

## US to be more tolerant on Afghan corruption

**AFP, Washington**

US military commanders in Afghanistan are developing a strategy that would tolerate limited corruption but target large-scale abuses, The Washington Post reported late Friday.

Citing unnamed senior defense officials, the newspaper said Pentagon officials had concluded that the Taliban insurgency was the most pressing threat to stability in Afghanistan rather than corruption.

They also believe that a sweeping effort to stamp out corruption would create chaos and a governance vacuum that the Taliban could exploit, the report said.

"There are areas where you need strong leadership, and some of those leaders are not entirely pure," the paper quotes a senior defense official as saying.

"But they can help us be more effective in going after the primary threat, which is the Taliban."

Graft is a major issue in Afghanistan, which is rated by international monitor Transparency International as second only to lawless Somalia on its scale of the world's most corrupt countries.

## Karzai announces council to talk peace with Taliban

**AFP, Kabul**

Afghan President Hamid Karzai yesterday announced that he had set up a council to pursue peace talks with the Taliban, who have been waging an insurgency in Afghanistan for almost nine years.

The formation of the High Peace Council was "a significant step towards peace talks," a statement from Karzai's office said.

The move is one of the most significant steps Karzai has taken in his oft-stated efforts to open a dialogue with the Taliban leadership aimed at speeding an end to the long war.

Karzai's plan to create the High Peace Council was approved in June at a "peace jirga" in Kabul attended by community, tribal, religious and political leaders from across the country.

The council was mooted as a negotiating body, to be made up of representatives of a broad section of Afghan society, to talk peace with the Taliban, who have been waging war since their regime was toppled in late 2001.

Officials met Karzai at his palace on Saturday to finalise the list of members, who would include "jihadi leaders, influential figures and women," the statement said.

The complete list of members would be announced after the Eid holiday next week, it said.

Karzai's announcement had been expected some days ago, after he met last week with former Mujahideen leaders Burhanuddin

Rabbani and Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, as well as officials, to discuss the make up of the council.

His spokesman Simak Herawi said last week that it would include "some (former) Taliban and Hizb-i-Islami members," a reference to a minor militant group led by former prime minister and Mujahideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

"This council will... certainly be effective in decreasing the level of violence in Afghanistan," Herawi said.

Hekmatyar's Hizb-i-Islami is currently in a tenuous alliance with the Taliban, although both sides remain suspicious of each other.

Hekmatyar's power has waned over the years and he commands far fewer fighters than the Taliban. Nevertheless, the group is active across part of Afghanistan's northern and eastern provinces.

The Taliban have repeatedly spurned peace overtures, deriding Karzai's government as a puppet of the United States and saying they will not talk peace until all foreign forces have left the country.

The announcement comes as the insurgency escalates and the number of foreign troop casualties so far this year nears the 2009 toll, at 485 with the deaths on Tuesday of five US soldiers in two separate incidents.

The United States and UN have almost 150,000 troops in Afghanistan fighting the Taliban-led insurgency, most of them in the southern hotspots of Helmand and Kandahar provinces.

## Pak blast toll rises to 65

**AP, Quetta**

The death toll from a Pakistani Taliban suicide attack on a Shia Muslim procession rose from 43 to 65 overnight as critically wounded people died in hospitals, police said yesterday.

About 150 people were wounded and some remained in critical condition after the bombing Friday in the southern city of Quetta, police official Mohammed Sultan said.

The attack was the second in a week against Shias for which the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility. A triple suicide bombing Wednesday night killed 35 people at a Shia ceremony in the eastern city of Lahore.

"Our war is against American and Pakistani security forces, but Shias are also our target because they, too, are our enemies," Pakistani Taliban commander Qari Hussain Mehsud told The Associated Press.

He said he was proud the US had added the Pakistani Taliban to its international terrorism blacklist on Wednesday, and he threatened attacks in the US and Europe in coming days that would resemble a recent attempted car bombing in Times Square.

