

India, Pakistan to hold trust-building talks today

India and Pakistan are set to kick off a string of back-to-back meetings, starting with talks between their foreign secretaries today that are aimed at bridging post-26/11 trust deficit and exploring ways to revive dialogue between them.

Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao will fly to Islamabad along with Home Secretary GK Pillai Wednesday for talks with their Pakistani counterparts.

Rao will hold wide-ranging talks with Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Salman Bashir that will cover an entire gamut of bilateral issues, including terrorism, Jammu and Kashmir, confidence-building measures and the Indus water dispute.

All issues are on table, including Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said here ahead of the talks.

From India's point of view, terror will top the agenda.

During delegation-level discussions, India will press for the speedy trial of seven 26/11 terror attacks suspects in Pakistan, concrete action against Hafiz Saeed, the suspected mastermind of the Mumbai carnage, and against those groups based in Pakistan nurturing anti-India agenda.

Ten terrorists had held Mumbai hostage for 60 hours from Nov 26, 2008, killing 166 innocent men, women and children.

Rao is also expected to take up a recent spike in cross-border infiltration and ceasefire violations that are marring the spirit of thaw that followed the summit talks between Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Pakistani counterpart Yousaf Raza Gilani in Thimphu nearly two months ago.

Manmohan Singh and Gilani had directed their foreign ministers and foreign secretaries to meet and work out modalities of restoring trust between the two countries.

Signalling India's intention to revive dialogue, official sources said here India was going into these talks in 'an exploratory, not an accusatory way.'



Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani (R) meets with British Foreign Secretary William Hague (2nd L) at his office in Islamabad yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

India army officer killed in Kashmir clash

BBC ONLINE

A senior Indian army officer has been killed in a gun battle with separatist militants in Indian-administered Kashmir.

Colonel Neeraj Sood was "leading his troops" when he was gunned down by militant in Lolab area, the army said.

He is the highest ranking officer to be killed by militants in Kashmir in 2010.

Despite a decline in violence in Kashmir in recent years, there are fears that militants are trying to regroup in the region.

Hundreds of thousands of Indian troops are based in Kashmir to fight a two decade-old insurgency against Indian rule.

A spokesman for the Indian army said the operations against militants, launched by Col Sood before he was killed, is still on in the forested areas of Lolab, north of the capital, Srinagar.

It is not clear whether the militants have suffered any casualties in the clashes.

Pakistan releases Bin Laden hunter

ANI, Islamabad

An American construction worker, who was detained from Pakistan's Chitral region last week while on a solo mission to find and kill al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden, has been released.

Gary Brooks Faulkner, 51, who has been dubbed "Rambo" and the "American Ninja," has left for the United States after being released from custody, the Xinhua news agency reported.

However, there has been no official confirmation about the report.

He was nabbed while trying to sneak into Afghanistan's Nuristan province on June 15 and confessed to be on a personal mission to eliminate bin Laden, who has a 25 million dollar bounty on his head.

According to reports, Faulkner is said to be suffering from diabetes and various kidney ailments.

Faulkner was arrested with night-vision goggles, a pistol, dagger and 40-inch sword that may have been intended for use on bin Laden.

Since 1981, Faulkner has been arrested at least 10 times on charges ranging from traffic offences to theft and domestic violence, according to the Colorado Bureau of Investigation.

GENERAL'S AIDES' GAFFE Is Obama dropping 'no drama' style with McChrystal?

REUTERS, Washington

An infuriated US president is hauling his top general in Afghanistan to the White House, job hanging in the balance, to explain "what in the world he was thinking" when he and his aides mocked their commander-in-chief and his team.

After reading General Stanley McChrystal's complaints in a Rolling Stone magazine article entitled "The Runaway General," Obama departed from his calm, deliberative style. He wasted little time in ordering him to fly halfway around the world to face the music yesterday.

Obama spokesman Robert Gibbs, speaking more bluntly and emphatically than usual at his daily briefing on Tuesday, said "the magnitude and greatness of the mistake here are profound" and repeatedly declined to say McChrystal's job was safe.

"All options are on the table," he told reporters.

Gibbs said he gave Obama a copy of the article on Monday night and the president twice left the White House residence and went to the Oval Office to confer with his advisers.

"He was angry," Gibbs said.

How so? a reporter asked. "You would know it if you saw it," Gibbs said tersely.

