gates.

Speaking at the National Pakistan has seen security Defence University in Islamabad, he said a US ban on military contacts in the 1990s over Pakistan's nuclear programme undermined a bond between the armed forces and created a "trust deficit" that lingered.

He vowed the United States was "prepared to invest whatever time and energy it takes to forge and sustain a genuine, lasting partnership with

Rebuilding relationships with a generation of Pakistani officers who have had little contact with the US military will take years, Gates said.

After his speech, Gates took questions from the audience of senior military officers in a session thatwasclosed to the media.

The "very candid" exchange included a pointed question that suggested the US-led war in Afghanistan was to blame for Pakistan's problem with violent extremists on its western border, Gates's press secretary GeoffMorrell told reporters.

The thrust of the question was "we're in this mess because of you -- to which he took great exception," Morrell said.

Gates told the officers that Afghanistan had been unstable long before the US military moved in and that it was unrealistic to assume Pakistan could be spared from the growing strength of Islamist militants.

US to supply drones to Pakistan

AFP, Islamabad

The United States plans to provide Pakistan with a dozen unarmed drone aircraft that will help bolster its military as it takes on Taliban militants, US defence officials said.

Details of the drones emerged late Thursday during a visit to Pakistan by Defence Secretary Robert Gates, who was asked in an interview with Pakistani television if Washington would supply Islamabad with the unmanned aircraft.



A Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Jawan stands guard at the Chhatrapathi Shivaji Airport in Mumbai yesterday. Security was further strengthened in airports across India Friday and sky marshals ordered on flights after intelligence reports that terror groups might target an Air India flight operating from a South Asian country.

sert the civil administration to

be followed immediately by

development in areas domi-

nated by Naxalites for quite

two-hour meeting at the state

secretariat with chief minis-

ters Raman Singh of

Chhattisgarh and Navin

Patnaik of Orissa,

Maharashtra Home Minister

RR Patil and officials of para-

Chidambaram chaired a

some years," he said.

Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M)) supporters shout slogans against both state and central governments during a demonstration in Amritsar yesterday over price hikes of basic commodities such as wheat, sugar, vegetables, cereal and rice. They also protested power cuts in Punjab state.

India to reassert authority

in Maoist-dominant areas

development in areas domi-

nated by Naxalites (Maoists)

for quite some years,"

Chidambaram said after a

meeting with top officials of

Orissa, Maharashtra and

Chhattisgarh here. "The meet-

ing was successful. We identi-

fied progress we made... We

"The (anti-Maoist) opera-

identified steps to be taken,"

tions will continue. Our goal is

the minister told reporters.

success in Afghanistan, Pakistan: Holbrooke

ANI, Washington

US Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrooke has said that India is 'important' for America's success in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"I want to be sure that everyone here recognises how centrally important India will be to this (the US success in Afghanistan and Pakistan)," Holbrooke said, while addressing lawmakers at a Congressional hearing on Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Holbrooke, who visited India recently, told the hearing, which was convened by Senate Foreign Relations Committee chaired by Senator John Kerry, that even though New Delhi is not part of his mandate, it is important to keep it informed about the situation in the troubled Pak-Afghan border region.

"I don't think it would be valuable to go into details in the public forum, but I do want to stress that the Indians are very, very anxious that we succeed in Afghanistan. They're supportingus," Holbrooke said.

Brown to be quizzed over Iraq before polls

AP, London

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown will be questioned about his role in the invasion of Iraq, the inquiry's press office confirmed yesterday.

The surprise move means that shortly before Britain's general election Brown would have to outline how he helped plan the unpopular war and its bloody aftermath. Brown's governing Labour Party is already widely expected to lose the election, which must be called by June 3.

The Iraq Inquiry, which is investigating the circumstances surrounding the 2003 invasion, originally said Brown and other senior ministers wouldn't appear until after the election in an effort to keep proceedings clear of party politics.

But Brown's opponents seized on the decision to argue that the prime minister was trying to avoid drawing attention to his role in the war ahead of the contest.

wonders how it would have been if he were still married

ANI, London

The playboy cricketer-turned politician Imran Khan has revealed that while he has go used to living alone after his divorce from wife Jemima, he often wonders what it would have been like had politics not overshadowed his married life.

"I have got used to living alone. Most of my life has been spent living alone - apart from the nine years I was married. I was a bachelor before I met Jemima, and I'm a bachelor now. Now I really wonder if I would have had time, if would have been able, to look after my wife," The Telegraph quoted Khan, 60, as saying.

