

Govt to follow UN, not US sanctions against Iran
Says Pak PM

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani clarified yesterday that Islamabad would implement UN resolutions over Iran but not US restrictions as announced this week, state media reported.

"As far as the US is concerned, we are not bound to follow these (sanctions) but if these are put in place by the United Nations, we will consider these under the obligation of international laws," he was quoted as saying.

Gilani "clarified his remarks" at a lunch hosted for lawmakers in Islamabad yesterday, state news agency Associated Press of Pakistan said.

US regional envoy Richard Holbrooke said Sunday he had warned Pakistan against signing a gas pipeline deal with Iran, saying the United States was preparing laws that could affect the project.

EU threatens to cut Lanka's trade benefits

UN chief to name panel on rights abuses

AFP, Colombo/ United Nations

The European Union threatened yesterday to withdraw by August trade concessions granted to Sri Lanka unless the island makes a written undertaking to improve its human rights record.

The EU's executive arm, the European Commission, has insisted on "significant improvements on the effective implementation of the human rights conventions" for the island to continue enjoying the trade benefits.

Meanwhile, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is expected to name a group of experts Monday to advise him what to do about alleged human rights violations during the last month of the Sri Lankan civil war, a UN diplomat said Monday.

"It is an advisory panel of experts, not an investigative body," the diplomat told AFP.

The three-member panel "will provide the secretary-general with advice on how to proceed on the question of accountability pertaining to Sri Lanka," the diplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the Colombo government had not yet been officially notified.

Sri Lankan authorities have faced numerous accusations of war crimes committed during a final military offensive against Tamil rebels in

the northeastern part of the island last year that ended the conflict.

Videos, photographs and satellite images presented by human rights groups as evidence of war crimes have been rejected as forgeries by the government in Colombo.

The GSP+ scheme gives 16 poor nations preferential access to the vast European market in return for following strict commitments on a variety of social and rights issues.

These benefits will be withdrawn on August 15 unless Sri Lanka makes a written commitment by July 1, a statement from an EU mission to the island said.

Sri Lanka's hawkish government has faced almost constant criticism in the past several years over the way it conducted a war against Tamil Tiger separatist rebels who were finally defeated in May 2009.

Government forces have been accused of a host of rights violations including the indiscriminate killing of thousands of Tamil civilians, the murder of aid workers and the execution of surrendering rebels.

Sri Lanka criticised the EU's warning to withdraw the trade benefits, with the foreign ministry in Colombo complaining that Europe was setting "unattainable targets".

US summons McChrystal on his aides' gaffe

General sorry for comments

REUTERS, Washington

The White House has summoned the top US general in Afghanistan to Washington to explain controversial remarks critical of the Obama administration, US military officials said yesterday.

The move comes a day after General Stanley McChrystal, the commander of US and Nato forces in Afghanistan, apologized for comments by his aides insulting some of President Barack Obama's closest advisers in an article to be published in Rolling Stone magazine.

The military officials said McChrystal would be returning from Kabul on Wednesday, but did not give any more details.

A US embassy spokeswoman in Kabul said she was aware of the media reports but could not comment.

McChrystal will meet in person with Obama, US media reported.

The Rolling Stone article, to be published on Friday, also quoted an aide describing McChrystal's "disappointment" with his initial one-on-one meet-



ing with Obama last year.

"I extend my sincerest apology for this profile. It was a mistake reflecting poor judgment and should never have happened," McChrystal said in a statement on Monday.

The Rolling Stone article, which quoted several McChrystal aides anonymously, portrays a split between the US military and Obama's advisers at an extremely sensitive moment for the Pentagon, which is fending off criticism of its strategy to turn around the nearly

nine-year-old Afghan war.

It quotes a member of McChrystal's team making jokes about Vice President Joe Biden, who was seen as critical of the general's efforts to escalate the conflict and who had favoured a more limited counter-terrorism approach.

"Biden?" the aide was quoted as saying. "Did you say: Bite me?"

Another aide called White House National Security Adviser Jim Jones, a retired four star general, a "clown" who was "stuck in 1985."

McChrystal was quoted as saying he felt "betrayed" by the leak of a classified cable from US Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry last year. The cable raised doubts about sending more troops to shore up an Afghan government already lacking in credibility.

McChrystal took command of all US and Nato forces in Afghanistan in June 2009 after his predecessor General David McKiernan was removed for what most experts interpreted as a sign Washington was losing patience with conventional tactics that failed to quell mounting violence.



