

Pakistan to launch offensive in North Waziristan

Says a newspaper report

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan will launch a military offensive in North Waziristan, a newspaper reported yesterday, days after US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton reiterated a US demand to tackle sanctuaries for al Qaeda and the Taliban on the Afghan border.

An understanding for an offensive in North Waziristan, the main sanctuary in Pakistan for militants fighting in Afghanistan, was reached when Clinton and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen visited Pakistan last week, Pakistan's News newspaper reported.

The United States has long demanded that Pakistan attack the region to eliminate the Haqqani network, one of the deadliest Afghan militant factions fighting US troops in

Afghanistan.

Pakistan has been reluctant to do so, but it has come under more pressure and its performance in fighting militancy is under scrutiny again after it was discovered that Osama bin Laden had been living in the country.

The News quoted unidentified "highly placed sources" as saying Pakistan's air force would soften up militant targets under the "targeted military offensive" before ground operations were launched. There was no timetable given.

The newspaper cited the sources as saying that a strategy for action in North Waziristan had been drawn up some time ago and an "understanding for carrying out the operation was developed" during the Clinton visit.

The target of any North Waziristan operation would be the most violent

factions of the Pakistani Taliban, which has strong ties to al Qaeda, the report said.

But the United States would almost certainly push for a move against Haqqani, too.

Pakistani officials were not immediately available for comment. A US embassy official had no immediate comment.

The newspaper said a "joint operation" with allies had been discussed but no decision had been taken because of sensitivities.

"In case the two sides agreed to go for a joint action, it would be the first time in the present war (on militancy) that foreign boots will get a chance to be on Pakistani soil with the consent of the host country."

That could be highly risky for Pakistan's generals, it said.



PHOTO: AFP

Italian soldiers with the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force help a wounded comrade (C) at the site of an attack in Herat yesterday. Attackers targeted the compound of the Italian-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Herat, western Afghanistan, an AFP reporter and military spokesmen said.

Afghan Taliban attacks kill four

AFP, Herat

Twin Taliban attacks killed four people and wounded 24 others, including children, in the Afghan city of Herat and at an Italian-led Nato reconstruction team yesterday, officials said.

The blasts came just weeks before the usually peaceful historic city is to become one of the first places in the war-torn country to transition from Nato to Afghan security control nearly 10 years after the 2001 US-led invasion.

The reporter added that the attack appeared to be ongoing as he could hear gunfire.

"Four are martyred and 24 are injured," said Ghulam Sayed Rashid, Herat provincial health director.

"Among the wounded we have four children and a woman. The rest are men. There are two among them (the injured)

who are in military uniform, they are guards of the PRT. Three of the injured are in critical condition," he added.

Farooq Kohistani, Herat's criminal investigation chief, had earlier put the death toll at two with 26 wounded.

"There was a suicide attack at the gate of Herat PRT and a second in the city centre," he said. Kohistani did not have details on whether the dead were foreign or Afghan, or what the target of the second blast was.

The attack was claimed by the Taliban. Its spokesman Qari Yousaf Ahmadi told AFP: "Our mujahedeen are working on the operation in Herat".

CO2 emissions hit a record high in 2010

Says International Energy Agency

AFP, Paris

Carbon-dioxide emissions hit a record high last year, the International Energy Agency said yesterday, dimming the prospects of limiting the global temperature increase to two degrees Celsius.

"Energy-related carbon-dioxide (CO2) emissions in 2010 were the highest in history, according to the latest estimates," the International Energy Agency (IEA) said in a statement.

After a dip in 2009 caused by the global financial crisis, emissions are estimated to have climbed to a record 30.6 gigatonnes (Gt), a five percent jump from the previous record year in 2008, when levels reached 29.3 Gt, the IEA said.

Moreover, the IEA estimated that 80 percent of projected emissions from the power sector in 2020 are already locked

in, as they will come from power plants that are currently in place or under construction today.

"This significant increase in CO2 emissions and the locking in of future emissions due to infrastructure investments represent a serious setback to our hopes of limiting the global rise in temperature to no more than two degrees C," said Fatih Birol, the IEA's chief economist.

Global leaders agreed a target of limiting temperature increase to two degrees C (3.6 Fahrenheit) at UN climate change talks in Cancun, Mexico last year.

For this goal to be achieved, the long-term concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere must be limited to around 450 parts per million of CO2-equivalent, only a five percent increase compared to an estimated 430 parts per million in 2000.

Iceland's volcano eruption over

Say officials

AFP, Reykjavik

The eruption of Iceland's Grimsvotn volcano is considered over as there has been no activity there for more than two days, experts and officials said yesterday.

