

Indo-Pak dialogue up to their leaders: US

AFP, Washington

The United States said Wednesday that it was up to India and Pakistan to decide on their own relations after Islamabad renewed its call for a US role on the Kashmir dispute.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, taking part in high-level talks, which the United States hope will show goodwill, called for a "constructive engagement" by the United States on Kashmir.

Asked about his remarks, State Department spokesman Mark Toner said: "We've always welcomed dialogue and better relations between India and Pakistan including on the issue of Kashmir."

"But the pace, scope and character of that dialogue are really something for the Indian and Pakistani leaders to decide," Toner told reporters.

Pak PM sees 'paradigm shift' in US policy

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani hailed on Wednesday a "major paradigm shift" in US policy towards his country, as top Pakistani officials were in Washington for a "strategic dialogue".

"There is a time when America did not trust you. You were their ally, but they did not trust you," he told the upper house of the federal parliament.

"There is a major paradigm shift in the policy of the United States, that they are trusting you and holding strategic dialogue."

"There was a trust deficit, but now strategic dialogue is being held. The whole world is supporting Pakistan," he said.

Gilani noted Washington had been pressing

Pakistan to do more to tackle the Taliban and al-Qaeda militants and destroy safe havens in the country's northwest.

He said there was a common purpose shared by the country's government, its military and its top intelligence agency responsible for fighting Taliban militants.

"Critics used to say that army and ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence)... were not with us, but now what will they say when we have sent both military and political leadership together to the US for the strategic dialogue."

Regarding Pakistan's goals in the talks, Gilani said energy and power generation were a priority and he anticipated "unprecedented" investment.

"Energy, electricity are priority number one during the strategic dialogue and you will see that there would be unprecedented huge investment in this sector."

Facing massive electricity shortfalls, Pakistan has said it wants a civilian nuclear deal with the United States similar to a 2008 deal between Washington and India.

Violent threats hit Obama allies over health vote

AFP, Washington

Top Democratic US lawmakers have been forced to call the police and FBI after House members who voted for historic healthcare reform received violent threats and obscene, abusive messages.

Democratic House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer said more than 10 Democratic lawmakers had reported incidents since Sunday's vote, some of which he described as "very serious," without giving details.

President Barack Obama is to travel to Cedar Rapids, Iowa on Thursday for a campaign-style event to tout the benefits of the healthcare overhaul.



Sri Lankan soldiers line up to vote by post in Colombo yesterday ahead of the parliamentary election to be held on April 8. Postal voting is available to those who will be on election-related duties. Some 400,000 of the over 14 million voters had applied to vote by post.

Pakistan arrests suspects in British boy's kidnapping

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani police said yesterday they had arrested two of the men who kidnapped a five-year-old British boy for 12 days this month, and paraded the hooded and shackled suspects before the media.

Sahil Saeed arrived back in England last week after an international police effort to free him from a kidnap gang that snatched him from his grandmother's house in Jhelum in central Pakistan on March 4, demanding a hefty ransom.

Pakistani and British officials launched a hunt for the boy and 12 days later Sahil was recovered safe and well in a field not far from Jhelum -- but only after the boy's uncle had paid a 110,000-pound (168,000-dollar) ransom in Paris.

That was largely recovered, however, in an international operation that resulted in five arrests in France and Spain.

Police in Jhelum said they had arrested two Pakistani men and were searching for two others who allegedly staged the initial kidnapping and robbery.

Maoists kill CPI-M leader

ANI, INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Midnapore Raipur

Maoists abducted and killed a leader of Communist Party of India (Marxist) in Midnapore district of West Bengal on Wednesday. Maoists kidnapped CPI-M leader, identified as Basir Khan whose body was recovered from Joynagar, two kilometers from his home.

Witnesses who saw Khan's body said he had bullet wounds in his head and chest.

Reacting to the incident CPI-M said that it was not possible for them to provide security to everyone.