Ethnic Uzbek people wait for a bus after their return from Uzbekistan in the outskirts of the city of Osh yesterday. Thousands of refugees who had fled to Uzbekistan to avoid ethnic bloodshed trekked back to burned-out homes in Kyrgyzstan on Tuesday ahead of a vote on how the Central Asian state will be governed.

PHOTO: REUTERS

PEACE TALKS WITH ULFA

Manmohan's move hailed

IANs, Guwahati

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's decision not to oppose the release of the jailed leadership of the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa) to facilitate peace talks has been hailed in Assam, which has suffered over three decades of insurgency.

The welcome minister's announcement is indeed very positive and we welcome his gesture,' Bijon Mahajan, legal counsel for jailed Ulfa chairman Arabinda Rajkhowa, told IANS.

Manmohan Singh announced the decision in New Delhi Monday to a six-member delegation of the newly-floated Citizen's Forum, an 11-member body of academics, writers, retired police and army officers, rights leaders and intellectuals.

Releasing six top jailed Ulfa leaders so that they could hold their central executive with full freedom in order to prepare for peace talks was one of the key demands put forward by the Forum.

The Forum, which is taking the lead to explore possibilities of opening talks between the Ulfa and the government, was formed in April and claims the support of at least 100 civil society and other ethnic groups.

'We are happy with the developments. From our side we are ready to do whatever possible to start the process of political negotiations with the Ulfa although we cannot give a timeline,' Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi told IANS.

German man detained near Pak militant stronghold

REUTERS, Bannu

Pakistani security forces have detained a German man clad in a head-to-toe veil in the northwest as he was being driven from the militant bastion of North Waziristan on the Afghan border, police said yesterday.

The man, in his mid-20s, was caught at a security checkpoint on the border between North Waziristan and Bannu city on Monday, Shafqat Khan, a senior police officer in Bannu, told Reuters.

"He was in a car with two tribesmen, one of them was also wearing a burqa. They were carrying a girl in a bid to pretend they're a tribal family," he said.

Khan said the German was being interrogated by a joint investigation team.

job opportunity

The Westin Dhaka, a 5-Star Luxurious Business Hotel - managed by Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide, Inc. U.S.A. and owned by Unique Hotel & Resorts Ltd (UHRL), the following position is open for recruitment. Interested candidates are requested to submit their applications.

Financial Controller
Qualification/Skills requirement
MBA/CA/ACMA. At least 10 years experience in the relevant field. Must have good analytical ability. Must have good command over accounting software. Possess strong team building skills. Requires excellent communication skills, both verbal and written. Ready to work in fast pace environment.

Job summary
S/he has to provide necessary financial support to the Hotel Executive Committee, so that the General Manager can meet bottom-line objectives. As a member of the Executive Committee, s/he has to take part in all operational, financial and strategic decisions. S/he has to investigate opportunities and implement procedures for improved profitability and assist and advise where necessary in hotel operations. The Financial Controller will be required to conduct their duties in a courteous, safe and efficient manner, in accordance with the hotel's policies and procedures, ensuring that a high level of service is maintained. The performance of the Financial Controller is assessed on their effectiveness as a member of the Hotel's management team, the business results of their unit and goals, the management skills developed and effectively applied by the individual and the training and development of their staff.

Duty Engineers
Qualification/Skills requirement:
B.Sc in Engineering. Must have good technical knowledge. Possess strong team building skills. Requires excellent communication skills, both verbal and written. Ready to work in fast pace environment.

Job summary
S/he will be responsible for the property maintenance of all buildings, plant and equipment including furniture, fittings and fixtures. S/he has to manage capital projects and works within the Hotel ensuring all aspects conform to Westin Engineering Standards. S/he has to participate in the overall Hotel's Management as a key department head.

If you feel that you are the right person we are looking for and if you are ready to take the challenge, please apply with confidence to the Manager - Human Resources & Training, Westin Dhaka, Plot # 1, CWN(B), Road # 45, Gulshan, Dhaka 1212 or e-mail: hr@westindhaka.com no later than June 30, 2010.

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DHAKA

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‘US indirectly funding Afghan warlords’

REUTERS, Washington

The United States is indirectly paying tens of millions of dollars in protection money to Afghan warlords, and potentially to the Taliban, to secure convoys carrying supplies to US troops in Afghanistan, congressional investigators said in a report.

