

**Key Pakistani governor assassinated in Islamabad**

BBC ONLINE

The governor of Pakistan's most important province of Punjab, Salman Taseer, has died after being shot in the Pakistani capital Islamabad.

Mr Taseer, a senior member of the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), was shot near a market popular with wealthy Pakistanis and foreigners.

He was taken to hospital where he died from his injuries.

Police say he was shot by a member of his own security detail as he got out of his car.

It is unclear what motivated his assassin.

Mr Taseer had recently spoken out against the country's blasphemy law, prompting protests by Islamists.

**Zardari heads for US next week**

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari will visit the United States next week, officials in Islamabad confirmed yesterday in the wake of a major political crisis that has weakened his government.

Zardari is scheduled to attend the memorial of Richard Holbrooke, who was the US special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan until his sudden death last month, and meet US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, they said.

# Pakistani opposition gives govt ultimatum

AP, Islamabad

Pakistan's main opposition leader gave the government a three-day deadline yesterday to accept a list of demands if it wants to avert its possible collapse after the loss of its ruling majority in parliament.

The ultimatum by Pakistan Muslim League-N chief Nawaz Sharif could determine the government's fate since his party has the second-largest number of seats in parliament and would be key in pushing through a no-confidence vote in the prime minister and possible early elections.

Such a scenario became possible when the second-largest member of the governing coalition, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement, joined the opposition on Sunday, depriving the government of its parliamentary majority. It said it was

partly motivated by anger over recent fuel price hikes.

Sharif said the government must reverse the price hikes, cut government expenditures by 30 percent and implement a series of court verdicts against ruling party officials for corruption. He said they must accept the demands within 72 hours and show progress within 45 days.

"If the government says no, if the prime minister says no, then we will ask the opposition parties to come forward and we will give them our full support," said Sharif during a news conference held in Islamabad after a meeting to determine the party's stance.

Sharif also threatened to withdraw from the governing coalition that the PML-N has with the ruling Pakistan People's Party on a local level in central Punjab province if the govern-

ment does not meet his demands.

The ultimatum seemed to contradict statements made earlier in the day by senior PML-N officials that the party would not push to overthrow the government.

It also contradicts many analysts who said the PML-N would be reluctant to push for the government's collapse because it would be faced with the prospect of taking up the reins at such a difficult time. It has also clashed with other opposition parties, including the Muttahida Qaumi Movement.

The Pakistan People's Party could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Rasul Bakhsh Rais, a political science professor at Lahore University of Management Sciences, said Sharif's list of demands and his threat to join other opposition parties turns up the heat on the government.

## LATEST leaks

### France top culprit in European industrial espionage

AFP, Oslo

France is the country that conducts the most industrial espionage on other European countries, even ahead of China and Russia, said leaked US diplomatic cables quoted yesterday by Norway's Aftenposten.

"French espionage is so widespread that the damages (it causes) the German economy are larger as a whole than those caused by China or Russia," an undated note from the US embassy in Berlin said, according to a Norwegian translation by Aftenposten.

The Norwegian daily of reference said last month it had obtained all the 250,000 US diplomatic cables WikiLeaks had accessed and would publish stories based on them independently of the whistleblowing website's own releases.

Its yesterday's article based on leaked cables included an October 2009 comment from Berry Smutny, the head of German satellite company OHB Technology, quoted in the diplomatic note.

"France is the Empire of Evil in terms of technology theft, and Germany knows it," a Norwegian translation of Smutny's comment in the cable read.

OHB Technology became known to the general public in January 2010 when it obtained a contract for the construction of several satellites for the Galileo satellite navigation system, a much-delayed European challenger to the American-developed Global Positioning System (GPS).

The small German firm won the bid for the contract over Astrium, a subsidiary of pan-European giant EADS.

A leaked US cable posted Monday by Aftenposten described Franco-German competition in terms of spy satellite development.

The cable said Germany was developing, with the help of the US, its own High Resolution Optical Satellite System (HIROS), despite the objections of France, which is leading pan-European efforts in the field with its Helios satellites.



Assassin



Salman Taseer

Photo: AP, AFP

**Pakistani police officers collect evidence at the scene where Punjab government Salman Taseer was shot dead by one of his guards in Islamabad, Pakistan yesterday.**

### ইভেন্ট ম্যানেজমেন্ট ফার্মসহ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান নিয়োগ

এসএমই ফাউন্ডেশনের উদ্যোগে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের সহযোগিতায় আগামী ১৫-১৬ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০১১ তারিখে চট্টগ্রামের ইন্টারন্যাশনাল মিলনায়তনে দুইদিন ব্যাপি "এসএমই ফাইন্যান্সিং ফোরাম" এর আয়োজন করা হবে। মেলার দেশের প্রায় সকল ব্যাংক ও নন-ব্যাংক আর্থিক প্রতিষ্ঠান অংশগ্রহণ করবে মর্মে আশা করা যায়। মেলার উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান আয়োজন, তৈরপল ও সামিয়ানা সহ আনুমানিক ৪০টি স্টল প্রস্তুত, স্যুভেনিরসহ বিভিন্ন ব্যানার, ফেস্টুন, পোস্টার প্রিন্টিং এবং বুলানো ইত্যাদি ব্যবস্থা করার জন্য অভিজ্ঞ ইভেন্ট ম্যানেজমেন্ট কোম্পানীসহ সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট হতে প্রস্তাবনা আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। প্রস্তাবনা সংক্রান্ত যাবতীয় তথ্য ও সিডিউল এসএমই ফাউন্ডেশন কার্যালয়ে পাওয়া যাবে। এছাড়া ফাউন্ডেশনের ওয়েবসাইটেও ([www.smef.org.bd](http://www.smef.org.bd)) এই সংক্রান্ত তথ্য পাওয়া যাবে। সিডিউলের মূল্য ১,৫০০/- টাকা এবং জমাদানের শেষ তারিখ ১৬/০১/২০১১ সকাল ১১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। যারা ইতোপূর্বে একই উদ্দেশ্যে দরপত্র দাখিল করেছেন তাদেরকে নতুন সিডিউল ক্রয় করে পুনরায় প্রস্তাবনা দাখিল করতে হবে। এই ক্ষেত্রে তাদেরকে পূর্ববর্তী দরপত্র অক্ষুন্ন অবস্থায় ফেরত দেয়া হবে এবং প্রস্তাবনার মূল্য সমন্বয় করা হবে।



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