Afghan offensive could take weeks

Six Nato soldiers killed while 7 Afghan cops die in friendly fire

AFP, Marjah/ Kabul/ Kunduz

A senior British commander has warned it could take weeks to wrest control of the Afghan town of Marjah because of determined Taliban resistance, as Nato said four more soldiers had been killed in the trol. operation.

The commander of Nato forces in southern Afghanistan, Major General Nick Carter, cautioned against "triumphalism" in Marjah, and said it could be months until the US-led forces could be sure of controlling the

The troops engaged in Operation Mushtarak (Together) would need another 25 to 30 days just to secure the Taliban stronghold, said Carter.

"In three months' time or thereabouts we should have a pretty fair idea about whether we've been successful. But I would be very cautious about any

triumphalism just yet," he said.

The offensive is being keenly watched as the first major test of US President Barack Obama's strategy to end eight years of war by driving out the hardline militia and reasserting government con-

Nato said four of its soldiers were killed on Thursday during the operation, three of them by mines and one by gunfire. It did not give their nationalities, but London said it had lost two of its soldiers during the day.

Carter's assessment and the news of fresh allied deaths stood in marked contrast to US pronouncements.

In a big blow to Nato, an allied airstrike in the northern province of Kunduz mistakenly killed seven Afghan police and wounded two others on Thursday, said interior ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary.

The incident occurred when a joint

patrol by the Afghan army and police and Nato forces came under Taliban attack in the Imam Sahib district, Afghan interior ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashary told AFP.

Nato said it was investigating the strike, which could add to strains following repeated warnings by President Hamid Karzai about civilian deaths.

Nato reported Friday the deaths of two more troops in a major offensive in southern Afghanistan, bringing to six the total killed in one day's fighting.

The nationalities of the two soldiers were not given, according to policy, in a brief statement by Nato's International Security Assistance Force (Isaf).

"Two Isaf service members died yesterday during Operation Mushtarak in southern Afghanistan," it said, referring to a showcase offensive in a poppygrowing region of Helmand province that began a week ago.



Afghan police wait to depart for Marjah from Shorabak camp near the British Camp Bastian in Helmand province's Nad-e Ali yesterday. On a barren military base in southern Afghanistan, the new Afghan Army is taking its place at the frontline of the battle against the Taliban.

Slum residents of Maharashtra state's Mumbai gather in New Delh and shout slogans against the Congress-lead United Progressive Alliance government and its Chairman Sonia Gandhi during a protest rally. The rally demanded that the national government rehouse slum residents having their homes razed by multinational corporations in Mumbai, the commercial and financial capital of India.

US missile kill Taliban Pak agency leader's brother

AP, Islamabad

The brother of senior Afghan Taliban commander Siraj Haqqani has been killed in a US missile strike in northwestern Pakistan, Pakistani intelligence officials said yesterday.

The death was the latest in a string of blows to militants operating in Pakistan and neighbouring Afghanistan, including the capture in recent weeks of the Taliban's No. 2 leader, that together are seen as the most significant strike against the insurgents in years.

Mohammed Haqqani and three other close associates of Siraj Haggani were killed when missiles struck a house on Thursday night in the Dande Darpa Khel area of North Waziristan, near the border with Afghanistan, two Pakistani intelligence officials said.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly to the media.

The officials said the attack was apparently aimed at Siraj Haqqani, a top Taliban commander with suspected close ties to al-Qaeda who is accused of masterminding ambushes of American troops in Afghanistan. It was not known if Siraj Haqqani was hurt in the strike.

The Haqqani network is an autonomous militant group that nonetheless has ties to al-Qaeda and technically pledges allegiance to Afghan Taliban chief Mullah Omar. The group also has a history of links to Pakistani intelligence that some suspect

The US considers the network one of the biggest threats to its operations in Afghanistan, and has pressed Pakistan to move against the Haqqanis in their sanctuary in North Waziristan, a tribal region bordering Afghanistan.

continue today.

detects graft worth Rs 2 trillion

ANI, Islamabad

Pakistan's Law Minister Babar Awan yesterday said that the National Accountability Bureau has so far detected the corruption worth rupees two trillion since its establishment.

The bureau also arrested 1,470 people accused in those corruption cases. Awan informed the National Assembly that those arrested included politicians, bureaucrats and other officials.

The minister did not elaborate how much money the bureau had recovered in all those cases, The Dawn reports.