Meanwhile, more than 90 Maoist militants were killed and 12 terror camps dismantled during the government's anti-Maoist Operation Green Hunt, Chhattisgarh Home Minister Nankiram Kanwar said yesterday.



Pakistani police escort two handcuffed and shrouded men, who allegedly kidnapped a five-year-old British boy for ransom, in Jhelum yesterday.

2 'war criminals'

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The offences in a village named Dhalhara, while Karim had aided and abetted Butchery and his accomplices.

The defence however argued that it would not be logical to try the collaborators who had been the "second line perpetrators" while the real invaders who had been the "first line perpetrators" of the crimes were not being tried.

The defence also raised questions about the trial's acceptability as it was being held under the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973.

Barrister Amirul Islam, who was appointed as the amicus curiae, said a crime is always a crime, which must be tried.

Termining different other incidents like the killing of Bangabandhu and his family, and the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an Awami League rally as different manifestations of genocide, he said war crimes should be tried in order to put an end to such crimes.

Additional Attorney General MK Rahman, and former dean of the Department of Law at DU Prof Dr M Badruddin were the other two judges.

Rokey Chowdhury Rekha and Tanzina Sharmin of DU,

Tabassum Makhduma of Chittagong University, and Sanjib Joy of Brac University were the prosecution lawyers, while Manzur Rabbi, Rashedul Haque Shajib, Sayeda Nasrin, and Gazi Shaghta Farzana of DU were the defence counsels.

Dr Mizanur Rahman of the Department of Law at DU, leaders of Sector Commanders Forum, freedom fighters, and other students were also present at the trial.

RU Shibir

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at the university.

"During primary interrogation Golap provided some significant information similar to that disclosed by Ekram Hossain, a Shibir leader and an accused in the case," Rab legal and media wing director Commander Mohammad Sohail told a press briefing at Rab-1 headquarters at Uttara yesterday.

He did not elaborate on the findings for the sake of investigation.

Ekram, on March 12, confessed to a Rajshahi court that Golap contacted several times with central Jamaat and Shibir leaders on the night of the violence.

He also had told the media that in the early hours of February 9, Golap ordered the attack following directives of Islami Chhatra Shibir president Rezaul Karim.

Golap, who was allowed to speak at the briefing, however denied the allegation of leading the attack and maintaining constant contact with Jamaat high command during and prior to the incident.

Golap said he had talked only to Rezaul Karim who asked him to keep the situation calm.

"Though Golap has denied before the media his involvement and contacts with central Jamaat and Shibir leaders during the attack, he has already admitted his involvement and Jamaat and Shibir central leaders' link with the incident," said a senior Rab official requesting anonymity.

With the arrest of Golap, Rab alone has arrested 11 accused in the cases filed for Faruq murder and RU unrest while a joint team of police and Rab arrested 18 others.

Drik Gallery issues legal notice

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Picture Library and allow its photography exhibition on "crossfire" to open.

The notice, issued by the lawyers on behalf of Drik, said if the government does not lift the ban within 24 hours, legal action would be taken to ensure freedom of expression, said a press release yesterday.

Police closed down Drik Picture Library on Monday shortly before the exhibition was to open.

The notice said police officers have been stationed at the gates every day since then to stop people from entering the exhibition. Home secretary, IGP, Rab director general and DMP commissioner have been made respondents.

Meanwhile, New York based Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the government should allow the photo exhibition on "crossfire" in Dhaka to go ahead as planned.

Barring the exhibition from opening was a serious violation of freedom of expression, HRW in a statement issued in New York on Wednesday said adding that there have been hundreds of extra-judicial killings in Bangladesh.

The exhibition, "Crossfire,"

by Shahidul Alam, features photographs and installations relating to alleged extra-judicial killings by Rapid Action Battalion.

"Officers often contend that these are 'crossfire' killings, in which they killed an alleged criminal in self-defence, often to prevent an escape," it mentioned.

