Thunderstorms

kill 52 in India

At least 52 people were killed and scores injured by heavy

rains lashing northern India over the past two days, which

have destroyed homes, reports

the central and eastern

regions of Uttar Pradesh,

India's most populous state,

where 35 people died and

some 50 were injured, the

Press Trust of India news

were reported from neigh-

bouring Bihar state that was

also lashed by thunderstorms,

the news agency quoted

Most of the victims were

crushed to death by falling

trees or electric poles after

strong winds blew off the roofs

of their houses, the report said.

they were struck by lightning.

Some lost their lives when

Winds uprooted hoardings,

trees, electric and telephone

poles, disrupting communica-

tion links and traffic flow at

other places, it said.

The other 17 casualties

agency reported.

police as saying.

The worst hit areas were

quoting police said yesterday.

AFP, New Delhi

## INTERNATIONAL

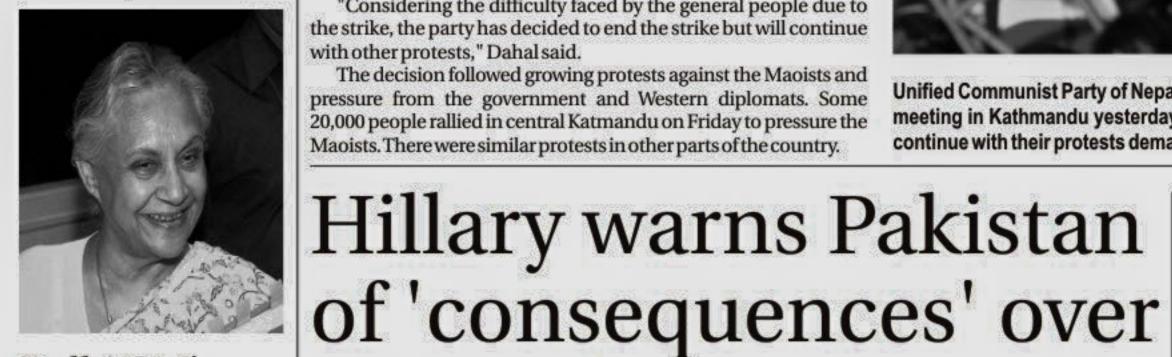
### meet Suu Kyi

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's junta is likely to let US envoy Kurt Campbell meet detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi, paving the way for him to visit the country next week, an official told AFP yesterday.

On Friday the US State Department said Campbell, the assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, would only go ahead with the visit if he were allowed to see Aung San Suu Kyi and other opposition

Suu Kyi, 64, has been in detention for 14 of the past 20 years. Campbell met her in Yangon last November when he became the highest-ranking US official to visit Myanmar in 14 years, part of a new policy by President Barack Obama of engagement with the militaryruled country.



#### Delhi CM's security up after threat

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit's security has been stepped up after the police got an anonymous call stating her life was in danger. But an unruffled Dikshit said she was not worried.

Delhi Police have beefed up Dikshit's 'Z' category security cover following the telephone call Thursday night saying her life was in danger.

"We got a call at 11 pm. The caller said the chief minister's life was in danger for the next 72 hours. As a precaution we have stepped up her security,' a Delhi Police official said.

#### Myanmar likely to let US envoy Maoists suspend strike in Nepal

AP, Katmandu

Markets reopened for business, vehicles returned to the streets and some banks allowed customers to withdraw cash in Nepal yesterday after the former communist rebels ended their debilitating general strike after six days.

In the capital, Katmandu, residents rushed to the local markets to buy fresh vegetables and fruit that trucks carried from outside the city. Buses took thousands of people stranded by the strike to their destinations while even some banks opened their doors to customers.

Security was still tight, and police in riot gear guarded the main areas of Katmandu. Maoists plan a mass demonstration later Saturday, and a protest on Sunday is planned outside the office

complex for the prime minister and key government ministries.