In a written reply, the minister revealed that 108 cases were withdrawn against the public office holders under the National Reconciliation Ordinance.

'Indo-Pak talks should go on despite provocations'

Both nations must bridge gap, says Zardari

ANI, Vasco-da-gama

Defence Minister AK Antony has said the forthcoming foreign secretary-level talks between India and Pakistan should continue despite there being certain issues and provocations.

Replying to a question during a press conference on the sidelines of the induction ceremony of the MiG-29K fighter aircrafts in the Indian Navy here, Antony said it is a considerate move by the Indian government to hold talks with Pakistan.

"There is nothing wrong in the talks. It will take place. It was a considerate decision by the government to restart the process. In spite of many provocations, let their be talks. Its too early to talk about it," Antony said.

When asked if he feels that Pakistan is serious for the talks and the dismantling the terror hot beds situated on its soils, he said there is no denying that there are terror camps in the country.

"Why the question of sincerity arises. There are terror camps in Pakistan. The terrorist are still active in Pakistan. This is our main concern," Antonysaid.

No. 01/PGCB/Sec(Design)/2010/738

Responding to a question regarding the induc-

tion of the first squadron of JF-17 Thunder combat jets, which has been jointly developed with China, by the Pakistan Air Force (PAF), the Defence Minister said the Indian government is also pledged to provide whatever equipments our armed forces require.

"I can assure you that our forces are dedicated and well trained to protect every inch of the country," Antony said. "We are gradually getting the equipments

needed with regard to the present development," he added. Antony said India is expanding defence ties with several other countries, including the US, but

it would not affect its old and 'trusted' partnership with Russia. In Islamabad, Pak President Asif Ali Zardari said on Thursday that Pakistan and India should

bridge the gap and return to the negotiating table to resolve of their bilateral issues meaningfully and ensure regional prosperity and peace. He was talking to former US Deputy

Secretary of State Richard L Armitage, who called on him at the Presidency, the Daily Times reports.

web: www.pgcb.org.bd

Date: February 17, 2010

UN envoy slams Myanmar for refusing Suu Kyi meet

AFP, Yangon

A UN envoy said yesterday he "deeply regretted" that Myanmar's ruling junta had refused to let him meet detained democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi ahead of elections promised later this

Tomas Ojea Quintana spoke out after meeting government officials on the fifth and final day of a trip that was focused on inspecting the human rights situation in Myanmar ahead of the first polls in two decades. "I deeply regretted that

my special request to meet Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was not granted," Quintana told reporters at Yangon international airport before flying to Bangkok. Daw is a Burmese-language term of respect.

"I am disappointed that even this time I was unable to

Car owner Altaf Hossain

could not get his turn at a

counter on the second con-

secutive day, January 12. He

stood in line from early morn-

ing till 3:00pm for two days but

the counter closed before he

reached it. He required his car

to be tested for roadworthi-

only 18 people run around 12

counters where about 1,200

service seekers queue up

every day and a good number

of them return without receiv-

A high official there said

ing any service.

Mirpur BRTA sources said

Service-seekers

meet her at this crucial time in this election year, the first national election in 20 years, said Quintana, making his third trip to Myanmar.

Myanmar's ruling generals have promised elections later this year but have not yet set a date or issued any election laws, fuelling claims that the vote is a sham aimed at legitimising the junta's grip on

Nobel Peace laureate Suu Kyi has been in detention for 14 of the last 20 years. She had her house arrest extended by 18 months in August after a bizarre incident in which an American man swan to her lakeside home.

"I specially requested to meet with Daw Aung Suu Kyi in advance of my mission. Nonetheless this meeting did not take place. I am disappointed," added Quintana, who was appointed as envoy

Lankan opposition coalition splits

AP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's opposition coalition said yesterday it has split after its defeated presidential candidate was detained on allegations of sedition, further strengthening President Mahinda Rajapaksa ahead of April 8 parliamentary polls.

Opposition official Vijitha Herath said the coalition of four main parties and several smaller groups broke up after its biggest partner, the United National Party, decided to go it alone in the upcoming elections.

The split will weaken opposition prospects of checking Rajapaksa's power by taking control of Parliament after his re-election as president last month. Rajapaksa's ruling coalition controlled 128 seats in the 225-member legislature before it was dissolved earlier this month for the elections.

Herath said other opposition parties are now planning to form a new front with defeated presidential candidate Gen. Sarath Fonseka.