"The government should address Rab's involvement in extra-judicial executions instead of trying to silence those who are promoting public debate about the problem," said Brad Adams, Asia director at HRW. "These killings can't just be airbrushed from reality."

It was elected on promises of stopping such killings and of upholding free expression, Adams said adding, "Now that they are in power, they are singing a different tune. The prime minister should instruct officials not only to allow this exhibit to open, but to file criminal cases against Rab officers who act as judge, jury, and executioner."

Since the exhibition was closed, police officers have been stationed outside Drik, preventing public from visiting it. The reason given by Rab and

police for the closure was that it "lacked official permission" and would "create anarchy."

According to the statement, Shahidul Alam, managing director of Drik, told the news media, however, that Drik had organised many such exhibitions in the past without any requirement from the authorities for explicit permission to hold it.

It quoted a HRW report of 2006, "Judge, Jury, and Executioner," which documented that many of the victims of "crossfire" killings in a large number of cases reviewed had instead either been tortured to death or summarily shot. The report recommended that the battalion be fundamentally reformed or abolished.

In recent months, the home minister has claimed that there have been no extra-judicial killings under this government and that law enforcement officials have only fired their guns when attacked by criminals.

However, investigations by human rights workers have found that the victims in many cases have been summarily shot and killed, the statement added.

Jewellery shop looted

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Asgar and Md Mansur of Khaja Modern Jewellers stole the gold immediately after it was closed at 8:30pm, claimed the shop owners.

Asgar and Mansur returned to the shop half an hour after it was closed and opened the shutters with the keys they had with them, said Jamal Hossain, a betel leaf vendor who witnessed the incident.

Most of the shops in the market prepare to close their business at that time, he added.

"When asked they told me there was an order of huge quantity of ornaments they

would have to entertain immediately," Jamal said.

"After that, I saw them come out with two sacks that must be full of gold ornaments," said Jamal while talking to this correspondent at New Market yesterday.

SM Tareq, one of the proprietors, said they came to know about the theft when his brother SM Parvez opened the shop yesterday morning.

Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali Police Station Mohiuddin Mahmud said though the daily stock and sales are documented in jewellery shops, the owners of Khaja Modern Jewellers failed to show any documents in this

regard.

Asked, SM Tareq said, "We usually keep ornaments in iron safe before the weekend or long holidays. We update document of gold ornaments at that time."

None could be arrested till filing of the report though SM Tareq lodged a case with Kotwali Police Station in this connection.

Sources said, late Hazi Mojaher Sawdagor established the 45-years old jewellery shop and after his death four of his sons SM Tareq, SM Bachchu, SM Parvez and SM Mainul have been running the business since 2001.

Request For Proposal (RFP)

- (i) Develop training and orientation materials to improve health and hygiene awareness and practices; and (ii) Improve designs of community-based physical infrastructure

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh seeks proposals from interested and well qualified organization/firms for (i) Develop training and orientation materials to improve health and hygiene awareness and practices; and (ii) Improve designs of community-based physical infrastructure.

Submission of Proposal: The envelope should state "Proposal for (i) Develop training and orientation materials to improve health and hygiene awareness and practices; and (ii) Improve designs of community-based physical infrastructure." and should be marked as 'Confidential' and addressed to the UNDP Procurement Unit, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. The deadline for submission of Proposal is April 11, 2010, 11:00 AM. Proposals should be submitted to REGISTRY in IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.

All interested firms may request the Bidding Documents from procurement.bc@undp.org by formal request to UNDP or can download from website http://www.undp.org.bd/proc\_more.php

Submission Procedure: The offer should comprise of 2 copies for each 2 separate envelopes of technical and financial proposals.



INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI)

(For Supply of Class Room / Office / Lab Furniture for IUB new Campus at Bashundhara)

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) would like to purchase Classroom/Office/Lab Furniture for its new Campus at Bashundhara, Dhaka In this connection, IUB invites from interested bonafide contractors/importers/suppliers to submit EOI to demonstrate their capability in supplying similar type of furniture for the educational institutions.