The public talk of presidential pique raises strong questions whether McChrystal will be able to save his job.

Obama risks looking weak on insubordination if he lets McChrystal stay, especially with some leading lawmakers calling for the general's head.

But Obama also could be accused of undermining his own Afghan war strategy -- already facing steep obstacles -- if at such a pivotal moment he cuts loose the commander he appointed to implement it. Success or failure in Afghanistan will be a major part of Obama's foreign policy legacy.

"The purpose for calling him here is to see what in the world he was thinking," Gibbs said of McChrystal. He pointedly insisted, however, that the US war effort in Afghanistan was "bigger than one person."

The McChrystal controversy is the last thing Obama needs as he struggles with a devastating BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico while dealing with high unemployment and a stuttering economy that threaten his fellow Democrats in November's pivotal congressional elections.

It is also another test of the "No-drama Obama" style he cultivated during the presidential campaign and has instilled as his presidential demeanour.

Obama has been widely criticized for not showing enough anger and emotion over the oil spill, the worst ecological disaster in US history. But he won praise for his uncharacteristic comment that he was looking for an "ass to kick."

McChrystal has apologized for the Rolling Stone article, which quotes his aides calling one top Obama official a "clown" and another a "wounded animal." The general himself made belittling remarks in the article about Vice President Joe Biden and the US special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke.

Afghan leaders voice strong support for McChrystal

AP, Kabul

Afghan officials said yesterday that firing Gen Stanley McChrystal would disrupt progress in the war and could jeopardize a pivotal security operation under way in Taliban strongholds in the south.

At the end of a one-hour video conference Tuesday night with President Barack Obama, Afghan President Hamid Karzai expressed his confidence in the top Nato commander in Afghanistan, Karzai spokesman Waheed Omar said.

McChrystal was summoned to Washington to explain disparaging comments published in Rolling Stone magazine that he and his top aides made about Obama's national security team.

While McChrystal, who was meeting with Obama on Wednesday, was harshly scolded by his superiors in the United States, officials in Afghanistan rallied to his support, saying he had increased cooperation between Afghan and international troops, worked to reduce civilian casualties and gained the trust of the Afghan people.

Lanka concerned over UN panel formation on war crime

BBC ONLINE

The Sri Lankan government has expressed its concern over UN secretary general's decision to set up a panel to look into alleged human rights abuses.

There have been several allegations that both the army - and Tamil Tigers rebels who they routed last year - committed crimes at the end of the war.

Ban Ki-moon's spokesman said the three-man panel would advise on how to deal with alleged perpetrators.

About 7,000 civilians died in the last five months of the war, the UN says.

Rights groups accuse both sides of war crimes - a claim which has been denied.

Sri Lanka's media minister, Keheliya Rambukwella, told a local news website that the government was "concerned" that Ban Ki-moon, as an outsider, had appointed this panel of human rights advisers, given that Sri Lanka recently announced its own team looking at reconciliation issues.

"We will take appropriate action when it comes to the next stage," the minister said.

Ban's three-member panel is headed by a former attorney-general of Indonesia, Marzuki Darusman.

He was part of an international team which was appointed to observe proceedings on a previous Sri Lankan commission on atrocities but which resigned saying that commission did not meet basic minimum standards.

The other two members are South African human rights lawyer Yasmin Sooka and Steven Ratner, a US international law expert.

The BBC's Charles Haviland in Colombo says that the UN's new panel is advisory in nature and is not an investigation commission.

Our correspondent says that the domestic Sri Lankan one, appointed a few weeks ago, also has limited and quite vague terms of reference.

The 37-year conflict ended last year with the defeat of the Tamil Tigers in May 2009. The UN estimates 100,000 people were killed.

Taliban 'openly raising funds' in Pak Punjab

BBC ONLINE

A Pakistani intelligence report says militants are publicly raising funds in Punjab province, the BBC has learned.

The disclosure comes amid reports of an increased Taliban presence in this politically important province.

The report says at least 17 banned militant groups are operating in the province under different names.

They are raising donations through religious gatherings, certificate award ceremonies and meetings held in the name of social welfare, it says.

Punjab is Pakistan's most populous province and is home to more than half of the country's 160 million people.


It is the country's breadbasket and houses most of its industry.

