

# US-led forces wind down Afghan assault

But bigger one on way, Taliban bomb kills 11 civilians

AFP, Kandahar  
US-led forces were winding down one of their biggest offensives in Afghanistan on Saturday, but an official said it was a prelude to a larger assault on the Taliban bastion of Kandahar.

The two-week Operation Mushtarak -- Dari for "Together" -- symbolically ended Thursday when authorities hoisted the Afghan flag in Marjah, a poppy-growing southern area that had eluded government control for years.

A US commander in Kandahar said most combat operations had "subsided", although US, British and Afghan troops would still need several weeks to exert

control over more remote villages in the targeted area in Helmand province.

"There will be some sporadic fighting, I believe, some tough areas where there are still a few holdouts," Brigadier General Ben Hodges told the PBS Newshour on US public television.

"I think most of the significant combat operations though will have subsided. I think the majority of the enemy has either been killed or driven out or blended back into the population," he said.

In fresh violence, a car ran over a roadside bomb laid by the Taliban in the southern Afghan province of Helmand, causing an explosion, which killed 11 civilians, a local official told AFP.

The incident took place in the restive province's Nawzad district, Daud Ahmadi, a spokesman for the provincial governor, said.

Thousands of US, Nato and Afghan troops have been battling a major offensive against the Taliban in Helmand's Marjah and Nad Ali areas since February 13.

Helmand government spokesman Daud Ahmadi said Marjah was returning to "normal" but authorities were reluctant to return thousands of displaced villagers to their homes because of the innumerable mines left by the Taliban.

"At the moment the situation is normal in Marjah," he told AFP.

# Sectarian clashes kill 7 in NW Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

Pakistani authorities slapped a curfew on a restive northwestern district yesterday after clashes and gunfights left at least seven people dead at a religious procession, officials said.

Sectarian violence erupted Saturday in the town of Paharpur in Dera Ismail Khan district, as hundreds of Muslims rallied to celebrate Eid-e-Miladunnabi, which marks the birthday of Prophet Hazrat Mohammed (SM).

Gunmen opened fire on a parade by the Bareilvi sect of Sunni Muslims, killing one person on the spot and prompting the angry crowd to retaliate by attacking a seminary of the local Deobandi Sunni sect.

"Seven people were killed and 38 others have been injured in these incidents. All the dead are Sunni, there are some Shias among the injured," district police chief Gul Afzal Afridi told AFP.

Dera Ismail Khan district has in the past been troubled by unrest between followers of the Sunni and Shia branches of Islam, but clashes between Sunnifollowers are relatively rare.

An official in the hospital Dera Ismail Khan hospital confirmed the death toll and said that the 38 people wounded were still being treated.



Indian women celebrate 'the Festival of Spring' with music and dance in Kolkata on Sunday. Bashantoutsab as the spring festival is called in West Bengal, is celebrated in the rest of India as 'Holi', the festival of colours.

# Govt, owners get 6 months

FROM PAGE 1  
In June last year, the higher court asked the government either to shift all tanneries from Hazaribagh to a special industrial zone in Savar or close those down by February 28 to check widespread environmental pollution.

An HC bench delivered the order upon petitions from Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (Bela) and Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB).

The HC bench of justices

Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed and Naima Haider also directed the government and the Tannery Owners' Association to keep the court informed every three months on the steps taken to move the tanneries.

The court observed that it is suicidal and painful for the city residents to have the tanneries in the capital's Hazaribagh.

The bench came up with the order following an application from the government and Tannery Owners'

Association seeking two years' time to relocate the tanneries.

Another HC bench of justices Md Imman Ali and Abu Tariq gave the order relating to dumping of wastes upon a writ petition from Bela.

The bench directed the DCC authorities and the project director to submit reports on the pollution caused to soil, water and air and the environmental impacts due to dumping of wastes.

On February 25, the government and tannery owners explained to the HC the reasons for not taking any steps to relocate the tanneries from Hazaribagh and sought two years' time for implementing the HC directives.

Barrister Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh stood for the Tannery Owners' Association and Additional Attorney General MK Rahman for the government while Iqbal Kabir and Manzil Murshid represented Bela and HRPB.

# Paban 'behind' cracker blast

FROM PAGE 1  
BNP high-ups' sympathetic attention. The whole charade was aimed at consolidating his own position in the party against competing rivals, added the DMP commissioner.

Arrested Shovon told reporters in the Detective Branch office on Minto Road of the capital that Paban has been trying to grab the post of organising secretary of BNP Dhaka City unit committee, which is scheduled to be formed soon.

The DMP commissioner said police did not arrest Paban right after the blasts due to a lack of sufficient incriminating evidence, but now they are trying to arrest him and the cohorts.

Witnesses said in the immediate aftermath of the blasts Paban pretended to be injured in front of reporters in United Hospital.

The DMP commissioner said in the medical report the doctors however mentioned that Paban had not suffered any external injury, rather he had received treatment for chest pain.

Shovon, who owns an electronic goods shop in Shyamoli of the capital, said Paban with Rony, a leader of Pallabi JCD unit, tried to stage a mock bomb attack at the same spot on February 22 as well, but failed.

So the following day Paban drove to Shovon's house in Kalabagan, parked his own car there, and went to the BNP

chairperson's office in Gulshan with Shovon in the latter's car.

After they reached the office, Paban got off the car and went to the gate, while Shovon waited in the car in front of the office.

Before getting off the car Paban asked Shovon to give two of his young associates a ride, as they might be in danger of being attacked by their rivals, Shovon added.

Following the blasts, the two young men rushed to Shovon's car and got in identifying them as Paban's men, and then Shovon dropped the two at Bijoy Sarani on the way back to his house, Shovon claimed.

