

Myanmar general Thura Shwe Mann (2R) and Prime Minister Thein Sein (R) along with senior leaders attend a military parade marking the country's 65th Armed Forces Day at a parade ground in the new capital Naypyidaw yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

Anti-Naxal operations on in West Bengal

ANI, Lalgarh/ Kolkata

The government offices in Lalgarh have been closed yesterday following operation 'Green Hunt' by the state and central forces in West Bengal.

All the government offices here are closed that includes the offices of the Block Development Officer (BDO), the ration department and the forest range.

Authorities have contended that the offices have been closed for security reasons and thwart possible attack by Maoists. Maoists are doing their best to provoke villagers, who find it difficult to carry on their routine activities due to the closure of government establishments.

Myanmar junta sets polls ground rules

Election could be held in Oct or Nov

AP, AFP, Naypyitaw

Myanmar's junta chief warned political parties to behave while campaigning for historic elections later this year, noting yesterday that the armed forces can take part in politics "when-ever the need arises."

In his annual national address, Senior Gen Than Shwe maintained his silence on when Myanmar's first election in two decades will actually take place.

No date has been announced for the upcoming polls, which critics have called a sham

designed to keep the military in power with the facade of an elected government.

But a senior official told AFP Saturday that military-ruled Myanmar will hold national elections in the last week of October or in early November.

"The candidates will get about six months for campaigning after they have registered as political parties. The elections will be in the last week of October or early in November," the official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The reclusive 77-year-old Than Shwe rarely says any-

thing in public except at the annual Armed Forces Day parade, which lavishly showcases the military's might in the remote capital Naypyitaw. His seven-minute speech focused on the elections and the role of the army known as the Tatmadaw in politics.

"We, the patriotic Tatmadaw, not only defend and protect the nation and the people with our lives but take part and serve in national politics whenever the need arises," Than Shwe said, after reviewing more than 13,000 troops from inside a slowly moving convertible.

Modi questioned over 2002 Gujarat riots

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Senior BJP leader and Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi yesterday appeared before a probe committee appointed by India's Supreme Court to look into his alleged role in communal riots in the state in 2002.

Sixty-eight other Muslims were also killed in Gulbarga Society massacre, one of many killings across Gujarat triggered by the death of 59 Hindu pilgrims in a train fire on February 27, 2002.

Modi appeared before the

Special Investigation Team after the Supreme Court had ordered the investigators last year to probe a complaint filed by Zakia Jafri, widow of ex-Congress Party member of parliament Ehsan Jafri who was killed during the riots in Ahmedabad, political capital of Gujarat, on February 28, 2002.

Sixty-eight other Muslims were also killed in Gulbarga Society massacre, one of many killings across Gujarat triggered by the death of 59 Hindu pilgrims in a train fire on February 27, 2002.



Narendra Modi

The questioning of Modi remained inconclusive and will resume later in the night.

"I am taking a break from questioning" Modi told reporters in Gandhinagar, emerging from the Special Investigation Team (SIT) office.

SIT Chief RK Raghavan was not present in his office when Modi appeared in response to the panel's summons. The SIT's second-in-command AK Malhotra and a former senior police official questioned the chief minister.

India tests 2 nuclear capable missiles

AFP, Bhubaneswar

India successfully tested two short-range nuclear-capable missiles from two sites off its eastern coast on Saturday, a defence ministry official said.

India, which tested nuclear weapons in 1998, has developed a series of nuclear and conventional missile systems as part of a programme begun in 1983.

Saturday's first test was the launch of the Dhanush, which has a range of 350 kilometres (220 miles) and was fired from a naval ship in the Bay of Bengal off the shores of the state of Orissa.

Airstrikes kill 11 militants in Pakistan

Six kidnapped truckers found dead

AP, AFP, Parachinar/ Peshawar

Pakistani airstrikes killed 11 suspected insurgents yesterday in a tribal region near the Afghan border, an official said, bringing the total killed in a military offensive there to more than 100 this week.

