

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION ORDINANCE

Pak court gives govt 24 hours

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's supreme court yesterday gave the government a 24-hour ultimatum to implement a ruling against corruption allegedly perpetrated by officials or face action.

In a landmark judgement in December, the Supreme Court scrapped a controversial 2007 amnesty, which had protected President Asif Ali Zardari and other politicians from possible court proceedings.

The Supreme Court declared unconstitutional the amnesty known as the National Reconciliation Ordinance (NRO) and ordered hundreds of old cases to be re-opened and action taken against former beneficiaries.

The court demanded the return of millions of dollars plundered by leaders and bureaucrats, action against former attorney general

Malik Qayyum and an increase in the number of anti-graft courts to speedily resolve cases.

It summoned the chairman of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Naveed Ahsan, to explain why he should not be punished for delaying the implementation of the ruling.

Ahsan's written explanation was rejected by the full bench of the supreme court, so he and a top law ministry official pledged to implement the verdict "in letter and spirit" by Wednesday.

Then military ruler Pervez Musharraf passed the NRO in 2007 under pressure to hold elections and end about eight years of military rule.

The amnesty quashed charges against a number of politicians including Zardari and his wife, ex-prime minister Benazir Bhutto -- who was assassinated two months later -- to allow them to stand for office.

G8 backs Obama's call for swift Afghan progress

Kandahar offensive due in June

AFP, BBC ONLINE, Gatineau

G8 foreign ministers are following US President Barack Obama in calling for swift progress on a host of issues from Afghanistan's leader Hamid Karzai, including measures to combat graft.

The Afghan conference in Kabul in May is expected to be where Karzai clarifies his government's "vision for the country," the chief diplomats wrote in a statement released late Monday.

In separate development, US military officials said, the NATO-led coalition in Afghanistan will launch a long-planned offensive in the southern city of Kandahar in June.

A US military source was quoted as saying the goal was to rid the city of Taliban forces before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan begins in August.

US troops are already leading a massive operation in Marjah, in the neighbouring province of Helmand.

Foreign ministers from Britain, Canada, Germany, France, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States said they expected Karzai to soon outline "bold" moves to deliver on commitments made at an earlier conference in London.



Indian police walk past a fountain decorated for a Hindu festival during an indefinite curfew imposed on the old city of Hyderabad on Tuesday. The curfew was imposed on the evening of March 29 following several days of communal violence that saw Hindu and Muslim mobs pelting each other with stones and the injury toll reach above 30 with one death.



Sri Lankan media activists protest against the repression of press freedom in the country in Colombo on Tuesday.

PHOTO: AFP

Troops kill 30 militants in Pakistan

AP, Parachinar

Pakistani fighter jets bombed several militant hideouts near the Afghan border yesterday, killing at least 30 suspected insurgents, an official said.

The assault took place in Orakzai, a tribal region where many Pakistani Taliban fighters are believed to have fled to escape an army offensive further south. The military launched another operation in Orakzai last week, and nearly 150 alleged militants and five soldiers have died in gun battles and air strikes so far.

Local government official Sami Ullah said Tuesday that the troops were not facing much resistance.

"The security forces are using jets and ground forces to target militant positions," Ullah said, detailing the latest casualties.

The remote, dangerous nature of the region

makes it nearly impossible to verify the military and government accounts, and it is unclear how the authorities are distinguishing civilians from insurgents in the death tolls. Taliban commanders in the region could not immediately be reached for comment.

The US has praised Pakistani efforts to root out militants, saying fighting extremists on Pakistan's side of the porous border is key to winning the war against the related Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani Taliban have been under pressure in their main stronghold, the South Waziristan tribal region, since the army launched its ground offensive there in October. Since then, the nearby Orakzai, Kurram and North Waziristan tribal regions are believed to have become favoured sanctuaries for militants fleeing South Waziristan.

India voices against US military aid to Pakistan

PTI, New Delhi

The US military aid to Pakistan is a matter of concern for India, which has been conveyed to the Obama administration, Air Chief Marshal P V Naik said today. "The aid being given to Pakistan is a matter of concern to us definitely and we have made it known."

We have not hidden anything," Naik said soon after taking over as the Chairman, Chiefs of Staffs Committee here. The US has been providing F-16 combat jets, air-to-air missiles and other equipment worth millions of dollars to Pakistan as military aid for fighting the Taliban terrorists on its soil.

Pakistan is scheduled to get 18 of the Block 52 F-16s, Oliver Hazard Perry Class frigate by winter and is expected to receive Shadov Drones within a year. Islamabad is also to receive equipment capable of converting 1,000 traditional munitions into "smart bombs" that can strike targets with precisions.