The military arrested Fonseka nearly two weeks after his election defeat. Though charges against him have not yet been specified, government officials have alleged various offenses from plotting to overthrow the government while in military service to taking kickbacks on arms deals.

Opposition parties describe Fonseka's arrest as punishment for daring to challenge Rajapaksa. Fonseka has accused the president of election fraud and has petitioned the Supreme Court to declare the presidential election void.

Pak civilian govt must learn to perform Says Musharraf

ANI, London

Former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf is of the view that democraticallyelected governments in his country have been failing to perform the objectives of government, offering good governance, and ensuring the well-being of the people.

If these aren't being achieved, governments, whether democratic or military, must be changed, the Dawn quoted him, as saying at recent lecture at Chatham House here.

Compared with civilians, Musharraf said the military possessed "better trained minds, and better administrative capacity, and conceded that civilian government must learn to perform.

Lanka to release all child soldiers by May

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka said yesterday it plans to release all detained Tamil Tiger child soldiers by the end of May and re-unite them with their families. Government forces

defeated the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in May last year, ending their 37-year fight for a Tamil homeland in the north of the coun-Over 500 child soldiers

surrendered to the army and were produced before a court before being enlisted in a oneyear rehabilitation programme. "Their training programme

ends on May 22nd and we are taking steps to release all of them to their families," National Child Protection Chairman, Jagath Wellawatte said.

He said families could apply to the court to enable their children to remain in government care, allowing them to continue schooling or vocational training if they desired.



unaltered.

2010 at 11:00 am BST.

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

পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ POWER GRID COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LTD.

(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

Institution of Engineers Bangladesh, New Bhaban (4th floor) 8/A Ramna, Dhaka-1000

NOTICE OF TIME EXTENSION

Extension of closing date for submission of Bids against "Design, supply,

erection, testing & commissioning of 230 kV Maniknagar GIS substation

on Turnkey Basis" (Contract No. G3-PGCB) under Siddhirganj

peaking power plant project.

Ref: Memo no.01/PGCB/Sec/Design/, Date: 27th December, 2009 [Contract No. G3-PGCB]

The closing date for submission of Bids for the above work has been extended from

February 24, 2010 at 11:00 am Bangladesh Standard Time (BST) to March 16,

All other terms and conditions for the above Bidding Documents shall remain

Institution of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) Bhaban (New), 3rd & 4th Floor, 8/A, Ramna, Dhaka-1000. Web: www.pgcb.org.bd

স্মারক নং-জিএমডি/পিজিসিবি/বগ/হি-২/২০০৯-২০১০/২০৬

ভারিখঃ ১৫/২/২০১০ ইং

Md. Ashraf Hossain

Company Secretary

খোলা দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২। ভাষানতের টাকা

দরপত্র

मिम्भवामि প্রান্তিস্থান

ठिकामाद्यव যোগ্যতা

পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ এর অনুকূলে দেয়। টাকা ৮,০০০/= মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য) পাওয়ার গ্রীড কোম্পানী অব বাংলাদেশ লিঃ এর অনুকূলে তফসীলভুক্ত ব্যাংক এর পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক দ্রাফ্ট এর মাধ্যমে দের।

২০০/১৩২ কেভি গ্রীড উপকেন্দ্র, ছিপিমপুর, বগুড়া এলাকার মধ্যে ৬ (ছয়) তলা

টাকা ৪,৬০,০০০/= মাত্র, যে কোন তফসীলি ব্যাংক কর্তৃক পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট আকারে

ফাউন্ডেশনের উপর ৩ (তিন) তথা বিশিষ্ট পিজিসিবি অফিস ভবন নির্মাণ কাজ।

ঃ ক) মহাব্যবস্থাপক (সঞ্চালন-২), বিদ্যুৎ ভবন (৪র্থ তলা), ১ আবুল গণি রোড, ঢাকা। খ) কোম্পানী সচিব, পিজিসিবি লিঃ প্রধান কার্যালয়, আইইবি ভবন, রমনা ঢাকা। গ) উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক, গ্রীভ সার্কেল, পিজিসিবি, বাড়ী-৫, রোড-৩২, স্লেছ নীড় (নীচ