"We can't see any signs of anything but that the eruption is over. There has been no activity on our equipment since Saturday morning at 7:00 am (0700 GMT)," Steinunn Jakobsson, a geologist with Iceland's Meteorological Office, told AFP.

Iceland's Department of Civil Protection also announced an end to the eruption.

"The eruption has stopped and we will be removing the precautionary label that had been assigned to Grimsvotn... There is no longer a danger (preparedness) level," Gudrun Johannesdottir, a department spokeswoman, told AFP.

Over 100 hurt in Sri Lanka workers' protests

AFP, Colombo

More than 100 factory workers were hurt in Sri Lanka yesterday as police fired live bullets and used teargas to break up protests in the country's main free trade zone, officials said.

Workers pelted stones when police moved into disperse protesters demanding the withdrawal of a controversial pensions bill, a police official said.

"At least one person is in a very serious condition and more than 100 people have suffered injuries," the police official, who did not wish to be named, said. Fifteen constables were also injured.

The teargas upset hives of wasps and caused more mayhem as they stung both protesters and police at Katunayake Free Trade Zone, just next to the country's only international airport, police said.

The street battles blocked the main access road to the airport and forced air travellers to take lengthy detours, police said.

Consulting Opportunity

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REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS (RFQ)

Advertisement in Daily Newspaper on International Public Service Day 2011



Bangladesh

UNDP Bangladesh seeks quotations from interested and well qualified vendors/agencies for the advertisement in Daily Newspaper. All interested firms may request for the Bidding Documents from javed.noman@undp.org by formal request to UNDP that will register bidders into participants list, so any correspondence, questions regarding the bidding documents and respective answers can be sent to all bidders.

Submission of Proposal: The envelope should state "Advertisement in Daily Newspaper on International Public Service Day 2011" and should be addressed to the UNDP Procurement Unit, IDB Bhaban (12th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. The bid should be submitted in the bid box placed in the 12th Floor of IDB Bhaban.

The deadline for submission of Quotation is **June 06, 2010, 16:30 PM**.

BANGLADESH FREEDOM FIGHTERS' WELFARE TRUST

Swadhinata Bhaban, 88, Motijheel Commercial Area

Dhaka- 1000.

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

Sealed Pre-qualification applications are hereby invited from the bonafide developers / firms / Contractors for the under mentioned works.