The Pentagon's system of outsourcing to private companies the task of moving supplies in Afghanistan, and leaving it up to them to provide their own security, frees US troops to focus on counterinsurgency.

But its unintended consequences undermine US efforts to curtail corruption and build an effective Afghan government, according to the report to be reviewed at a congressional hearing yesterday.

"This arrangement has fuelled a vast protection racket run by a shadowy network of warlords, strongmen, commanders, corrupt Afghan officials, and perhaps others," Representative John Tierney, chairman of a House of Representatives national security subcommittee, said in a statement.

Tierney, a Democrat, said the system "runs afoul" of the Defence Department's own rules and may be undermining the US strategic effort in Afghanistan.

The report by the subcommittee's Democratic staff called protection payments "a significant potential source of funding for the Taliban," citing numerous documents, incidents reports and emails that refer to attempts at Taliban extortion along the road.

MAOISTS' THREAT

New tactic of West Bengal police to retain youths

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Taking a cue from the ongoing World Cup football fever, the police of India's West Bengal state has hit upon a noble idea of retaining the youths from drifting into Maoist-fold - offering them a trip to Germany to attain training as footballers. The police plans to organize football talent-hunt competition in Maoist-dominated Lalgarh area of West Medinipore district. Promising players will be sent to Germany for training in Europe's leading club Bayern Munich, West Bengal Director General of Police Bhupinder Singh said in Kolkata on Monday.

This would be done in a bid to divert the local youths from the influence of Maoists, he said.

"We want to cash in on the football fever", Singh said adding Lalgarh was chosen as the venue of the competition to begin with because it has large grounds.

Former German and Bayern goalkeeper Oliver Kahn had visited Kolkata in May 2008 and informed that his club wanted to set up a football complex in Burdwan district of West Bengal.

Lalgarh is a troubled spot where the Maoists have a sizable presence and is the battleground for the ultra-Left activists and Indian security forces for more than a year now.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Finance, Finance Division
Deepening Medium Term Budget Framework (MTBF)
and Strengthening Financial Accountability
BTMC Building (7th Level)
7-9, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215

Memo No.: DMTBF/373(A),

Date: 21.06.2010

Request for Expressions of Interest for Consultant Services

Bangladesh

Strengthening Public Expenditure Management Program (SPEMP)

Grant No: TF 095283-BD

Project ID: 117248

Selection of Individual Consultants (Component Coordinator)

People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the Deepening Medium Term Budget Framework and Strengthening Financial Accountability (Project A), under a comprehensive program titled Strengthening Public Expenditure Management Program (SPEMP), being implemented by the Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for following consultancy services: Project Director, Project Management and Coordination Unit (PMCU), now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services as mentioned below:

Contract Package No.	Position title	No of positions	Duration of engagement
S2-S6	Component Coordinator (CC)	05 (five)	15pm for each CC

The services of component coordinators will include, but not limited to the following: The Component Coordinators (CC) will be the implementation manager, responsible for managing assigned components of the project. He/She will be the liaison point between the PD/PMCU, the Component Advisors and international/national consultants and development partners to achieve the overall objective of the project, which is to deepen and institutionalize the MTBF and build a more strategic and performance oriented budget management process, while strengthening financial accountability across the public expenditure management cycle.

[More details are available in the detailed terms of reference]

Educational qualification:
Post Graduate Degree in Economics/Development Economics/Public Finance/Development Finance/Business Studies/Public Administration/Public Financial Management/Accounting and other relevant subject.

Experience and skills:
Applicants must have at least 15 years experience in the relevant fields of the public sector with adequate exposure to policies and program on socio-economic development, policy reform, program implementation, etc. and have strong leadership and team management skills. He/She should be able to work under pressure and meet deadlines. Applicants must have a very good command over English and excellent communication skills to be able to carry messages to the stakeholders across the government and international donor agencies. Eligible government officials should apply through proper channel. Preference will be given to candidates having practical experience in the relevant fields and nature of works.

Consultants will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers published by World Bank in 2004 and revised in October 2006 (Consultant Guidelines). Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours (from 11am to 3pm).

Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below by **11 July 2010** with their complete CVs indicating expected remuneration under a covering note in sealed envelopes and **be clearly marked with position title for which the candidates are applying.**

Ranjit Kumar Chakraborty

Project Director

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