He said, "Paban took advantage of me, using our

friendship, and used my car."

He also said he overheard Paban and Rony, the night before the incident, talking about hiring two young men for exploding crackers in front of the BNP chairperson's office.

Shovon also said as he felt insecure in front of the office on the February 23 night, he called his friend Faruque, an ex-president of Chatkhil upazila JCD, to come to the spot.

Faruque along with Pradip on a motorbike reached the spot from Motijheel, Shovon said adding that Faruque was also in his car on the way back to his house after the blasts.

Detective police said Paban was arrested earlier as well, in connection with a car jacking

case during the last BNP-led four-party alliance government, and was also accused in several other cases.

Meanwhile, BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday brushed aside the allegation that the party secretary general's son and his friend were involved in the blasts.

"We blame each other if anything happens, it is nothing but a part of our political culture," he told reporters in the party's central office in Nayapattan of the capital.

The BNP leader also claimed although an investigation is going on to identify the perpetrators, the people have doubts about its fairness.



SoftwarePeople is a joint venture between SoftwarePeople in Denmark and Adcomm in Bangladesh. As a Microsoft Certified Gold Partner we specialize in software development, implementation and maintenance of Marketing Operations Management (MOM) solutions for our global clients. SoftwarePeople is a partner of Enfatice -- a global communications services company owned by WPP.

SoftwarePeople provides a unique opportunity to work in teams with industry leading technology in a truly global environment. At SoftwarePeople we value talent, expertise and motivation to put forward envision in creating innovative solutions for demanding international clients.

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  - Management experience for smaller or larger teams.
  - Experience with technical organizations.
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# Statue head of King Tut's grandfather found in Luxor

AFP, Cairo

Egyptian archaeologists have unearthed a colossal statue head of the pharaoh whom DNA tests revealed last week was King Tutankhamun's grandfather, the government said yesterday.

The red granite head of King Amenhotep III, part of a larger 3,000-year-old statue, was discovered at the site of the pharaoh's funerary temple in Luxor, Egypt's culture ministry said in a statement.

"The newly discovered head is intact and measures 2.5 metres (8.2 foot) high," antiquities chief Zahi Hawass was quoted as saying.

"It is a masterpiece of highly artistic quality and shows a portrait of the king with very fine youthful sculptured features," Hawass said, adding there were still traces of red paint on the head.

# VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Government of Bangladesh has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) to implement programs under Social Investment Program Project (SIPP) through Social Development Foundation (SDF). SDF is an organization that aims at social and economic empowerment of the poor and disadvantaged people in Bangladesh through building and strengthening of inclusive and participatory institutions of the rural poor, and improving their livelihoods. SDF is looking for motivated and innovative professionals for the following position. Successful candidates have to respect the poor, be open to learning and should have an aptitude for community driven development. The incumbent may require to field visit time to time.

**Position:** Accounts Officer (1) based in Dhaka.

**Job description:** Competency in computerized accounting software with adequate knowledge in maintenance of accounts, preparation of budgets and budget analysis, periodic reporting in standard formats to FD, ERD, WB and SDF management. Well conversant with computer operation especially MS Word, Excel, Access and financial Software.

**Qualification:** Post Graduate in Accounting / Chartered Accountancy course completed.

**Experience:** At least 5 years experience in finance and accounts of any foreign aided donor organization / development organization.

**Salary & Benefits:** Tk. 28, 480/- consolidated (Basic -Tk. 16,800/- + House Rent- Tk. 10,080/-+ Medical Tk. 1,000/- + Conveyance Tk. 600/-)

Two festival bonuses per annum, each equivalent to one month's basic pay

**Age Limit:** Maximum 40yrs.

- General Conditions:**
- One year probationary period.
  - Salary may be reviewed based on satisfactory performance after probationary period.
  - The candidates must have strong computer literacy, high level of interpersonal skill, excellent report writing skill and strong ability in oral and written communication in both Bangla & English
  - Experience with international agencies, donor funded projects and NGO and GoB would be an advantage
  - Only short listed applicants will be called for interviews

Interested persons are requested to send their detail CV indicating proposed position, name, address (present & permanent, Telephone / Cell Number), date of birth, nationality, education, other training, languages & degree of proficiency, work experience, employment records etc. Interested candidates are requested to send their applications including copies of all certificates with two passport size photographs to the following address on or before 15 March 2010 during office time. Details of SDF will be available in the SDF website: [www.sdfbd.org](http://www.sdfbd.org). Candidates are requested to write the position applied for on the top of the envelope. No TA/DA will be provided for attending interview.

**Managing Director**  
Social Development Foundation (SDF)  
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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) (RE-ADVERTISEMENT)**  
**PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (CHT)**

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, seeks proposals from interested and well qualified NGOs/Organizations in response to the following RFP in the CHT.

**"Services of Local NGOs to support in implementing Community Empowerment Activities of UNDP-CHTDF in Laxmichari Upazila of Khagrachari District in 2010"**

This RFP was advertised initially on 17th September, 2009. All bidders who submitted their proposals in response to the initial advertisement have to submit their proposals again if they are willing to participate in the bidding. Proposals received from the initial advertisement will not be considered for evaluation for this RFP. The RFP document along with the instructions for submission can be downloaded from UNDP website: [http://www.undp.org.bd/proc\\_more.php](http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php).

All interested organizations/NGOs are requested to participate in a **pre-bid meeting** to be held on **Monday, 8th March, 2010 at 11am** at conference room of CHTDF (Building 2), Rajbari Road, Rangamati. Maximum two (2) participants from each organization are allowed.

The deadline for submission of proposal is **Tuesday, 16th March 2010, 05:00 pm** (Local Time)