1. Ministry/Division	: Board of Trusty Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust / Liberation War Affairs Ministry.			
2. Name of invitation Agency	: Bangladesh Freedom Fighters' Welfare Trust, Dhaka.			
3. Invitation for	Pre-qualification for Construction of Shopping Complex-cum-Commercial cum Residential Flat / Apartment, Residential Flat / Apartment, Commercial Buildings on Sharing basis by developers on BFFWT owned land respectively at Hatchkula (Rajdhani Super Market), Paruma (Eastern) Ltd, at Postagula / 29/4/B, Hatchkula (School Bari), Dhaka and 36-Agrabad, 71-Agrabad, Chittagong.			
4. Invitation Ref No	: Prokow/5/Unna: Prok:/ Trust/ 250			
5. Method of invitation	: Open Tendering Method (OTM).			
6. Budget and Source of Funds	: Developer's own resource.			
7. Project / Programme Name	(A) Construction of Shopping Complex-cum-Commercial cum Residential Flat / Apartment Buildings on Sharing basis by developer on BFFWT owned land at 43, 43/1, 43/3 Hatchkula (Rajdhani Super Market), Dhaka (Package no.-1). (B) Construction of Flat / Apartment Buildings on Sharing basis by developer on BFFWT owned land of Paruma (Eastern) Ltd. at 121-Karimulbag, Postagula, Dhaka (Package no.-2). (C) Construction of Flat / Apartment Building on Sharing basis by developer on BFFWT owned land at 29/4/B, Hatchkula (School Bari), Dhaka (Package no.-3). (D) Construction of (16-20) storied Commercial Building on sharing basis by developer on BFFWT owned land at 36-Agrabad, Chittagong (Package no.-4). (E) Construction of (14-20) storied Commercial Building on sharing basis by developer on BFFWT owned land at 71-Agrabad, Chittagong (Package no.-5).			
8. Pre-qualification closing Date & Time	At 3.00 pm on. 03.07.2011			
9. Name & Address of the office(s)	<p>(I) Selling Pre-qualification Document</p> <p>For Package no.-1, 2 & 3- Finance Division, BFFWT, 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.</p> <p>For Package no.-4 & 5- Finance Division, BFFWT, 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and Eastern Chemical Industries (ECI), 36-Agrabad, Chittagong.</p> <p>(II) Receiving pre-qualification Document.</p> <p>For Package no.-1, 2 & 3- Office of the General Manager (Industries & Commerce), 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka and For Package no.-4 & 5- Office of the General Manager, Industries & Commerce, 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka & Eastern Chemical Industries (ECI), 36-Agrabad, Chittagong.</p> <p>The applicant shall be allowed to submit the application to the place fixed for the submission of the same by post, by courier service or in person at any day (during office hours) during the period fixed for the preparation and submission of the application.</p>			
10. Place/Date/Time of Pre-qualification Meeting.	: Office of the Director Industries & Commerce, 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka on 20/6/2011 at 11.00 AM.			
11. Eligibility of Applicant	Applicants shall be the member of REHAB or enlisted class-1 contractor in the Govt. / Semi-Govt. / Autonomous organization for all packages.			
The minimum period of general experience of the Applicant in the building construction works shall be :	10 (Ten) years	7 (seven) years	5(five) years	8(eight) years
Applicants shall have experience of successful completion of at least :	3 (three) nos. 10-storied building or 150000 sft shopping complex during last 10 years and 8 (eight) nos. 8-storied building or at least 200 (two hundred) nos. Flats during last 10 years.	4 (four) Nos. 8-storied building or 100000 sft or 8 (eight) nos. 6-storied building or at least 100 (one hundred) nos. Flats during last 7 years.	1 No. 8-storied building or 2 (Two) nos. 6-storied building during last 20 (twenty) nos. Flats during last 5 years.	1 (one) no. 8-storied building or 2 (Two) nos. 6 storied building during last eight years.
Applicant shall have the experience of successful completion of at least :	one basement	-	-	one basement
Applicants shall have experience of successfully installation conforming to international standard of at least :	2 (Two) nos. of passenger & 2 (Two) nos. of cargo Lift of 1000 kg. capacity each 8 (stops)	3 (Three) nos. passenger Lift each of 800 kg. capacity (8 stops)	1 (one) nos. passenger Lift each of 800 kg. capacity (8 stops)	2 (two) nos. passenger Lift each of 800 kg. Capacity (8-stops)
The required average annual construction turnover during the last 5 (Five) years (from 2005-06 to 2009-10) shall be :	Tk.140.00 (one hundred forty) Crore. For group of company it shall be at least Tk. 200.00 (two hundred) Crore.	Tk.125.00 (one hundred twenty five) Crore. For group of company it shall be at least Tk. 200.00 (two hundred) Crore.	Tk.6.00 (six) Crore.	Tk. 14.00 (fourteen) Crore
The minimum amount of free funds (liquid assets) and/or credit facilities net of other Contractual commitments of the successful Applicant shall be:	Tk.90.00 (ninety) Crore	Tk.65.00 (sixty five) Crore	Tk.1.50 (one point five zero) Crore	Tk.5.00 (five) Crore
12. Pre qualification Document price:	TK. 25,000.00 (Twenty five thousand) only.	TK. 20,000.00 (Twenty thousand) only.	TK. 7,000.00 (Seven thousand) only.	TK. 15,000.00 (Fifteen thousand) only.
13. Completion time :	60 months	48 months,	24 months	36 months
14. Brief Description of works.	<p>Package no.- 1- Construction of Multi storied shopping complex cum Commercial cum Residential Flat / Apartment Buildings of highest height and area as fit to be approved by RAJUK in regards to the size and location of the land concerned with two basements with related electrical, water supply & sanitary works and ancillary works on BFFWT owned land at 43, 43/1, 43/3 Hatchkula (Rajdhani Super Market), Dhaka.</p> <p>Package no.- 2- Construction of multi storied Flat / Apartment Buildings of highest height and area as fit to be approved by RAJUK in regards to the size and location of the land concerned with one basement with related electrical, water supply & sanitary works and ancillary works on BFFWT owned land of Paruma (Eastern) Ltd. at 121 Karimulbag, Postagula, Dhaka.</p> <p>Package no.- 3- Construction of multi storied Flat / Apartment Building of highest height and area as fit to be approved by RAJUK in regards to the size and location of the land concerned with one basement with related electrical, water supply & sanitary works and ancillary works on BFFWT owned land at 29/4/B, Hatchkula (School Bari), Dhaka.</p> <p>Package no.- 4- Construction of (16-20) storied Commercial Bldg. of highest height and area as fit to be approved by CDA in regards to the size and location of the land concerned with two basements and related electrical, water supply & sanitary works and ancillary works on BFFWT owned land at 36-Agrabad, Chittagong.</p> <p>Package no.- 5- Construction of (14-20) storied Commercial Bldg. of highest height and area as fit to be approved by CDA in regards to the size and location of the land concerned with two basements and related electrical, water supply & sanitary works and ancillary works on BFFWT owned land at 71-Agrabad, Chittagong.</p>			
15. Name of official inviting pre qualification application	Mr. Durga Das Paul			
16. Designation of Official Inviting pre-qualification				