



PHOTO: AFP

Handout picture shows Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse shaking hands with India's Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao (R) in Colombo yesterday. Rao held closed-door talks with Sri Lanka's president as New Delhi pressed for a political settlement to the island's ethnic strife, diplomatic sources said.

## Official version of 9/11 attacks a 'big lie'

Says Ahmadinejad

ANI, Tehran

The official version of the September 11 attacks on the United States is a "big lie" that was used by Washington as an excuse to launch the war on terror, state media quoted Iran President Mohammad Ahmadinejad, as saying.

Addressing Intelligence Ministry staff, Ahmadinejad said, "September 11 was a big lie and a pretext for the war on terror and a prelude to invading Afghanistan."

He called the attacks a "complicated intelligence scenario and act."

The Iranian president has questioned the official US version of the September 11 attacks before, but this is the first time he ventured to label it a "big lie."

## Pakistan can wait for meaningful dialogue with India: Qureshi

'Hafiz Saeed issue was strongly raised in talks'

ANI, INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Islamabad/ New Delhi

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said his country wants a meaningful dialogue with India and can wait for the bilateral dialogue with New Delhi to resume.

Addressing media persons during a press conference in Multan, Qureshi said Pakistan prefers bilateral engagement with India to resolve the long pending water dispute, and the option of international arbitration would be explored only if bilateral talks concerning the issue fails to deliver desired results.

"Pakistan is not in hurry and can wait for meaningful dialogue," Qureshi said.

Responding to a question regarding reports that India had sought the custody of Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief Hafiz Saeed, the alleged mastermind of the November 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, during the February 25 secretary-level talks, Qureshi said Saeed's name did not figure in the talks.

Qureshi said Pakistan is committed to the trial of the Mumbai attack accused, and added that the legal process was in progress and the

case would be decided by the court of law.

On the other hand, surprised over Islamabad's statement that Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) chief Hafiz Saeed did not figure in the Feb 25 foreign secretary-level talks, India Sunday said the "unhindered freedom" the terrorist chief enjoys in Pakistan was "strongly" raised during the parleys held here.

"India has been demanding action against Saeed, one of the alleged masterminds of the Mumbai terrorist attack, since the barbaric and dastardly attack took place (on Nov 26, 2008)," the official spokesperson of the external affairs ministry said in a statement.

The statement came in response to media reports quoting Pakistan Foreign Minister Qureshi that India has not demanded the arrest of Hafiz Saeed and that the issue did not even figure in the foreign secretary-level talks with Pakistan.

Expressing 'surprise', the spokesperson said: "A dossier containing a compilation of evidence on the involvement of Hafiz Saeed in the terrorist attack was handed over to Pakistan on Aug 21, 2009, and his name featured prominently in yet another dossier handed over to the Pakistani foreign secretary (Salman Bashir) during the talks Feb 25, 2010."

## Iran predicts world powers will fail to impose sanction

Tehran starts producing new cruise missiles

US giving billions to firms defying Iran sanctions

Reveals York Times report

AFP, Washington

Washington has awarded more than 107 billion dollars in payments to foreign and US companies doing business in Iran despite US sanctions, The New York Times reported late Saturday.

That sum included nearly 15 billion dollars paid to companies that defied US sanctions law by making large investments that helped Iran develop its vast oil and gas reserves, said the paper.

The Times compiled the figures from an analysis of government and business records.

AFP, AP, Tehran

World powers will fail to reach a consensus on imposing new sanctions against Iran over its controversial nuclear programme, the foreign ministry predicted yesterday.

Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast told the official IRNA news agency that the P5+1 group, comprising the United States, Britain, France, Russia, China -- five veto-wielding members of the UN Security Council -- and Germany, would not succeed in imposing sanctions on Tehran.

"Since the principle of sanctions regarding Iran's peaceful nuclear activity lacks a logical and legal basis and is being pursued with political intentions by some countries, it is natural that sanctions will not materialise," Mehmanparast said.

The United States has stepped up pressure to generate international backing for a fourth round of UN sanctions against Iran.