The fighting occurred in Orakzai, a tribal region where many Pakistani Taliban militants are believed to have fled to avoid an earlier army offensive in their main stronghold farther south.

The clashes illustrate a central difficulty of Islamabad's efforts to elimi-

nate the Pakistani Taliban: As security forces clear out one area, the militants slip into other parts of a tribal belt where hide-outs are plentiful and the government presence is minimal.

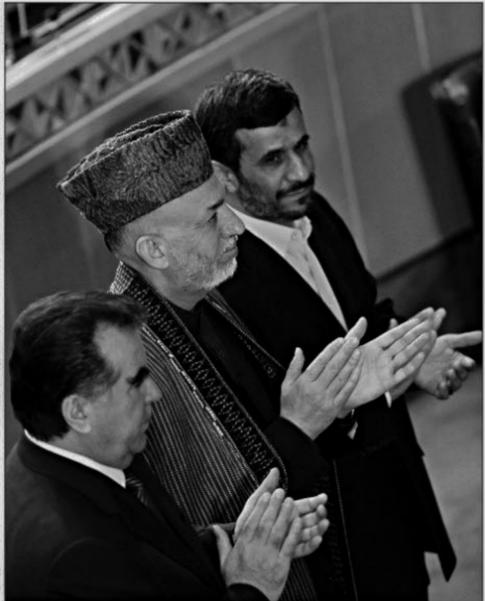
The helicopter strikes Friday targeted several militant hide-outs while ground forces were clearing various areas in Orakzai, local official Sami Ullah said.

Earlier Pakistani police on Saturday found the bodies of six truck drivers who were kidnapped a few days ago in a restive northwestern town, officials said.

The bodies of the six, who had been shot dead, were found in Thal district, local police official Abdul Rehman told AFP.

"A letter found in the pocket of one dead truck driver said that if anyone supplied goods to the Parachinar Shia community, he will be treated like this," Rehman said.

Parachinar, the main town of Kurram tribal district is a sectarian flashpoint where activists from the rival Shia and Sunni Muslim groups have clashed in the past.



(L to R) Tajik President Emomali Rokhman, Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad clap during a ceremony to mark the Persian New Year, Noruz, in Tehran yesterday.

Pakistan says no support for Afghan Taliban

AFP, Washington

Pakistan on Friday rejected suggestions that it has quietly supported Taliban elements in Afghanistan and pledged to work to bring stability in its northwestern neighbour.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, in a theme he has stressed throughout a visit to Washington, said Pakistan was striving to be a "moderate, democratic voice" since its return to civilian rule in 2008.

Pakistan was the chief supporter of the Taliban regime, which imposed a harsh brand of Islam on Afghanistan from 1996 until it was ousted in a US-led military operation after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

"Friends can also change," Qureshi told National Public Radio. "There was a time when there was a Taliban government in Afghanistan and Pakistan felt comfortable with that. But today we do not want the Taliban to take over Afghanistan," he said.

"What the American people need to understand is people in Pakistan, democracy in Pakistan -- they are getting their act together," he said.

He said Pakistan would only seek involvement in Afghanistan in accordance with the country's wishes.

"Whatever we can do to achieve the objective of a peaceful, stable, friendly Afghanistan, we are going to do that," he said.

Afghan and Western officials have long suspected that some of the Pakistani establishment, particularly the powerful Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) spy agency, offer support to Afghan Taliban despite the government's policy.

Kai Eide, the former UN envoy in Afghanistan, has said that Pakistan's arrest of the Afghan Taliban's number two -- a step hailed in Washington -- served to cut off secret dialogue aimed at reconciliation.

Slow justice contradicts democratic strengths: Manmohan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

India's legal and judicial system reflects 'great contradiction', Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Saturday urging that the justice delivery mechanism needed to be expedited to strengthen the country's democratic roots.

"The Indian legal and judicial system is one of the solid pillars of our democracy... Our government attaches great importance to the legal empowerment of the common man," Manmohan Singh said, addressing a day-long national convention of Law, Justice and the Common Man.