As Khan reaches the London home of his former mother-in-law, Lady Annabel Goldsmith, his sons, Sulemain, 13, and Kasim, 10 come hurl themselves at him pink-cheeked from the cold.

"I am lucky," Khan says proving that despite his tumultuous political career, his domestic life is settled.

"My boys always spend Christmas here with Annabel Then half the holidays with me and half with their mother. Jemima is very good she always sends them to me, and in the summer I spend two weeks here with them, too," he said.

India 'important' for US | 'Lonely' Imran | Pakistan can't guarantee Mumbai like attacks won't occur again, says Gilani

ANI, Islamabad

While the United States has stressed that any more 26/11 like attacks on India originating from Pakistani soil would test its patience, the Pakistan government has said that it can not guarantee repeat of the ghastly terror attacks which rocked India's financial capital. Sources said Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told visiting

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates that Pakistan itself is witnessing frequent terror attacks, and that it can not promise that Mumbai type attacks can not be carried out in future again. "Pakistan is itself facing Mumbai-like attacks almost every

other day and when we cannot protect our own citizens, how can we guarantee that there wouldn't be any more terrorist hits in India," Gilani said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Communications Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Board (DTCB) Nagar Bhaban, Dhaka-1000 www.dtcb.gov.bd.com No. AED(T)/DTCB/267(P-3)/2009-1319 Date: 14.01.2010

Sub: Request for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Appointment of International Urban **Transport Management Consultant**

Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Board (DTCB), under the Ministry of Communications (MOC), has been allocated Tk 18.273 million only (equivalent to US\$ 0.2610m) by the government towards the cost of implementing approved study project named "Study for Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Enhancement of Transport Related Agencies in Dhaka city as identified in STP" and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of the fund to payments for an International Urban Transport Management Consultant for a period of 6 (six) months with immediate effect to improve deteriorating transport conditions of Dhaka mega city. TOR of the consultant are as follows:

i) Review all earlier reports including STP on urban transport development and identify shortcomings of the reports, if any. The management consultant will recommend essential changes for the agencies in respect of modernization of urban transportation. ii) Detail investigation of the capacity of the key agencies such as

DCC, DTCB, BRTA, RAJUK, DMP will be carried by the management consultant. Agencies like BIWTC, BR, BRTC, RHD, LGED and DOE will also be investigated with a view to upgrade their capacity on urban transport system. iii) Examination of existing management structure of the agencies

and recommend necessary measures for a revised and new management structure with a view to enhance transport management capacity of the agencies.
iv) Defining and vitalizing of future role of the agencies concerned

in term of strategic transport development.

v) Investigate the existing service rules, regulations, organograms etc. of the agencies and recommend measures for improvement. vi) Consultant will make specific recommendations for

strengthening institutions related to DMA transport system. vii) Appropriate measures should be recommended for unification of land use planning and transport planning under an unitary authority for the sake of an efficient urban transportation in DMA. viii) Measures should be recommended on the legal bindings and

enactment of rules, if needed for co-operation and co-ordination among the related agencies. xi) Most of the transport related agencies suffer from lack of specialists with sufficient experiences in Urban Public Transport Planning and Modeling. Management consultants will recommend measures on equipping each agencies with such specialists.

x) Measures should be recommended for equipping the agencies with logistics and modern equipments so that they can discharge their responsibilities efficiently and timely.

xi) Necessary measures be recommended for local and overseas training on modern urban transport development.

xii) DTCB, as the secretariat on urban transportation, should develop a data base. Appropriate measures will be recommended on it by the consultant.

The project is essentially one in which the selected consultant will identify the role of the particular agency and will then define the needs (in term of staffing and organization) that will be required to

enable the agency to perform the necessary responsibilities. The project will first of all may concentrate on maximizing existing capacities of city transportation before embarking upon more searching training and recruitment.

Qualification & Experience of the Consultant:

Masters in transport economics/Transport studies/Transport engineering or equivalent degree from a recognized university with 20 years experiences in Urban Transport Management including 5 years as team leader in urban transport management studies. Proven experiences of work as International Consultant on Institutional Capacity Building of Urban Transport Management and development is necessary. Candidate for management consultant having degree from any western university will be given preference.

Age limit: Up to 65 years. (Age, qualification and experience may be relaxed for

exceptionally good candidate). Duration of Consultancy: 6 (six) months from the date of contract signing.

Salary: Interested candidates are requested to indicate expected amount of monthly salary including internal tax & VAT (15% of total salary (approx) which is negotiable. Last date of submission of EOI: 04.02.2010 (within office hour).