Western governments are losing patience with Iran for rejecting a UN-brokered nuclear fuel deal and for enriching uranium -- the most controversial part of Tehran's atomic programme -- to higher levels.

While the United States, France, Britain and Russia appear to favour sanctions, China, which has large oil interests in Iran, continues to strongly advocate diplomacy to resolve the crisis.

A programme is for peaceful purposes and is already under three sets of UN sanctions for enriching uranium, which the West sees as cover to build nuclear weapons.

On Thursday, Western nations pitched new sanctions against Iran in the Security Council.

New sanctions would show that "the international community is united behind a diplomatic resolution to Iran's nuclear issue, and state off any pre-emptive moves by others," Britain's UN envoy Mark Lyall Grant said.

Meanwhile, Iran on Sunday launched a new production line of highly accurate, short range cruise missiles capable of evading radar, state TV reported.

The report quoted Iranian defence minister Gen Ahmad Vahidi as saying that the Nasr 1 (Victory) would be capable of destroying targets up to 1,000 tons in size.

The missile can be launched from the surface but would eventually be modified to be fired from helicopters and submarines, he said.

## Afghan president visits captured town

AFP, Marjah

Afghan President Hamid Karzai yesterday visited the former Taliban stronghold of Marjah and appealed to wary residents to back his government after a fierce military offensive.

It was Karzai's first visit to Marjah since some 15,000 US, Nato and Afghan troops stormed the region in southern Helmand province on February 13, determined to wrest it from the insurgents and drug traffickers.

Arriving in the bomb-scarred town, the Western-backed leader met about 300 local elders and asked them to support his government in return for security and reconstruction projects.

"The promises that we have made for security and reconstruction, we will fulfil them," he told the gathering.



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistani Interior Minister Rehman Malik (R) listens to Raja Naqqash Saeed, father of British born kidnapped child Sahil Saeed, at the family's residence in Jhelum yesterday.

## Pak minister hopes for British boy's rescue within days

AFP, Jhelum

Pakistan's interior minister said Sunday he hoped a kidnaped British boy would be rescued within days, alleging that the five-year-old was snatched by someone "very close to the family".

Police scrambled to come up with fresh leads on the fate of Sahil Saeed, abducted Thursday from his grandmother's house in the central town of Jhelum by robbers who also stole jewellery, cash and demanded a 120,000-dollar ransom.

"I am hopeful that we will be able to recover the boy within the next few days. I appeal to those who did it that they should release the child within 48 hours," Interior Minister Rehman Malik told reporters in Jhelum.

## Bangladeshi women on the move

FROM PAGE 1  
important political posts are held by women -- they are Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia and Deputy Leader of the House Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhury. There are also six female ministers and state ministers in the 44-member cabinet. This is a significant change since 1973, when there were only 15 seats reserved for women in the national assembly.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is in charge of major ministries and divisions, including the armed forces division, the cabinet division, the establishment ministry and the defence ministry.

The cabinet's other female ministers include advocate Sahara Khatun of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Begum Matia Chowdhury of the Ministry of Agriculture, Dipu Moni of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Begum Monnujan Sufian of the Ministry of Labour and Employment and State Minister Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, who heads the Ministry of Women and Child Affairs.

According to data from the cabinet division, between

1996 and 2001 there were only three female ministers and state ministers as compared with 33 men. Between 2001 and 2006 there were four women and 57 men.

According to the Ministry of Establishment, a woman was first elected in a general seat in 1979. In 1986 five women were elected, then four in 1991, 11 in 1996, six in 2001 and 17 in the 2008 election.

In 2008 there were 4,419 civil servants employed in ministries, of whom only 673 were women. The same proportion of women were employed as civil servants in 2006.

According to figures from the establishment ministry, 1.89% of secretaries are women and 1.14 per cent of additional secretaries are women. The percentage of women in the following posts are: joint secretary, 7.96 per cent; deputy secretary, 13.20 per cent; senior assistant secretary, 19.29 per cent; assistant secretary, 29.20 per cent.

There are no female vice-chancellors in any public universities. The only Bangladeshi female high commissioner is Prof Selina

Mohsin in the Maldives. Similarly, the only female ambassador is Ismat Jahan in Belgium and the only deputy high commissioner is Mashfi Imte Shams in Delhi.