The purpose of this invitation is to prepare an official short list of technically-qualified contractors/importers/suppliers capable of supplying the required furniture for the University. The interested bidders are advised to collect the prescribed form including the Drawings/Layout plan of the class rooms/office rooms/Labs of the University from the office of the undersigned to understand the requirements of the University. Preference will be given to the offerers who would submit their proposal in detail providing the design, drawing, photos/videos of the furniture referring to other renowned universities/educational institutions abroad. The interested parties will have to provide evidence of the credentials of their principals / overseas counterpart in supplying furniture to foreign universities.

Interested suppliers/importers/contractors specialized in supplying of furniture shall apply in their letterhead by 2:30 p.m., 12 April 2010 to the undersigned along with the following documents in support of their eligibility:

- Experience history of completion of similar work and on-going projects.
- Attested copies of satisfactory completion certificates from the Employer for supply of similar type of furniture from the university/educational institutions having a capacity of minimum taka One Crore only in a single work order.
- Attested copies of up-to-date Trade license, Income TAX Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate.

Please note that IUB reserves the right to accept or reject any offer without assigning any reason whatsoever.

For further information please contact the office of the undersigned.

Director, Planning & Development  
Independent University, Bangladesh  
Plot # 16, Block-B, Bashundhara, Dhaka  
Tel: 8401790, 8401991

HC asks

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against women.

The court on May 14 last year directed the authorities to form a five-member harassment complaint committee headed by a woman at every workplace and institution to investigate the allegations of sexual harassment.

Majority of the committee members must be women, it ruled.

It had also asked the government to make a law according to its guidelines to prevent any kind of physical, mental or sexual harassment of women, girls and children at any place of the country.

An HC bench comprised of justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and ATM Fazle Kabir yesterday directed the respondents to submit the reports through the Supreme Court registrar.

The HC issued the direction upon 13 officials including cabinet secretary, law secretary, education secretary, labour secretary, communications secretary, and information secretary, the representatives of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), the chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council, inspector general of police and director general of Bangladesh Television.

The HC bench came up with the order following a contempt of court petition filed by Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) on March 8 this year, saying the respondents had not implemented the HC verdict.

Advocate Fawzia Karim Feroze stood for the BNWLA.



CAREER OPPORTUNITY

BRAC invites application from dynamic, competent, creative and self motivated individuals for its "Procurement Department".

Associate System Engineer

Educational Qualification: B.Sc in Computer Science/ Computer Science & Engineering / Computer Software Engineering / B.Sc in Electronics and Communications Engineering having CGPA 2.75 and above in a scale of 4.00 from any reputed university.

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Other Requirements:

- Practical experience in VB 6 / VB.Net, Crystal Report, SQL Server/ Oracle, PHP, ASP.
- Development experience of various business applications such as Attendance, HRIS, Payroll, Inventory, Assets software (required to demonstrate project).
- Applicants having experience in development of supply chain or procurement software and Cisco Certified Network Associate (CCNA) will get preference.
- Competency in hardware support and troubleshooting is desirable.
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If you feel you are the right match for the above mentioned position, please send your CV comprising of 1. Name 2. Mother's Name 3. Father's Name 4. Spouse Name 5. Date of Birth 6. Sex 7. Marital Status 8. Present Address 9. Permanent Address 10. Educational Qualifications (Name of Examination, Passing Year, Group/ Subject, Division/ Class/ CGPA, Board/ University) 11. Experience (If any) 12. Name and Address of two referees along with a cover letter, photocopies of S.S.C/ equivalent & B.Sc Certificate and two recent passport size color photographs to RS&P Section, BRAC-HRD, 8th Floor, BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 not later than April 10, 2010. Please mention the name of the position and Ad# 09/10 on top of the cover letter and the envelope. You can also e-mail CV to recruitment@brac.net. Ex-brac staff will have to mention PIN on the application. Due to large number of applications received only short listed candidates will be contacted.

BRAC is an equal opportunity employer