Transportation, schools and businesses had been closed in Katmandu and other cities since May 2 during the strike aimed at pushing out the present coalition government. Opposition to the strike had been increasing, and police fired warning shots at a rally Friday to control clashes between Maoist supporters and opponents.

The top leaders of the Maoist party decided late Friday to end the strike since it was making life difficult, Maoist leader Pushpa Kamal Dahal told reporters.

"Considering the difficulty faced by the general people due to the strike, the party has decided to end the strike but will continue with other protests," Dahal said.

The decision followed growing protests against the Maoists and pressure from the government and Western diplomats. Some 20,000 people rallied in central Katmandu on Friday to pressure the Maoists. There were similar protests in other parts of the country.

extremism

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has warned

Pakistan of unspecified "severe consequences"

if it can be linked to a successful extremist

more helpful in tackling extremists, co-

charged with the attempted bombing in Times

the US was prepared to increase military assis-

willing to accept," he told reporters. "We are

prepared to do training, and exercise with

them. How big that operation becomes is really

extended crackdown on militants, saying

But he played down the chances of an

operation could still be improved.

Square in New York a week ago.

She told CBS while Pakistan had become

A Pakistani-born US citizen has been

Earlier, Defence Secretary Robert Gates said

"We're willing to do as much... as they are

**BBC ONLINE** 

attack on the US.

tance to Pakistan.

up to them.



Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal, also known as 'Prachanda', addresses supporters at a mass meeting in Kathmandu yesterday. Nepal's opposition Maoists ended their nationwide indefinite general strike on May 7 but vowed to continue with their protests demanding for the ruling administration to step down.

# Taliban threatens new

Afghan President Hamid Karzai said yesterday that the United States and its allies still have a long way to go before their security operations are successful in his country.

Karzai says allies have

'miles to go'

AFP, Washington

"We have traveled far together, but the international effort in Afghanistan still has miles to go," Karzai wrote in an op-ed piece in The Washington Post. "We are not yet delivering security to large portions of the country."

He said he had consistently noted the urgency of addressing the problem of sanctuaries that Taliban and other militants receive beyond Afghanistan's borders and that this problem was far from solved.

"Ending night raids and house searches, as well as transferring control of detention facilities on our soil to Afghans will also go a long way in setting us up for success, the Afghan president said.

## attacks in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

The Taliban yesterday announced a new nationwide campaign of attacks in Afghanistan, as President Hamid Karzai prepared for talks with US leaders on his embattled country's future.

The announcement, emailed to AFP, said the operation would begin on May 10 and would target diplomats, members of the Afghan parliament and foreign contractors as well as foreign forces in Afghanistan.

"The Islamic Emirate announces this spring operation by the name of Al-Faath (victory), to be launched against Americans, Nato members and their surrogates," said the statement, using the official name of the Taliban.

"The Al-Faath Jihadi operations will start in 10th May 2010 this year to include operations against the defeated foreigners and their surrogates all over the country."

Tactics would include bombings, assassinations and kidnappings, the statement said.

It came as Karzai warned that swathes of the country lacked security almost nine years after a US-led invasion ousted the Taliban

"We have travelled far together, but the international effort in Afghanistan still has miles to go," Karzai wrote in The Washington Post. "We are not yet delivering security to large portions of the country."

The Afghan leader travels to Washington on Sunday for talks with US leaders ahead of a major military offensive in the southern province of Kandahar, the heartland of the Taliban.

Nato and the United States are deploying thousands of extra soldiers in a strategy designed to bring a swift end to the conflict, with foreign troop numbers expected to peak at 150,000 in August.

Afghan Defence Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak played down the Taliban threat, calling it a "propaganda campaign".

"I doubt very seriously that they have the capability to do anything like what they have claimed they will do," he told journalists.



