

Nato strikes 8 Gaddafi warships in ports

AFP, Tripoli

Nato said yesterday its warplanes hit eight vessels of Moamer Gaddafi's navy, after US President Barack Obama predicted the veteran Libyan strongman would "inevitably" leave or be forced from power.

The authorities in Tripoli slammed the US president's comments as "delusional," while strongly denying reports that Gaddafi's wife and daughter had fled to Tunisia and that Oil Minister Shukri Ghanem had defected.

"Nato and coalition air assets continued their precision air strikes against pro-Gaddafi regime forces overnight with a coordinated strike against pro-Gaddafi forces in the ports of Tripoli, Al-Khums and Sirte," the Western alliance said.

"Overnight, Nato aircraft hit pro-Gaddafi warships, striking eight vessels," it added.

"Given the escalating use of naval assets, Nato had no choice but to take decisive action to protect the civilian population of Libya and Nato forces at sea," said Rear Admiral Russell Harding, deputy head of the

Nato-led air war.

Fresh explosions were heard in the Libyan capital early yesterday, hours after the air strikes targeted the city's port, with a ship still ablaze from the raid.

Harding insisted that all of the targets hit were military but Libyan government spokesman Mussa Ibrahim accused the Western alliance of seeking to scare international shipping firms into steering clear of government-held ports.

"Whatever the ship that has been hit, it is clearly a message sent by Nato to the international maritime companies not to send any more vessels to Libya," Ibrahim told reporters in Tripoli.

British aircraft targeted Al-Khums, the nearest naval base under the control of Gaddafi forces to the rebel-held city of Misrata, Britain's defence staff spokesman Major General John Lorimer said.

"The destruction last night of the facility and a significant stockpile of the boats will reduce the regime's ability to sustain such tactics," he added.



PHOTO: AFP
Pakistan's Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani (L) shakes hands with China's President Hu Jintao during a meeting at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, yesterday.

Jamaat to play safe

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Talking to The Daily Star, a top IOJ leader admitted that several Jamaat leaders are giving them full support for the movement, especially on the women development policy issue. He, however, declined to elaborate further in this regard.

Since its inception in 1979, Jamaat-e-Islami has never undergone such a disaster as it happened after the arrests of its top leaders, including the party's Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed, on charge of crime against humanity, said party leaders.

A number of Jamaat leaders said they would follow the go-slow policy for one or two more years before waging any movement against the government.

"We will toughen our movement by the last or second-last years of the government's tenure as this is the trend of our country's politics," said ATM Azharul Islam, acting secretary general of Jamaat, adding, "We are not sitting idle as we are observing programmes to press home the demand for releasing our arrested leaders.

A number of Jamaat leaders echoed Azharul saying

that fearing another blow from the government and considering the party's organising strength they are likely to wait another year or two before going tough on the government. Meanwhile, they would focus on reviving the party's image.

Jamaat's recent anti-government activities are evolving around issuing of statements, discussions and small scale rallies, most of which are organised in front of the its party office and auditorium.

The party's top and mid-level leaders were not seen active in the streets during the last three hartals on June

27 and November 30 in 2010 and April 4 this year called by its alliance partners BNP and IOJ.

Instead, they issued releases supporting the hartals and criticised the government for "evicting" Khaleda Zia from cantonment house, its failure in controlling price hike of essentials and formulating "anti-Islam" women development policy.

Meanwhile, BNP is avoiding its ally Jamaat and following go-alone policy in waging anti-government movement due to the debacle in the Islamist party and arrest of its top leaders.

TELECOM SCANDAL

Indian MP held

AFP, New Delhi

An Indian MP and daughter of a political kingmaker yesterday became the latest powerful figure to be remanded custody over a telecom scandal that may have cost the country up to \$39 billion.

A New Delhi court ordered that Kanimozhi, who uses one name, "be taken into custody forthwith" in connection with the scandal, after her bail application was rejected.

