

India raises Maoists issue with Nepal

PTI, Kathmandu

Concerned over the situation in Nepal, India yesterday raised the issue of activities directed against it by Maoists and sought adequate security for its nationals in this country, including its diplomats.

It also conveyed to the leadership here that it would like to see "early" completion of Nepal's peace process and resolution of all issues through political consensus in the backdrop of the current stalemate, which has been a matter of concern to New Delhi.

External Affairs Minister S M Krishna expressed India's commitment to providing all kinds of assistance to Nepal in its transition to a stable, inclusive and multi-party democracy.

They also said they recognised the "crucial importance of preserving the professional integrity and apolitical nature of Nepal Army" while integrating the Maoist combatants with it in line with the Comprehensive Peace Accord.



A local woman washes a few of her retrieved tableware items after the recent earthquake and tsunami at the seaport of Ogatsu town in Ishinomaki city, Miyagi prefecture yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

India to introduce anti-graft bill

PM admits public fury over corruption

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh admitted yesterday that corruption had become a cause of serious public discontent, as he pledged to introduce an anti-graft bill in parliament soon.

Singh, credited with kickstarting India's economic boom during his time as finance minister 20 years ago, has seen his reputation suffer during his second term as premier due to a series of major corruption scandals.

Public anger at the dishonest officials and shady business deals that are part of everyday life in India recently drew huge support for a 73-year man who went on hunger strike to force the government to act.

"There is a growing feeling in the people that our laws, systems and procedures are not effective in dealing with corruption," Singh told civil servants in New Delhi.

"We must recognise that there is little public tolerance now for the prevailing state of affairs (and) people expect swift and exemplary action and rightly so."

His government earlier this month accepted hunger-striker Anna Hazare's demand to include activists on a panel drafting the anti-graft bill, which could ensure prosecutions of ministers and bureaucrats.

Singh said the bill would be introduced in the next session of parliament, which starts in July.

On Wednesday, a court remanded in custody five corporate executives accused in an alleged mobile phone licence sales fraud that may have cost the country up to \$40 billion in lost revenue.

Disgraced telecoms minister A. Raja is already in custody along with other government officials and businessmen over the alleged fraud.

UN WAR CRIMES REPORT Sri Lanka asks UN not to publish

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka asked the United Nations yesterday not to publish a forthcoming report on alleged war crimes during the island's ethnic war, saying it could set back reconciliation efforts.

Foreign Minister G L Peiris warned UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon about releasing the study compiled by a panel of experts who looked into alleged rights abuses and crimes against humanity during the war which ended in 2009.

"The publication of this report will cause irreparable damage to the reconciliation efforts of Sri Lanka. It will damage the UN system too," Peiris told reporters in Colombo. "This UN report is preposterous."

Peiris stressed that the government had never accepted Ban's appointment of the panel and warned him about initiating a full enquiry into suspected civilian deaths during the final stages of fighting.

He declined comment on the contents of the report, a copy of which was handed over to him nine days ago, even though parts of the 200-page document have been leaked in pro-government newspaper Island last weekend.

The UN has said it intends to make the report public some time this week.

War Crimes

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treatment for the accused inside the jail, and, if necessary, allow them to receive treatment at Birdem Hospital at their own cost.

The court also directed the prison authorities to allow the leaders to collect necessary medicine from outside the jail.

The investigators have to complete the probe into allegations against the Jamaat leaders as early as possible, it said. The prosecution has to submit the progress report, if the investigators fail to complete the probe, by June 1.

The investigators were ordered to inform counsels of Nizami and Mojahid 48 hours before holding the interrogation so the accused can consult with their lawyers and be prepared.

The tribunal said during interrogation the accused

should not be harassed in any manner, and their lawyers will be present in the adjacent room.

It said the investigators will question the Jamaat leaders about the documents and evidence they have collected but the statements of the accused during the interrogation will not be treated as evidence.

And this provision will be incorporated amending the tribunal's rules of procedure, added the court.

The four leaders sought bail on medical grounds. Nizami and Mojahid filed the review petition apprehending that they would be harassed in the name of interrogation.

Advocate Tajul Islam appeared for the accused while Prosecutor Syed Haider Ali opposed the petitions.

US firearms face

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certificate on time.

The defence ministry was supposed to collect the clearance certificate from the home ministry much earlier but it did not, putting the US Army personnel in a rather odd situation at SIA.