"We will in coming days strike inside America and Europe," he told The Associated Press.

## Taliban vow to attack US, Europe

**US drone strikes kill 10 militants**

**AFP, Miranshah**

The Pakistani Taliban vowed Friday to attack the United States and Europe, days after the US State Department added the group to a blacklist of foreign terrorist organisations.

"Soon we will target America and Europe, we will take revenge for the drone strikes," Qari Hussain, a militant commander for the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan faction, told AFP by telephone from an undisclosed location.

"(President Barack) Obama and his allies are our enemies -- they are afraid of us. We do not care if they have declared us a terrorist group," he said.

"We will carry out more attacks, inside Pakistan and Afghanistan. We will target Americans and their allies wherever they are," he told AFP.

Hussain is also known as "Ustad-e-Fidaeen", or teacher of suicide bombers.

"Obama and his friends are the real terrorists, Pakistan is also an ally of America and we will attack all Pakistani government officials," he said.

Hussain said the group also took responsibility for the triple suicide bombing in Pakistan's eastern city of Lahore, which killed 31 people when it targeted a Shia mourning procession on Wednesday.

A second major attack, for which the Taliban have not so far claimed responsibility, on Friday killed 53 people and injured almost 200 more at a Shia rally in the southwestern city of Quetta.

Meanwhile, two US drone strikes on Friday killed at least ten militants, including some foreign fighters, in Pakistan's northwestern tribal belt near the Afghan border, security officials said.

Both strikes hit North Waziristan district, a renowned hub for Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked militants.

The first strike targeted a militant compound on the outskirts of North Waziristan's main town of Miranshah.

It was followed within an hour by a second strike that targeted a car travelling in Datta Khel, a small town 30 kilometres from Miranshah, officials said.

The United States on Friday condemned the Taliban attack on Shia processions and other apparent sectarian attacks in Pakistan this week.

"We strongly condemn the recent barbaric attacks on religious processions in Lahore and Quetta and on a place of worship in Mardan, near Peshawar," State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said in a statement.

"We stand with all of the people of Pakistan who should have the freedom to peacefully observe their religion, especially during Ramadan, and focus on rebuilding their lives after the floods, not mourn friends and family killed in terrorist attacks," he said.

Catastrophic flooding has affected 18 million people across insurgency-hit Pakistan, including eight million dependent on aid handouts for their survival.

On Wednesday the United States added the Tehreek-e-Taliban faction to the blacklist of foreign terrorist organisations, meaning members face asset freezes and travel bans.

## NEWS IN brief

### Blast kills Afghan policemen, civilians

**REUTERS, Kabul**

A bomb blast killed four Afghan police officers and three civilians in Afghanistan's northern Kunduz province yesterday, a provincial official said.

Violence in the country is at its deadliest phase this year since the Taliban Islamists stepped up their insurgency campaign against the Afghan government and thousands of international forces supporting it.

Mohammad Omar, provincial governor of Kunduz, said the blast caused by explosives planted in a motorbike also wounded several people and destroyed some shops nearby.

### Obama, UN chief to discuss Afghanistan on Tuesday

**AFP, Washington**

President Barack Obama and UN Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen will meet Tuesday at the White House to discuss the situation in Afghanistan, the president's spokesman said Friday.

During their meeting, the two leaders "will discuss UN's role in advancing our shared interests in Europe and beyond, including through the International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan," Robert Gibbs said in a statement.

### Car bomb wounds Russian provincial minister

**REUTERS, Makhachkala**

A senior official in the province of Dagestan in Russia's Caucasus was wounded and his driver killed by a bomb planted in their car, a police spokesman told Reuters yesterday.

Bekmurza Bekmurzayev, a minister in charge of national, religious and foreign affairs in Dagestan's government, was taken to hospital suffering from shock. His bodyguard was also injured by the bomb.

"The minister left the car without exterior help," a witness told Reuters. A badly burned body was at the scene, another witness said.