The daughter of M. Karunanidhi -- supremo of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) regional party of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu -- appeared stunned at the order and broke down in tears, local media reported.

Police have accused her of accepting bribes totalling two billion rupees (\$45 million) channelled through a television station she partly owns.

Last WWI veteran laid to rest in funeral

REUTERS, Fremantle, Australia

The last World War One combat veteran, British-born Claude Choules, who died aged 110, was laid to rest yesterday after a military funeral in the Australian port town of Fremantle.

Choules, who died this month in a Perth nursing home, shunned military parades in his later years, but on yesterday more than 100 navy sailors formed a guard of honor for his casket.

During the church service, Choules' casket, draped with the Australian White Ensign naval flag, flowers and a navy sailor's hat, was flanked by two portraits, one as a young sailor and another wearing a classic Australian "bush hat."

When the funeral service ended, the late Choules was saluted by a 12 rifle volley, fired three times.

Choules did not speak highly of war in his later life and was renowned for avoiding Anzac Day parades, Australia's major war memorial day, only marching if ordered.

In his eulogy, Choules' son Adrian paid tribute to his father and recalled his "sailor's mouth" for swearing.

Pakistan PM meets China's Hu to end visit

AFP, Beijing

Chinese President Hu Jintao yesterday saluted Pakistan's prime minister as an "old friend" of Beijing, extending more warm words to Islamabad as it faces US pressure after Osama bin Laden's killing.

Yousuf Raza Gilani has spent much of his visit to China lauding Pakistan's close ties with Beijing, as pressure mounts following the raid that led to bin Laden's death and US lawmakers demand a review of aid to Islamabad.

"Our all-weather friendship and strategic cooperative partnership has stood the test of time and the changes in the international and regional situation," Gilani said in a speech at Peking University on Thursday.

"We have stood by each other at all times and under all circumstances," he said.

On yesterday, before their talks at the Great Hall of the People, Hu said Gilani's visit would "certainly give a strong boost to the good neighbourly friendship and mutually beneficial cooperation" between the two countries.

Islamabad has highlighted that relationship in the wake of the May 2 killing of the al-Qaeda leader by US special forces on Pakistani soil -- an operation that has thrown US-Pakistan ties into turmoil.

US Senator John Kerry and US special envoy Marc Grossman were both in Islamabad this week to try to stem the damage done to relations that are key to a decade-long US-led fight to end the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

An international humanitarian organization invites applications from suitable candidates for the following positions:

Personal Assistant to National Director:

The purpose of the position is to provide high-level Office and administrative support to the National Director (ND) of the organization to ensure smooth function of the ND's office and facilitate communication of ND's office and all departments. The responsibility of the position also includes executing plans on behalf of the ND administrative functions, preparing correspondence, receiving visitors, arranging and scheduling senior management meetings, conference calls, setting agenda, attending to calls and arranging appointments, record meetings' minutes, distribute to all members and meeting other needs of the ND's office.

Candidate should be a graduate in any discipline with at least 3 years experience in similar position. He/She should have knowledge & experience of office administrative, clerical procedures & systems, such as managing files and records, handling of electronic equipments such as computer, fax machine, tele-printer, scanner, PABX systems, etc. Candidate should have sound knowledge of the structure and be proficient in English language. The position is based in the National Office, in Dhaka.

Asset Management Manager:

The purpose of the position is to set up and maintain an efficient assets and inventory management system to enable proper monitoring and safeguarding of assets and inventories and look over assets that are owned, leased or subleased by an organization and is responsible for analysing the feasibility of the asset acquisition.

Candidate should be a graduate in any discipline with at least 3 years experience in similar position and 5 years experience in leadership position. Candidate should have practical skills on asset & inventory control system, forecast, advice management of future assets requirements, disposal and ensure best uses of the fixed & non-fixed assets. Candidate should also have effective communication skills, competent in the use of Microsoft Office computer programs including MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint. The position is based in the National Office, in Dhaka. Work involves 30% field visit to Regional offices.