A high official of the airport customs told The Daily Star yesterday that they refused to release the firearms, prompting several high ranking officers of the Bangladesh Army to rush to the airport.

They requested the on duty customs officials to release the arms, saying those were brought in for a joint military exercise. The customs officials however declined to release those without proper documents, and asked for the clearance certificate from the home ministry.

Finally the customs

released the cache of arms Wednesday afternoon after receiving the clearance certificate from the home ministry.

A high official of Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) said the five US Army personnel will take part in a joint military exercise in Sylhet Cantonment where the arms will be used.

Wishing anonymity, he also said, the US firearms will be taken back by the Americans after the exercise.

ISPR and the airport customs sources said such consignments were brought into the country earlier as well, on occasions of joint military exercises.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun on Wednesday afternoon at a press briefing in her office said she was not aware that such a cargo was scheduled to arrive at SIA.

Pakistan vows to defeat terrorism

Strongly rejects negative propaganda

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's army chief General Ashfaq Kayani vowed to defeat terrorism and rejected the notion of Islamabad "not doing enough" in the anti-Taliban fight, the military said yesterday.

His comments followed remarks by Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, accusing Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency of having ties with Afghan Taliban in Pakistan's northwest tribal belt.

The White House also criticised Pakistan's efforts to defeat the Taliban operating on the border in a report this month refuted by Islamabad.

The army chief "strongly rejected negative propaganda of Pakistan not doing enough and Pakistan army's lack of clarity on the way forward," the military said in a statement, a day after Mullen met top generals in Islamabad.

Kayani said that the "army's ongoing operations are a testimony of our national resolve to defeat terrorism", according to the statement.

In an interview with private TV channel Geo, Mullen -- the highest ranking officer in the US armed forces -- said: "ISI has a long standing relationship with the Haqqani network, that does not mean everybody in ISI but it is there."

The statement did not mention the Haqqani network.

The army defended its stance against terrorism in general and acknowledged that a "trust deficit between the institutions as well as the people" existed between the US and Pakistan.

But Kayani and Mullen re-stated the aims of building "reciprocal respect towards each other's sovereignty" and the statement said "security ties will not be allowed to unravel between the two armed forces".

The Haqqani network is an Al-Qaeda-allied organisation run by Afghan warlord Sirajuddin Haqqani and based in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal district.

The drone strikes inflame anti-US feeling, which is running high after the January killing of two Pakistani men in a busy Lahore street by a US embassy official later revealed to be working for the CIA.

Missile attacks doubled last year, with more than 100 drone strikes killing over 670 people in 2010 compared with 45 strikes that killed 420 in 2009, according to an AFP tally.

Most have been concentrated in North Waziristan, the most notorious Afghan Taliban and Al-Qaeda bastion in Pakistan, where the United States wants the Pakistan military to launch a ground offensive as soon as possible.

Position Search

The Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT), a non-profit Trust and the founder of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) is planning to set-up a full-fledged University at Chittagong and is conducting a search for appointment to the following positions for the proposed University:

1. Vice-Chancellor
2. Pro-Vice Chancellor
3. Treasurer

Vice Chancellor: The proposed candidate will be required to have a first class or equivalent graduate and postgraduate degree or a PhD and have at least 20 years experience in teaching/research and administration, 10 years of which must be in teaching in any recognized University. In addition she/he will have demonstrable visionary leadership qualities, a distinguished publication record in refereed journals, and a familiarity with North American academic curricula and pedagogy.

Pro-Vice Chancellor: The proposed candidate will be required to have a first class or equivalent graduate and postgraduate degree or a PhD and have at least 15 years experience in teaching/research and administration, 10 years of which must be in teaching in any recognized University. In addition she/he will have demonstrable leadership qualities, a distinguished publication record in refereed journals, and a familiarity with North American academic curricula and pedagogy. The Pro-Vice Chancellor will be required to take on all responsibilities of the Vice Chancellor in the Vice Chancellor's absence.

Treasurer: The proposed candidate will be required to have a post graduate degree from a reputed university with at least 15 years experience in financial management in Educational Institutions or Reputed National or International organizations.

Emolument / Benefit / Tenure and other parameters will be settled by negotiation.

Applicants are requested to send their resume either by email (selection@iub.edu.bd) or by post before May 7, 2011 indicating the position applied for to:

The Chairman
Search & Selection Committee
ESTCDT
Minhaz Complex, 12 Jamal Khan Road, Chittagong.