According to the Bangladesh Labour Force Survey, there are 28 lakh women working in the urban labour force and 93 lakh in rural areas. The industries employing women are typically the readymade garment industry, pottery, agriculture and various small industries.

The Bar Council Report 2008 stated that in the Supreme Court, there are only 231 female lawyers out of a total of 1,780.

Women in political parties  
Awami League (AL) The Awami League's female president is Sheikh Hasina and there are 14 women on its 13-member presidium, including Begum Motia Chowdhury, Sayeda Johra Tajuddin, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Advocate Sahara Khatun. AL has three females on its 31-member secretariat -- Dr Dipu Moni, Faridunahar Laily and Fazilatun Nessa Indira. There are no females in its 20-member advisory council.

Bangladesh Nationalist

Party (BNP) The BNP has only two women on its 19-member national standing committee -- Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Begum Sarwar Rahman. The BNP has eight female officials on its 121-member national executive committee and 38 female members in its 265-member executive committee. There are no women in the chairperson's advisory council.

Jatiya Party The 41-member presidium of the Jatiya Party is led by Hussein Muhammad Ershad and it has five female members, including Rawshan Ershad, Noor-e-Hasnat Chowdhury Lily, Nazma Begum, Salma Islam and Masuda Chowdhury. The party has 20 women in its 299-member central committee.

Jamaat-e-Islami According to its website, Jamaat-e-Islami's central executive committee has no female members.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) The CPB has no female members amongst its 7-member presidium committee and it has only three female members in its 44-member central committee.

Jatiya Shamajtantrik Dal (JSD) The President of JSD, Hasannul Haque Inu, told The Daily Star that there are six women on its 109-member central committee. He said, "We are also trying to include at least 10 per cent of women in all district committees as per the Representation of People's Order (RPO)."

Workers Party of Bangladesh The Workers Party has one woman in its 15-member politburo -- Comrade Hazera Sultana. It has six women on its 61-member central committee.

Women in Challenging Professions  
Women first joined the police force in 1974. Fourteen women held the posts of constable and sub inspector at its Special Branch in 1974. The first female uniformed police members were recruited two years later.

There are 2,240 women in the police force, including the ranks of additional police superintendent, senior assistant police superintendent, assistant police superintendent, inspector, sub inspector, assistant sub inspector and constable.

Women in the police force were previously restricted to serving at metropolitan stations in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna. They did not receive training at the Sharda Police Training Academy. The government later amended this policy and women were included in training programmes from 1986.

The first female deputy inspector general (DIG) is Inspector Begum. She joined as a first assistant superintendent of police (ASP) in 1986. She is currently the only female DIG in Bangladesh. There are four female additional deputy inspector generals.

Fatema said, "I was very difficult when I first joined the police force. I was told that I would be trained separately from the men but I insisted on being trained alongside them." She said that her male colleagues have been very supportive and she is very proud of the fact that female Bangladeshi police have been sent on UN peacekeeping missions since the year 2000.

In 2009, Bangladesh became the first Muslim nation to commit an all-female UN peacekeeping mission.

**ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**MBA (EVENING) PROGRAM**  
**FACULTY OF BUSINESS STUDIES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA**

**The Program Features:**

- **Specialty areas:** Management Studies, Accounting and Information Systems, Marketing, Finance, Banking, Management Information Systems (MIS), Tourism & Hospitality Management and International Business.
- **Tri-mester system:** To complete the program in shortest possible time.
- **Unique program:** To address needs of individual students.

**Minimum Requirement:** Bachelor Degree in any discipline with minimum 6 points (First Division =3, Second Division =2, Third Division = 1, GPA 4 =3, GPA 3 =2 and GPA 2 =1 point).

**Years of schooling & job experience will carry weights.**

**Date of Submission of Application:** From **March 10 to March 31, 2010.**  
Application in prescribed form must be submitted to the Office of the Dean.