It also supplies the bulk of personnel to Pakistan's military, civil service and political class.

In recent years, militants have carried out dozens of attacks against civil and military targets in Punjab.

Officials blame these attacks mostly on the so-called "Punjabi Taliban" affiliated with anti-Pakistan Taliban groups based in the country's north-western tribal areas.

Tender Notice					
Name of Tender	Advertising Authority	Place of Submission	Price of Tender documents	Last date of tender submission	Place & date of tender opening
Tender for completion of the Embassy's office, Ambassador's Residence & Staff's quarter building project	The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Dhaka Tel: 8829128-30 E-mail: bdemb@mofa.gov.bd	Office of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, Dhaka	USD 1000 (one thousand dollar)	Tuesday 21.9.1431H corresponding to 31.8.2010	Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh, Purchase section Sunday 10.10.1431H corresponding to 19.9.2010 At 10:00am



UNDP
Bangladesh

Request For Proposal (RFP)

Development of Pot song, performer team formation, performance, full length video documentation and 3 minutes length TV spot for popularizing the concept of Digital Bangladesh

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh seeks proposals from interested, well qualified vendors for Development of Pot song, performer team formation, performance, full length video documentation and 3 minutes length TV spot for popularizing the concept of Digital Bangladesh.

Submission of Proposal: The envelope should state **"Development of Pot song, performer team formation, performance, full length video documentation and 3 minutes length TV spot for popularizing the concept of Digital Bangladesh"** 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 **July 11, 2010, 11:00 AM**.

All interested firms may obtain the Terms of Reference (ToR) and the bidding documents from website http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php. A briefing session will be held on June 17, 2010 at 11:00 am in CDMP (6th Floor, Disaster Management and Relief Bhaban, 92-93 Mohakhali, Dhaka 1212) for organization/firm interested.

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

BANGLADESH CRICKET BOARD

Mirpur Dhaka.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

1	Agency	Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)		
2	Procuring Entity Name	Chief Executive Officer (CEO)		
3	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning on turnkey basis of Turnstile Gate Integrated with Bar coded, RFID and NFC technology with cabling work, computer with software and net work cabling, civil works of Rack room/Control room and other related works at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium Mirpur, Dhaka and Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium Chittagong.		
4	Invitation Ref No	BCB 02/2010/651		
5	Date	22/06/2010		
6	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method		
7	Budget and Source of Funds	Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB)		
8	Tender Publication Date	24/06/2010		
9	Tender Last Selling Date	14/07/ 2010 by 5:00PM		
10	Tender Closing Date and Time	15/07/ 2010 at 12:00 Noon		
11	Tender Opening Date and Time	15/ 07/ 2010 at 12:30 PM		
12	Selling Tender Document	Finance & Accounts Dept, Bangladesh Cricket Board, Sher-E-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216.		
13	Place of Receiving & Opening Tender Document	Office of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216.		
14	Eligibility of Tenderer	<ol style="list-style-type: none">Interested local/foreign company/Manufacturer/Supplier who have experience in supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning on turnkey basis of Turnstile Gate Integrated with Bar coded, RFID and NFC technology with cabling work, computer with software and net work cabling, civil works of Rack room/Control room and other related works in any internationally standard Sports Stadium/venue.Interested foreign companies/Manufacturers/Suppliers can participate through a local company/agent and local company/agent must have annual turn over BDT 3.00 Crore during last 03 (three) years.Local company/agent must have the up to date Trade license, TIN/Tax clearance certificate, VAT Registration Certificate, ABC License (electrical works) and documents of joint venture/agency agreement.		
15	Price of Tender Document	BDT 20,000.00 (Ten Thousand) or USD 300.00 Only (Non Refundable)		
16	Particulars	Location	Tender Security Amount (Tk)	Completion Time in Months
	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning on turnkey basis of Turnstile Gate Integrated with Bar coded, RFID and NFC technology with cabling work, computer with software and net work cabling, civil works of Rack room/Control room and other related works at Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium Mirpur, Dhaka and Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium Chittagong.	Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium Mirpur, Dhaka & Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium Chittagong.	2.5% of Quoted Amount	4 (Four) Months
17	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium Mirpur, Dhaka.-1216. Phone: 8031001- 4 Fax: 8031199		
18	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without showing any reason.			

Chief Executive Officer
Bangladesh Cricket Board