Afghan men stand under posters and banners of people contesting parliament elections, in Kabul yesterday. Afghanistan will hold parliamentary elections on September 18.

## US military chief seeks Turkish support over Iran ban

**AP, Ankara**

The United States' top military officer stressed yesterday the need for Turkey to help enforce United Nations sanctions against Iran aimed at deterring the Islamic Republic from obtaining a nuclear bomb.

Turkey voted against the US-backed sanctions against Iran in June, insisting that its neighbor's nuclear program is peaceful, despite fears that Tehran might be seeking to develop nuclear arms. Turkey has, however, stated that it will abide by the sanctions.

Adm Michael Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told reporters in the Turkish capital he did not plan to "question or rebut" Turkey over the vote and welcomed Turkey's stated intention to abide by those sanctions.

The UN approved a fourth round of sanctions against Iran in early June over accusations that Tehran is seeking to develop atomic weapons. Iran denies its nuclear program is militaristic in nature and says it has a right to conduct uranium enrichment for peaceful purposes. Washington and other powers accuse Iran of seeking to build a nuclear weapon.

Mullen said that both countries agree that Iran should not achieve "a nuclear weapons capability," and need "to do all that we can to ensure that."

Mullen arrived in Ankara Friday to meet with his new Turkish counterpart, Gen Isik Kosaner, who took office on Aug 27. He also met with Turkey's prime minister and defense minister. No statements were released after those meetings.

Mullen praised Turkey UN's sole Muslim member state for its role in Afghanistan and said the United States would welcome any additional help it can provide.

Turkey currently holds the rotating command of the international peacekeeping force guarding the Afghan capital, while Turkish instructors are training the Afghan army and police force.

"We would like Turkey to sustain all of those efforts," Mullen said. "Any additional capabilities that Turkey can provide against the training shortfall, that would certainly be of great help."

The US military chief said Washington has no plans to withdraw its weapons from Iraq through Turkey, though the US military has sought Turkish permission to transport some combat equipment from Iraq through its territory.

Turkey has said it looks favourably on the passage of such equipment and technical material, but not arms, which would require parliament's approval.

## AI calls for Indian Maoists to free cops

**AFP, New Delhi**

Human rights group Amnesty International called yesterday for Maoist rebels to free three policemen held hostage in eastern India after the group killed one of the captives.

The Maoists have threatened to kill the three remaining policemen unless eight jailed comrades are freed.

"The taking of hostages is prohibited by international law," said London-based the rights group in an emailed statement.

The Maoists "must stop threatening to kill or harm them these police officers and guarantee their lives and safety," Amnesty said.

The hostage crisis in Bihar state is seen as a major test for the region's chief minister Nitish Kumar, who is widely credited with improving the economic fortunes of deeply deprived areas.

Amnesty's appeal came as search parties, aided by helicopters, fanned out over the area where the policemen are thought to be held, but the dense forest, hills and risks of operating in Maoist areas made progress slow.

Police said they found the body of policeman Lucas Tete Friday in a remote forested district 150 kilometres (100 miles) from the Bihar state capital Patna.

## MUMBAI ATTACKS TRIAL

### Pakistan seeks India's cooperation

**AFP, Islamabad**

Islamabad yesterday urged India to help find a way to progress the trial in Pakistan of seven suspects linked to the 2008 Mumbai attacks, which has strained ties between the nuclear-armed rivals.

The suspects include the alleged mastermind of the attack on India's financial capital, Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operative Zabar Shah.

Delhi and Washington have both blamed the Mumbai attack on the LeT faction for the attacks, which left 166 people dead.

The trial has almost stalled as New Delhi has refused to give the court access to lone surviving attacker Mohammad Ajmal Kasab -- who is on death row in India -- and Indian national Fahim Ansari, a conspirator.

An anti-terrorism court in the garrison town of Rawalpindi indicted the seven men on the eve of the first anniversary of the attack, which ended a fragile peace process with Pakistan.