**Availability of Form:** Prescribed application forms for admission to MBA (Evening) Program will be available at the Sonali Bank Limited, Dhaka University Campus Branch, from **March 10 to 31, 2010** on payment of Tk. 500.

**Admission Test: April 09, 2010 (Friday) at 03.00 P.M.**

**For details please contact the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Business Studies, University of Dhaka. Telephone # 8613295, 9661920-73/ Ext. 4360.**

GD-1106

**ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড**  
(বাংলাদেশ ইম্পাত ও প্রকৌশল করপোরেশনের একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান)  
১৩১-১৪২ টংগী শিল্প এলাকা  
টংগী, গাজীপুর-১৭১০।

আদমজী পাইপ নামে ব্যতঃ এনটিএলের জিআই/এমএস/এপিআই পাইপ ব্যবহার করুন যা দীর্ঘস্থায়ী, পুনঃ ব্যবহারযোগ্য, নির্ভরযোগ্য ও নিরাপদ।

APILICENSEE : এবং ISO-9001-2008 সনদপ্রাপ্ত কোম্পানী।

**মেশিনারীজ ক্রয়ের পুনঃ টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড, টংগী, গাজীপুর কর্তৃক নিম্নবর্ণিত এয়ার কমপ্রেসার সরবরাহকারীর নিজ খরচে ও দায়িত্বে অত্র কারখানার ভাভারে সরবরাহের জন্য প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে পুনঃ দরপত্র আহবান করা যাইতেছে :

ক্র. নং	টেন্ডার নং ও তারিখ	ক্রয়ের নাম ও বিবরণ	আবেদন মালি (ফেরতযোগ্য)	টেন্ডার দপিলের মূল্য (ফেরতযোগ্য)	টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখ ও সময়
১)	বাণিজ্য (স্থানীয় ক্রয়)-২০/০৯-১০ তারিখ ০৬-০৬-১০	রোটোরী টাইপ স্কু এয়ার কমপ্রেসার (মডেল : জিএ ৫৫-১০)	টাকা ৫,০০০/- (পাঁচ হাজার)	টাকা ২০০/- (দুইশত) মাত্র।	২২-০৬-১০ তারিখে সকাল ১১-১৫ ঘটিকায় টেন্ডার খোলার বন্ধ হইবে এবং একই তারিখে সকাল ১১-৩০ ঘটিকায় খোলা হইবে।

টেন্ডার সিডিউল নির্ধারিত মূল্য পরিশোধ সাপেক্ষে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে হিসাব বিভাগীয় প্রধান, ন্যাশনাল টিউবস লিমিটেড, টংগী শিল্প এলাকা, গাজীপুর এবং হিসাব নিয়ন্ত্রক, বাংলাদেশ ইম্পাত ও প্রকৌশল করপোরেশন, বিএসইসি ভবন, ১০২, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, ঢাকা-১২১৫ হইতে পাওয়া যাইবে। অনিবার্য কারণ বশতঃ টেন্ডার খোলার দিন অফিস ছুটি / বন্ধ থাকিলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে একই সময়ে উভয় স্থানে টেন্ডার গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে। টেন্ডার খোলার দিন কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রি করা হইবে না।

(ডঃ মোঃ আমিরুল মমিন)  
অতিরিক্ত প্রধান প্রকৌঃ (বাণিজ্য)  
ফোন নং ৯৮০২৭৩৭

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**  
**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 Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested and well qualified Organizations in response to the following.

**"Expression of Interest (EOI) for the provision of supply of Goods and Services to CHTDF, UNDP Bangladesh"**

All supporting documents with regards to the EOI along with the instructions for submission can be downloaded from UNDP website at: [http://www.undp.org.bd/proc\\_more.php](http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php)

Hard copies of the documents are also available in CHTDF Dhaka office (IDB Bhaban 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1000) and three (3) district offices of CHTDF, UNDP Bangladesh in Rangamati (Rajbari Road, Rangamati), Khagrachari (Milanpur, Khagrachari) and Bandarban (Jadipara, DonBosco High School Road, Bandarban).

The deadline for submission of Expression of Interest (EOI) is **Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2010, 4:30 pm** (Local Time)