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#### Financial Statements as at 31 December 2009

Pakistani forces were already "thinly

Minutes programme, Hillary said there was

now a "much better relationship" between the

US and Pakistani governments, militaries and

on in the previous years, where we got a lot of

or capturing of a great number of the leadership

been a real sea change in the commitment

we've seen from the Pakistan government. We

forbid - an attack like this that we can trace back

to Pakistan were to have been successful, there

would be very severe consequences," she

of significant terrorist groups", Hillary added.

lip-service but very little produced," she said.

In an interview with CBS television's 60

"I think that there was a double game going

But the past two years had seen "the killing

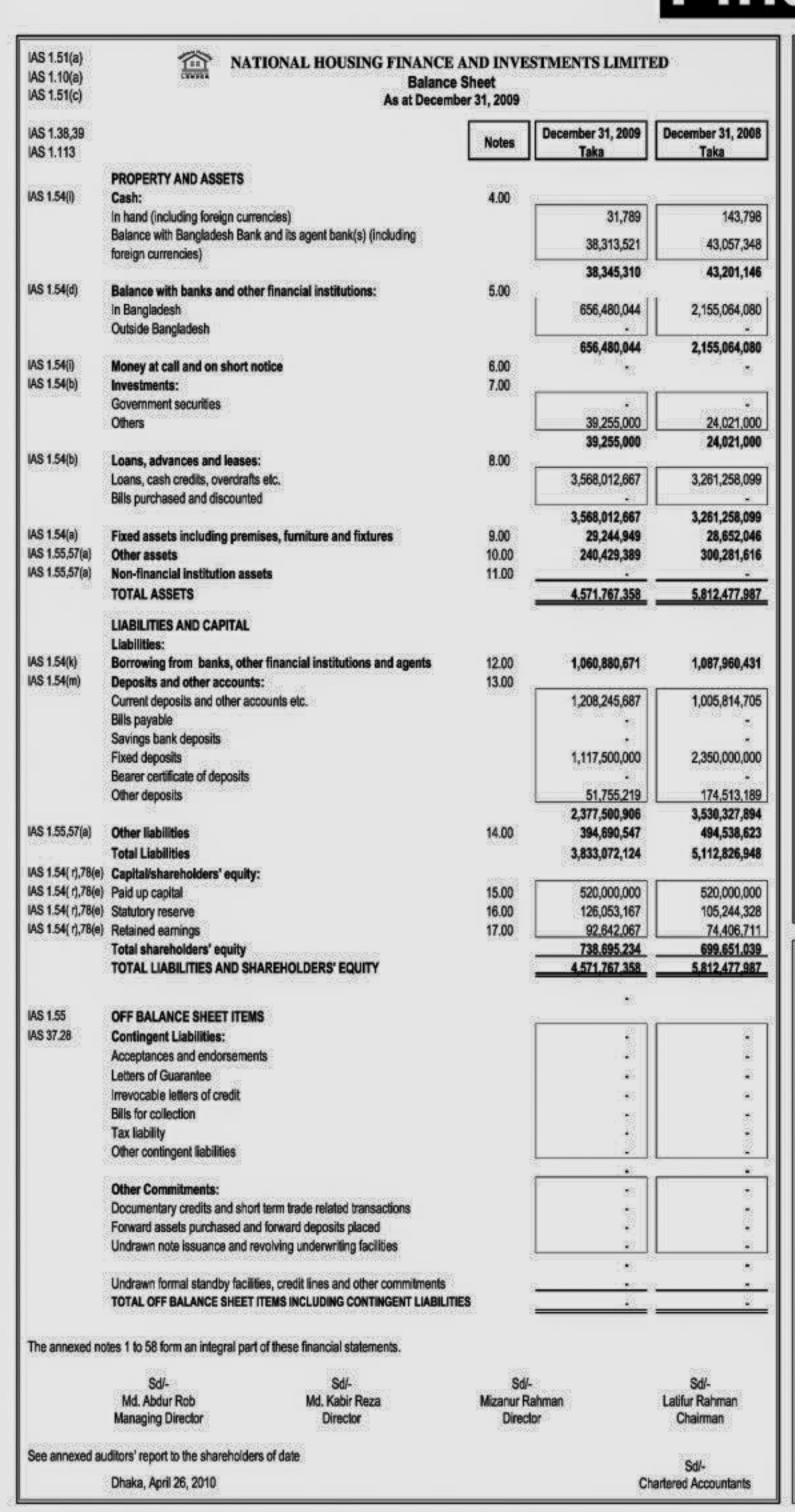
"We've gotten more co-operation and it's