The prime minister said democracy held 'little meaning for the common man' unless he or she is able to secure basic rights and gain easy access to speedy justice.

Congress Party president and chairperson of the UPA government Sonia Gandhi (L) and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh walk together as they leave the inauguration of a 'National Convention on Law, Justice and the Common Man' in New Delhi yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) was established under Bangladesh Chartered Accountants Order 1973 (President's Order No.2 of 1973) to regulate the profession of accountants and matters connected therewith. During the last 37 years of accomplishment the Institute has elevated the professionalism of the accountancy profession in Bangladesh to the level of international community of accountants. Major reforms in the ICAB Curriculum and Examination system and institutional governance were introduced as a result of the Twinning Project initiated by the World Bank between the Institute of Chartered accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and implemented through the Ministry of Commerce Government of Bangladesh. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the ICAB and ICAEW the premier institute of the accountancy profession in the World which will further strengthen the role of ICAB in promoting, developing and consolidating the profession of the accountants in Bangladesh. ICAB is permanent member of International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) and other regional and international accounting and standard setting bodies.

As part of the reform proposals ICAB is looking to recruit self motivated proactive and experienced candidates to fill in the following positions:

Controller of Examination

Controller of Examinations is a senior management position in ICAB. S/he will be responsible for the entire examination process of ICAB which include among others, publication of results, liaison with the Tabulators, Moderators and Examiners. S/he is also expected to maintain strict confidentiality at all times.

The incumbent should be a post graduate in English/Accounting/Finance/Economics/ Public Administration with minimum 12 years experience in handling examination and related matters at senior level. S/he must be proficient in English and Bangla and be a computer literate. The incumbent should be self-driven and proactive with successful proven track record. S/he should be within the age group of 40 to 50.

Sr. Assistant Secretary (Exam)

S/he will be responsible for liaison with the Tabulators, Moderators and Examiners. S/he is also expected to maintain strict confidentiality at all times.

The incumbent should be a post graduate in English/Accounting/Finance/Economics/ Public Administration with minimum 07 years experience in handling examination and related matters. S/he must be proficient in English and Bangla and be a computer literate. The incumbent should be self-driven and proactive with successful proven track record. S/he should be within the age group of 35 to 45.

Junior Officer

The incumbent should be minimum graduate with at least 2nd class in any subject with 3 years working experience. S/he should be proficient in English and Bangla and be a computer literate.

Salary and benefits for the positions are negotiable but attractive compensation packages will be offered to the deserving candidates. Interested candidates may apply along with their Curriculum Vitae within 15 April 2010 to Secretary ICAB, C.A Bhaban, 100 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.

We are Looking for ...

Sharif faces flak as parties seek answers for his 'U-turn'

ANI, Islamabad

Pakistani political leaders are still grappling with Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) chief Nawaz Sharif's last minute 'U-turn' over the constitutional reforms package and are trying to find out as to what exactly had prompted Sharif for his sudden move.

Sharif had demanded that a "consensus" be reached before tabling the package in Parliament, despite his party's proposals on the appointment of judges to superior courts being already incorporated in the document.

Leaders cutting across party lines are now demanding an explanation from Sharif with some even bringing into question his sincerity to the reforms process.

According to sources, a large number of PML-N parliamentarians have expressed dismay over the unexpected change in the stance of their party leader, and "they have registered their discontent with the party leadership".

Talking to reporters here, Interior Minister Rehman Malik suggested that Sharif might have been under 'some pressure' to take the move, but added that the "PML-N chief would be able to give a better explanation."

Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid's senior leader, Marvi Memon, blasted Sharif describing him as a 'spoiler'.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) recruitment. It includes the board's logo, name in Bengali and English, and a list of 19 positions with their respective qualifications and salaries. The positions range from Assistant Engineer to Chief Engineer, with salaries from 20,000 to 22,000 BDT per month. The recruitment is for the year 2010.