DESCO POWER IS YOURS
Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO)
 House # 3, Road # 24, Block-K, Banani Model Town, Dhaka-1213
 Tel. No. 8859642, 8860341, 9880400, 8826206, Fax No. 8854648
 E-mail: pcm.ho@desco.org.bd

Corrigendum

Due to unavoidable circumstances the tender notice for the Procurement of Single Phase Electronic KWhr Meters against Tender No.: ICB-03/2010, vide memo no.-DESCO/Proc./ICB/2010/75 dated: 11/02/2010 is hereby revised as follows:

11. Last Selling Date	Replace "04/04/2010" by "18/04/2010"
11. Closing & Opening Date	Replace "05/04/2010" by "19/04/2010"

All other contents of the Tender Notice shall remain unchanged.

March 30, 2010 **Khandaker Najibul Alam**
 Memo No: DESCO/ Procurement /2010/ 165 **Manager (Procurement Division)**

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ICDDR,B invites applications from suitable candidates for the position of **Deputy Project Coordinator** with the Child Health Unit under the Public Health Sciences Division. The appointment will be made on a fixed-term basis for 1 year.

Duty Station - Dhaka.
Salary - Annual Tk.1,099,950/- inclusive of house rent and conveyance allowances with other admissible benefits.

Benefits/facilities -14.8% retirement fund contribution by the Centre, children allowance @Tk.1,420/- per child per month, medical facilities for dependent spouse and children, free group life insurance, and subsidized transport, canteen and daycare facilities.

For detailed job profile and requirements, please visit our website: www.icddr.org. Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should submit an **online application** by **April 12, 2010**.

Only short-listed candidates shall be invited for the interview.



EDCL ESSENTIAL DRUGS COMPANY LIMITED
 395-397, TEJGAON I/A, DHAKA-1208

Ref: EDCL/PUR/ERP/2010/74 Dated: 29/03/2010

NOTICE

Invitation for Expression of Interest (EOI) for Pharmaceuticals Customized Software Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

Expression of Interest (EOI) is hereby invited from the professional Pharmaccuticals Customized Software (ERP) developers for the following modules:

1. Accounts Module
2. Payroll Module
3. Budgetary Control & Planning Module
4. Procurement, Tender Processing L/C Tracking and Shipment
5. HRM Administration Module
6. Other Processing & Collection Module
7. Costing Module
8. Others, as per requirement,

Expression of Interest (EOI) in details is to be submitted to the undersigned within 10 (ten) working days from the date of publication of this notice.

The Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever.

N.B.: This Information is also available at our Website: www.edcl.gov.bd

(Md. Feroze-ul-Alam)
 Director Operation & Incharge
 Procurement & Planning Deptt.
 For : Managing Director

INDO-PAK TALKS

Pakistan in no hurry for talk: Qureshi

THE INDIAN EXPRESS ONLINE

Reiterating that his country wants a purposeful dialogue with India for an early resolution of all outstanding issues, including and Kashmir and the river water sharing dispute, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi has said Islamabad is no hurry to hold talks with New Delhi.

Qureshi said Pakistan would not hurry onto talks if India is not interested in "purposeful" dialogue, but welcomed Saudi Arabia's meditation for restoration of composite dialogue between both neighbours.

Iran diplomat 'freed in Pakistan'

AP, Tehran

Iran's intelligence agents mounted a "complicated" cross-border mission and freed an Iranian diplomat kidnapped in 2008 by gunmen in north-western Pakistan, state television reported yesterday.

The agents rescued Heshmatollah Attarzadeh of Iran's Peshawar consulate "in a complicated intelligence operation" and took him back to Iran the report said.

Intelligence Minister Heidar Moselehi said that Iran had asked Pakistan to free the diplomat, but after it failed to do the job, Tehran had handled the problem itself.

Rajiv Gandhi assassin's release plea rejected

BBC ONLINE

Indian authorities have rejected a request for early release made by the woman convicted over the assassination of Indian PM Rajiv Gandhi.

Nalini Sriharan, who is in a prison in Tamil Nadu state, says she has been eligible for early release since 2005.

Last year she held a fast in the prison in support of her demand.

Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a suicide bomb at an election rally in May 1991. India has always blamed the attack on Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels.

At least 14 other people - including the suicide bomber - were killed in the attack.

Sonia Gandhi back as NAC chairperson

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Head of India's ruling Congress party Sonia Gandhi is back as the chief of National Advisory Council (NAC) revived by the Indian government after four years.

The council, which under Sonia as its chairperson had played a key role in the policies of the first coalition government Congress headed from 2004 to 2006, is once again expected to list the priorities for Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's dispensation.

As the chairperson of the council, Sonia will enjoy the status



of a federal cabinet minister. The NAC was constituted first soon after Congress had

come back to power in May 2004, but Sonia had resigned from the council on March 23, 2006 and her Lok Sabha seat in the wake of a controversy over whether a person can be a member of parliament and hold an office of profit.

However, parliament later passed the Office of Profit Bill exempting 56 posts including the chairperson of the NAC.

As long as Sonia was the head of the council, it had played a crucial role in drafting the Congress-led government's flagship social welfare programmes relating to rural employment and indigenous people's right to forest resources.



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North South University
 Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229
 Phones: 880-2-885-2000 ext: 1765/1764/1763
 E-mail: mbainfo@northsouth.edu; Web: www.northsouth.edu