তলা), নিসিন্দারা, উপ-শহর,বগুড়া। ঘ)নিমস্বাক্ষরকারীর অনুমতি সাপেকে জনতা ব্যাকে, সম্বপদী মার্কেট শাখা, বহুড়া। ঃ ১। বিউবো/আরইবি/গণপূর্ত/এলজিইডি অথবা কোন সরকারী সংস্থায় তালিকাভুক্ত/ পিজিসিবিতে এই ধরনের কাজ করার অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন / বৈদ্যুতিক নির্মাণ কাজের

প্রথম শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠান যাহার একক কার্যাদেশের আওতার নুন্যতম টাকা

১,০০,০০,০০০/- মৃশ্যমানের বহুতল ভবন নির্মাণ কাজ সুঠভাবে সম্পাদনের অভিজ্ঞতা রহিয়াছে

২। কমপক্ষে ৬০ লক্ষ টাকার তারন্য সম্পদ (Liquid Asset) এর অনুকুলে কোন সিডিউপ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত সার্টিফিকেট (ব্যাংক বিবরণী সংযুক্ত থাকিতে হইবে। ঃ ২২/৩/২০১০ইং দুপুর ১:০০ ঘটিকা।

শেষ আরম্ব ও সময় ২৩/৩/২০১০ইং দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা। ক্রমিক নং ৪-এ উল্লেখিত 'খ' ব্যভীত যে ৭। দরপত্রগ্রহণের শেষ কোন দপ্তরসমূহে দরপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

তারিখ, সময় ও স্থান ৮। দরপত্র বাক্স খোলার তারিখ ও সময়

খোলার তারিখ ও

দরপত্র খাম

ঃ ২৩/৩/২০১০ ইং দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা।

৪ ২৫/৩/২০১০ ইং তারিখ দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকায় ক্রমিক নং ৪ এর ক, গ এবং নিমু স্বাক্ষরকারীর দন্তরে সকল দরপত্র একত্র করিয়া দরদাতাগণের সম্মুখে, যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন দরপত্রের খাম খোলা হইবে।

১০। দরপত্র ক্রয়ের পূর্বে দন্তর প্রধানের নিকট ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের হালনাগাদ তালিকাভুক্তির ও মালিকানা দলিল, ব্যাংক সল্ভেলি সার্টিফিকেট, আয়করের হালনাগাদ সার্টিফিকেট, VAT রেজিট্রেশন ও হালনাগাদ ট্রেড দাইসেল প্রদর্শন এবং দপ্তর প্রধানের অনুমতি গ্রহণ করিতে হইবে। অন্যান্য শর্তাবদী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ রহিয়াছে। কোন কারন দর্শানো ব্যতিরেক দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা পিজিসিবি কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষন করে।

> মোঃ মোকছেদুর রহ্মান, ব্যবস্থাপক জিএমডি, পিজিসিবি, জানে-ই-সাবা হাউজিং কমপ্লেক্স, ষ্টেশন রোড, বগুড়া ৷

authorities did not pay the 200 volunteers but allowed them to take tips from service seekers. They misused the oppor-BRTA Director Tapan

around 750 fitness cases, 120 licence issuing, 150 licence renewals, 125 learner's licence issuing, 70 road-permit issuing and renewals, 175 vehicle registrations, and 80 ownership changes used to be dealt with earlier. But now due to manpower crisis around 400 people can receive their services. At least five to seven staff is

FROM PAGE 1 needed to smoothly run each organisation. of the licence, fitness, registra-The 200 volunteers did not tion and ownership-change get any salary. They survived counters but now they are mainly on "tips" from service having to do with just one seekers. But there are allegaperson at each counter. This is tions that they had sometimes causing resentment among realised money from service service seekers. seekers putting them under pressure.

an organogram of 291 people, stationed across the country.

A high-ranking official at the BRTA said the government approved a new organogram with 573 positions for BRTA around six months ago but steps are yet to be made for recruiting the

In this situation, the BRTA has to run some of its counters with class-IV employees, who are not qualified for or entitled to do such jobs.

tunity and forced service seekers to pay them money.

from the ministry."

Sources say the BRTA has

new manpower.

The official said BRTA

Kumar Sarker said, "We wrote to the ministry concerned about engaging some people on no-work-no-payment basis as recruitment was taking time. We are yet to hear

Anoma Fonseka, wife of former Sri Lankan Army chief and defeated opposition presidential candidate Sarath Fonseka, takes part in a Hindu religious act in Colombo yesterday praying for the

release of her husband. The former Army chief is currently under detention for plotting to overthrow the government, a charge denied by him.