But Pakistani officials have since implied that the trials cannot proceed unless Kasab, who was sentenced to death in Mumbai in May, is handed over as a witness.

Kasab, one of 10 gunmen who went on the three-day rampage through Mumbai, was convicted on March 31 on charges including murder and waging war on India.

Pakistan interior minister Rehman Malik told reporters after meeting the Indian high commissioner and speaking to Indian Home Minister P. Chidambaram on the telephone: "The trial is stuck and actually we do not want to give an impression to the international community that perhaps it has been delayed."

"We proposed to India while talking to Chidambaram that how about that we move our case to our trial court and request them to appoint a commission of relevant officials to record the statements of the witnesses," he said.

"And this has been happening in the past and so using that facility we request to the court and if they give permission, will they (India) be able to accept," Malik said.

Chidambaram replied that "they will be considering it", Malik said.

Malik said he underlined the importance to the trial of Kasab and Ansari appearing in court in Pakistan.

## PAKISTAN FLOOD

### Govt extends relief phase to six months

**AFP, Karachi**

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani yesterday said relief efforts would be extended to six months as floods ravage more southern towns in the worst disaster to hit the country.

A month after monsoons triggered catastrophic flooding throughout the country, submerging an area the size of England, eight million remain dependent on handouts for their survival, which they say are too slow coming.

"In the current circumstances and urgent needs, the relief phase which was earlier planned to end on October 30, now will continue for six months," Gilani told the lower house of the federal parliament.

"Early recovery phase shall be completed by December 30, while damage and need assessment by World Bank and Asian Development Bank would be completed by September 30," he added.

Authorities in the southern province of Sindh were busy evacuating more people to safety in several flooded towns around 350 kilometres (215 miles) north of Karachi as officials said thousands more tents were urgently needed.

## Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd.

### MEMBERSHIP FOR SALE

**Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd. intends to sell 2 (two) Memberships through open bidding system.**

Applications from Corporate Entities are invited as per terms and conditions given in the Tender Schedule, which may be collected from the CSE offices (addresses appended below) on payment of non-refundable Pay Order/Demand Draft of Tk. 15,000 (Fifteen Thousand) only in favour of Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd. during the CSE office hours within the **5th October, 2010.**

The application should be made in "two-envelope" system. **One envelope** should contain a Completed application form for membership, information and documents required as per schedule and earnest money equivalent to 25% of the bid amount or **Tk. 3,91,25,000 (Taka three crore ninety one lac twenty five thousand)** only whichever is higher in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft favoring Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd., and the other envelope should contain a price offer in the form of a letter. The envelopes should be sealed and marked "**Membership Offer as per Schedule**" and "**Membership Price Offer**" respectively on the cover of the envelope. Both the envelopes should be submitted in a large sealed envelope marked "**Application/Bid for Membership**" on its cover, addressed to the Chief Executive Officer, Chittagong Stock Exchange Ltd., CSE Building, 1080, SK.Mujib Road, Agrabad, Chittagong and must reach CSE on or before 5.00 p.m on the 5th October, 2010.

The membership bids will be opened in presence of applicants/ their authorized representatives, on the same day i.e **5th October, 2010 at 5:30 p.m** at the Corporate Office of CSE in Chittagong.

The Board of Directors reserves the right of accepting or rejecting any application/bid without showing any reasons thereof.

### Chief Executive Officer

<p><b>CSE Corporate Office CSE Building</b> 1080, Sk. Mujib Road, Agrabad Chittagong, Bangladesh Tel: +88-031-714632-3, 720871-3, 726976-7 Fax: +88-031-714101</p>	<p><b>Dhaka Regional Office</b> Eunoos Trade Centre (Level -15) 52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000 Bangladesh Tel: +88-02-9513911-15 Fax: +88-02-9513906</p>	<p><b>Sylhet Regional Office</b> Ananda Tower (3rd floor) North Dhupadighir Par (Jail Road), Sylhet. Tel: +88-0821-721213, 723184 Fax: +88-0821-721214</p>
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