Communications Manager:

The purpose of the position is to lead and manage the national office communications unit and oversee the development and implementation of communications strategy effectively linking organization with all concerned stakeholders including International Partnership Office, Regional Office and Support Offices, NGOs, donors and other diverse audiences to inform and engage them in the ministry of the organization. The position will exhaust all communication tools such as publication, newsletter, radio, TV network, websites, etc. Raise awareness, publicize organization's work and programs and manage the profile of the organization. This position will also assist in creating the department's strategy, consistent with its Regional and International strategy.

Candidate should have master's degree in Mass Communication/ Journalism/ Post Graduate Diploma in Journalism with at least 3 years experience in communications/media position/similar responsibilities and at least 3 years experience in management position preferably with a non-profit organization. He/She should have effective communications skills including photography/publications, strong organisational skills, demonstrated collaboration & team building skills and competent in the use of Microsoft Office computer programs including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. The position is based in the National Office in Dhaka. Work involves 30% - 40% need-based field visit to Regional offices.

Strategy Management Manager:

The purpose of this position is to assist the Executive Director and Leadership Team in facilitating the process of planning, formulation, execution, monitoring and evaluation of country strategy and plan to enhance organizational performance and accountability.

Candidate should be a graduate in Development Studies/ Organizational Development or related field with at least 3 years experience in managerial level position with Non Profit organization in program management and strategy formulation. Candidate should have in-depth understanding of development concepts and sectors, strong analytical, communication skills. Candidate should also have competent in the use of Microsoft Office computer programs including MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint. The position is based in the National Office, in Dhaka. Work involves 25% field visit to Regional offices.

- Salary for the positions commensurate with qualification and experience.
- Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.
- Any personal persuasion will result in disqualification.
- Mention your contact number and / or e-mail address in your CV.
- Women candidates are encouraged to apply.

We have a responsibility to ensure the protection and safety of children while they are in contact with staff members. Recruitment to jobs involving regular contact with children will include specific checks and procedures in accordance with our Child Protection Policy.

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications along with CVs, a recent passport size photographs and attested photocopies of academic certificates before/by May 31, 2011 to:

P.O Box No - 9071
Banani, Dhaka 1213
Bangladesh.

Community clinics

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diseases, distribution of vitamin A, collection of sputum for tuberculosis test and providing family planning services and other services related to mother and child health.

However, before its tenure ended in 2001, the AL government could set up only several thousand of those, but were all kept unutilised by the successive BNP-led four-party government.

Assuming office in 2009, the AL government relaunched the project.

So far, 10,500 clinics have been set up while construction of the rest 3,000 is underway.

At present, the clinics are run by the staff of the health and family welfare ministries. They are working in the clinics in addition to their assigned duties.

Under the situation, the clinics cannot function properly for lack of permanent manpower. Even drugs supplied by the government cannot be properly distributed among the patients.

"So we're trying hard to complete the recruitment as soon as possible," Nargis told The Daily Star early this month.

The liberation war affairs ministry is currently verifying the certificates of some 4,000 CHCPs to be recruited under the freedom fighter quota.

"We'll be able to appoint them soon after the ministry's approval," she said.

When posted, the CHCPs will supervise the duties of the health assistants and family welfare assistants. They will also sit with the community people to assess their needs.

In May last year the government published advertisement for recruiting the community healthcare providers. From the 1.8 lakh women who took the written test on December 24, 40,500 were called for viva voce test. The viva was completed on April 21 this year.

The government plans to complete building the rest 3,000 clinics within its tenure that ends in 2013.

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US drone strike kills four in Pakistan

AFP, Miranshah, Pakistan

A US drone strike destroyed a vehicle in Pakistan's Taliban-infested North Waziristan district on the Afghan border yesterday, killing four suspected militants, local officials said.

The two missiles struck the Tappi area, 10 kilometres (six miles) east of Miranshah, the main town of North Waziristan, where US officials want Pakistan to launch an offensive against networks fighting in neighbouring Afghanistan.

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