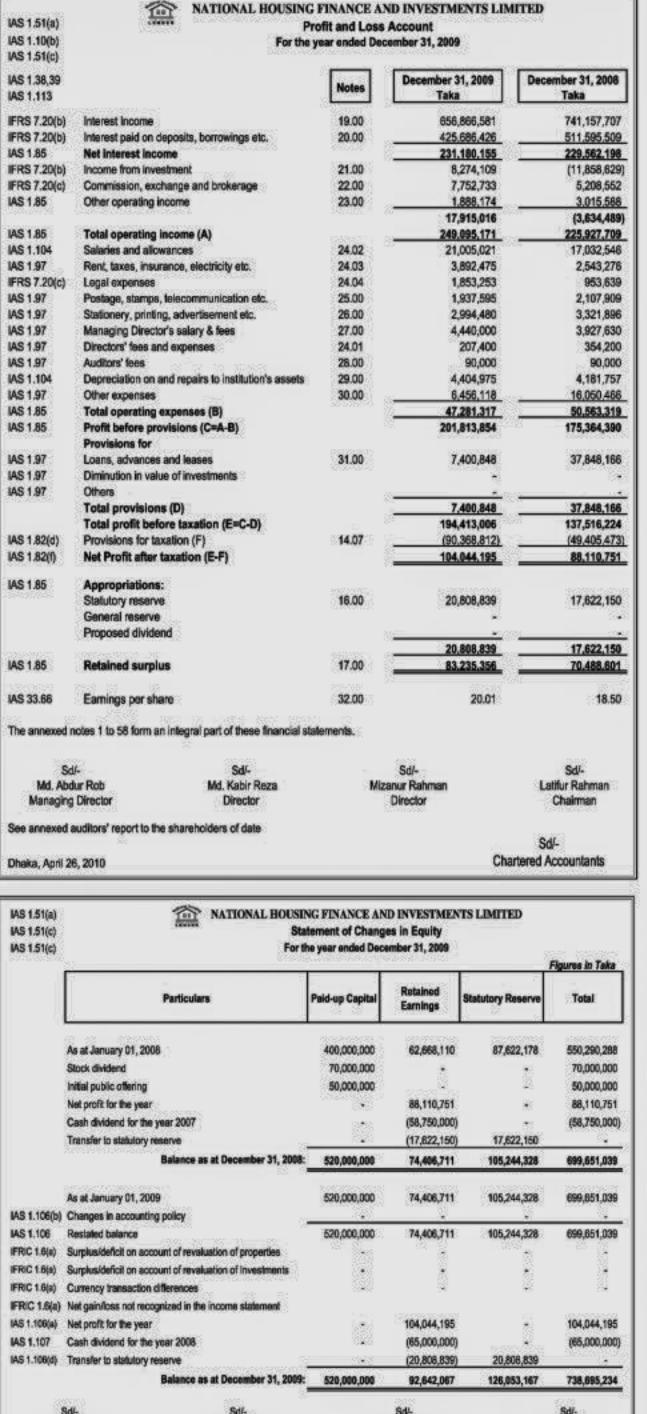
"We've made it very clear that if - heaven-

stretched".

intelligence services.

want more. We expect more."