BRAC University Master of Science in Early Childhood Development (ECD)

The Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University is proud to offer a Master of Science in Early Childhood Development (4th Batch) from September 2011. It is a fifteen month long program including a Postgraduate Certificate, A Diploma and a Dissertation. The program is designed to develop skilled ECD professionals to work in public and private sectors. The course will be offered 3 days a week from 5:00 – 8:00 pm.

Who are eligible for the program?

Professionals working in the field of ECD in government, NGOs and private sectors, as well as individual interested to pursue their career in the field of ECD.

What are the admission criteria?

Admission criteria will include the following:

- A Bachelor degree from a recognized /accredited institution
- Fluency in written and spoken English
- A statement of purpose, delineating why the candidate seeks admission to this program, to be submitted with the application.
- Pass marks in English Proficiency Test

For a detailed description of all the required documents, application form and brochure please visit www.ecd-bangladesh.net Alternatively, the hard copies can be collected from Mr. Mujahidul Islam (contact Details given below).

English Language Course

A 72 hour English Language course will be offered to the participants who score below 6.5 in the English Proficiency Test.

Scholarship and Tuition Waivers

Limited scholarship and tuition waivers will be offered to the deserving candidates.

Application deadline	Admission Test and Interview
May 14, 2011	May 21, 2011


For admission form and further details, please contact:

Mr. Mujahidul Islam (Admin Officer)

Telephone: (880-2) 882-4180-7, 9881265 Ext 2140

Institute of Educational Development, BRAC University

House 113/A (2nd floor), Road 2, Niketon, Gulshan 1, Dhaka 1212

 Office of the Project Director Rehabilitation & Renovation of the Old Buildings & other Structures of the Public Universities University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Agargaon, Dhaka-1207					
Ref: UGC/RRPU/Vehicle/05/2010-2011/2881			Date: 19/04/2011		
Invitation for Re-Tender					
1	Ministry/Division		Ministry of Education.		
2	Agency		University Grants Commission of Bangladesh.		
3	Procuring entity name		Project Director, Rehabilitation & Renovation of the Old Buildings & other Structures of the Public Universities (RRPU).		
4	Procuring entity district		Dhaka.		
5	Invitation for		Procurement of Vehicle (12-seated Microbus).		
6	Invitation Ref. No.		UGC/RRPU/Vehicle/05/2009-2011/2881.		
7	Date		19/04/2011.		
KEY INFORMATION					
8	Procurement method		Open Tendering Method (National).		
FUNDING INFORMATION					
9	Budget and source of funds		Development Budget, GoB.		
PARTICULAR INFORMATION					
10	Project/programme code		2561-9125.		
11	Project/programme name		Project Director, Rehabilitation & Renovation of the Old Buildings & other Structures of the Public Universities.		
12	Tender package No.		GD1.		
13	Tender package name		Procurement of Vehicle (12-seated Microbus).		
14	Tender last selling date		04 th May, 2011.		
15	Tender closing date and time		05 th May, 2011 at 12.00noon.		
16	Tender opening date and time		05 th May, 2011 at 03.00pm.		
17	Name & address of the office		Address		
Selling tender document			Accounts Officer, Rehabilitation & Renovation of the Old Buildings & other Structures of the Public Universities, Room No. 317 (2 nd Floor), University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.		
Receiving tender document			Project Director, Rehabilitation & Renovation of the Old Buildings & other Structures of the Public Universities, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.		
Opening tender document			Project Director, Rehabilitation & Renovation of the Old Buildings & other Structures of the Public Universities, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER					
18	Eligibility of tenderer		A tenderer must have 5 (five) years of overall experience in supply of goods and related services of which 3 years in the supply of vehicles and related services.		
19	Brief description of goods or works		Procurement of 1 (one) Microbus as per specification.		
20	Brief description of related services		After sales service & spare parts must be available from the distributors and the described vehicles are to be brought to Project Office, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.		
21	Tender document price		BDT 2000.00		
22	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
22	GD1	Procurement of Microbus	Dhaka	60,000.00	8 weeks after award of contract
23	Name of official inviting tender		Dr. Nasima Rahman.		
24	Designation of official inviting tender		Project Director.		
25	Address of official inviting tender		Office of the Rehabilitation & Renovation of the Old Buildings & other Structures of the Public Universities, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.		
26	Contact details of official inviting tender		Tel: 8181276	Fax: 8124308	E-mail: n_rahman@hotmail.com
27	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.				
GD-1881			Dr. Nasima Rahman Project Director		