Interested candidates are requested to enclose two recent PP

size photographs alongwith a copy of complete CV with related documents. For any query please don't hesitate to contact the undersigned.

> Md. Sanaul Haque **Project Director**

> > +88-02-9568824

Bomb attack targets Lanka opposition

AFP, Colombo

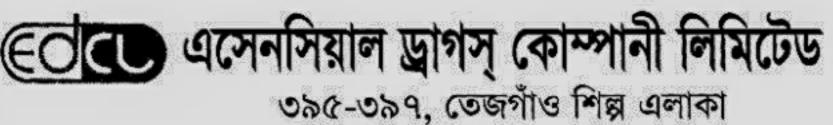
followed immediately by not to kill anyone but to reas- military forces.

A key opposition activist in Sri Lanka was targeted at home by a bomb attack yesterday as violence escalated ahead of next week's presidential election.

The pre-dawn blast destroyed a car and severely damaged the home of Tiran Alles, a wealthy businessman and key ally of the opposition presidential candidate Sarath Fonseka. He and his family escaped unhurt.

"I heard a huge explosion and as I came out of my room I saw the house on fire," Alles told AFP, pointing the finger at the ruling party for the attempt on his life. "They were obviously trying to kill me." mounting anger over the

The attack came amid tightened security as Sri Lankans prepare to go to the polls Tuesday to choose between President Mahinda Rajapakse and his former army chief Fonseka.



णका-১২०৮।

সংক্ষিপ্ত দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইডিসিএল নিয়োক্ত আইটেম সমূহ প্রকৃত প্রস্তুতকারী / সরবরাহকারীদের (সংশ্লিষ্ট ব্যবসার সহিত জড়িত) নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করছে ঃ-

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আর্নেষ্ট মানি	(অফেরৎযোগ্য)	তারিখ ও সময়	তারিখ ও সময়
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	দুইশত পঞ্চাশ) মাত্র	বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা	বেলা ১২-১৫ ঘটি

সকল কার্যদিবসে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে উপরোক্ত কার্যালয় হইতে শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীসহ দরপত্র শিভিউল ক্রয় করা যাইবে। উল্লেখ্য যে, যাহাদের ভ্যাট রেজিট্রেশন নাই তাহাদের দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করার প্রয়োজন নাই।

দরপত্র খোলার দিনে কোন দরপত্র শিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।

(মোঃ ফিরোজ-উল-আলম) পরিচালক অপারেশন ও ইনচার্জ, প্রানিং এন্ড প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিভাগ পক্ষে ঃ ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক।



Residents inspect the wreckage at the home of an opposition activist following a bomb attack by an unidentified group in Colombo yesterday. UN chief Ban Ki-moon is alarmed by the growing violence in Sri Lanka, including the reported slaying of political activists ahead of the upcoming presidential elections, his spokesman said on Thursday.

Myanmar junta worse than Cyclone Nargis

Says IPU official AFP, Geneva

Rights violations by Myanmar's junta has caused more damage than Cyclone Nargis, a Philippines senator and top member of the world's leading body of parliamentarians said on Thursday. "In the year 2008 Myanmar was hit by a terrible catastrophe,

by typhoon Nargis, and because there was so much devastation people thought that was the worst thing that could happen to Myanmar," said Aquilino Pimentel, president of the Inter Parliamentary Union's (IPU) human rights committee.

"But actually... not. It was rather the deprivation of the rights of the people by a ruling junta," he added. More than 138,000 people died when cyclone Nargis devas-

tated Myanmar's Irrawaddy Delta in May 2008. The cost of repairing the damage was estimated at over four billion dollars. Pimentel and the committee called for pro-democracy icon Aug San Suu Kyi and 13 opposition parliamentarians elected in 1990 to be freed, underlining they had been detained without

"Nothing much seems to be happening in terms of advancing the cause of democracy in Myanmar," he told journalists.

trial while some were subjected to "severe torture." The committee's resolution called on Myanmar's powerful neighbours India and China, and the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean), to back moves to urgently free the 13.

most trusted politician ANI, Washington

Americans still

view Obama as

Despite suffering a massive blow in form of Sir Ted Kennedy's Massachusetts seat, President Barack Obama continues to be seen as America's most trusted political figure, according to a new poll.

A poll conducted by Strategies Inc. survey has found that 54 percent of voters still have faith in the president, if not the party he represents.

"President Obama's trust rating remains steady at 54 percent - a number that has not changed since last July, including among independents," Politico quoted Dick Keil of Public Strategies Inc., as saying in a memo accompanying the poll.

GD-252