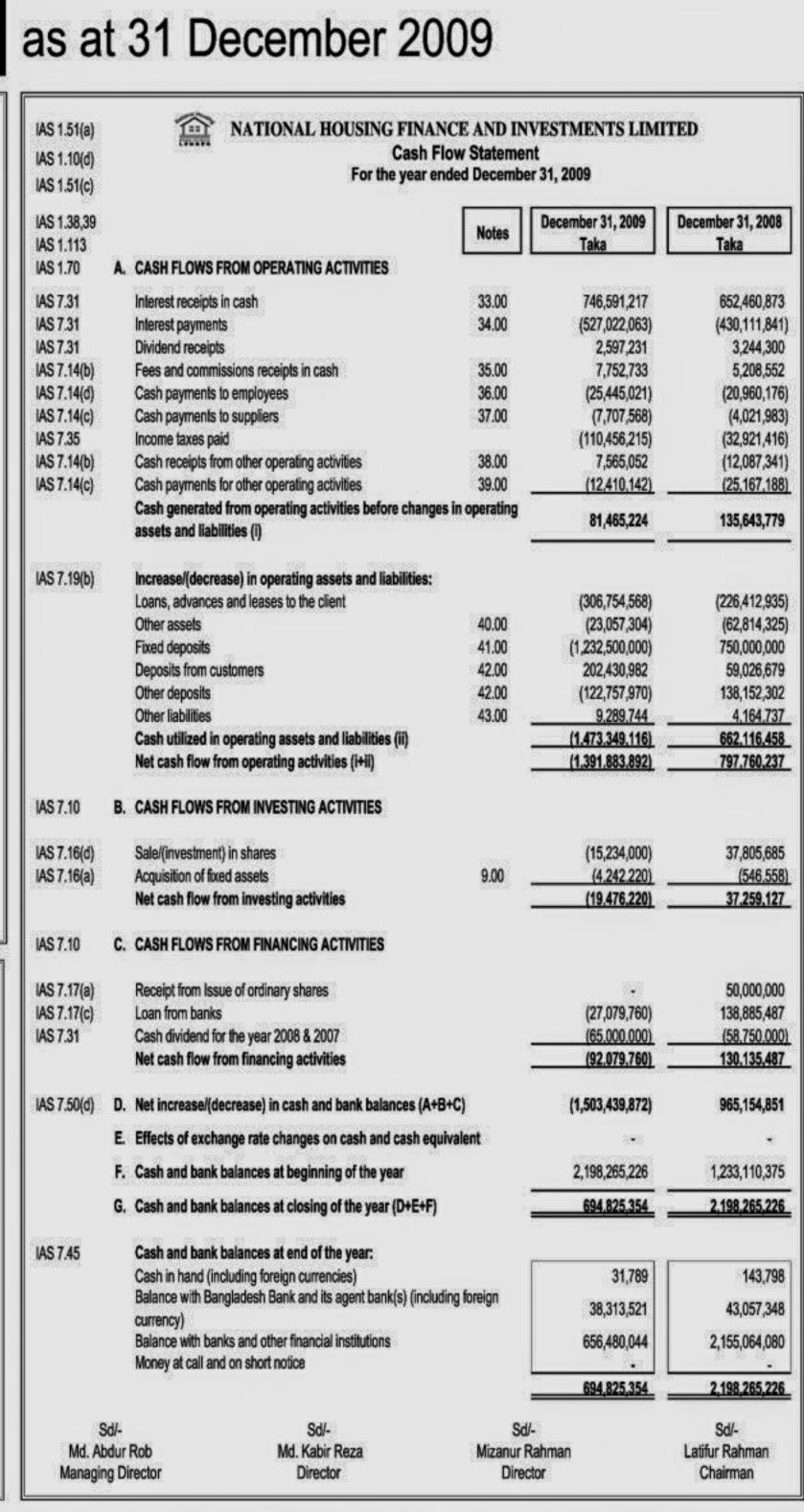
Md. Kabir Reza

Mizanur Rahman

Latifur Rahman

Md. Abdur Rob

Managing Director



\*The detailes of published FSs can be available in the website of the company. The address of the website is www.nationalhousingbd.com