

Pakistan to probe into Laden raid

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's prime minister yesterday ordered an independent commission to investigate the Abbottabad operation in which elite US forces killed Osama bin Laden on May 2, the premier's media office said.

"Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has constituted a commission to investigate the Abbottabad incident," a statement said.

A five member commission will be headed by Justice Javed Iqbal, a senior judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, it added.

Pakistani Lawmakers earlier threatened to withdraw logistical cooperation for US troops based in Afghanistan and condemned CIA-operated drone strikes.



PHOTO: AFP
A handout photo released by the South African government yesterday shows South African President Jacob Zuma (L) meeting with Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi on May 30 during his one-day visit to Tripoli.

Nato strikes Tripoli after Zuma ends peace mission

Gaddafi refuses to leave country

REUTERS, Tripoli

Muammar Gaddafi is emphatic he will not leave Libya, South African President Jacob Zuma said yesterday after talks with the Libyan leader that left prospects for a negotiated end to the conflict looking dim.

But new questions emerged over how long Gaddafi could hold on after a senior United Nations aid official said shortages of food and medicine in areas of Libya controlled by Gaddafi amounted to a "time bomb."

Within hours of Zuma's departure from Tripoli late on Monday, Libyan television reported that Nato aircraft had resumed attacks, striking what it called civilian and military sites in Tripoli and Tajoura, just east of the capital.

Zuma was in Tripoli to try to revive an African "roadmap" for ending the

conflict, which started in February with an uprising against Gaddafi and has since turned into a war with thousands of people killed.

The talks produced no breakthrough, with Gaddafi's refusal to quit - a condition the rebels and Nato have set as a pre-condition for any ceasefire - still the sticking point.

"Col Gaddafi called for an end to the bombings to enable a Libyan dialogue," Zuma's office said in a statement. "He emphasized that he was not prepared to leave his country, despite the difficulties."

Zuma also said Gaddafi's personal safety "is a concern" -- a reference to Nato strikes which have repeatedly hit the Libyan leader's Bab al-Aziziyah compound and other locations used by the Libyan leader and his family.

Now in its fourth month, Libya's

conflict is deadlocked on the ground, with anti-Gaddafi rebels unable to break out of their strongholds and advance toward Tripoli, where Gaddafi appears to be firmly entrenched.

Rebels control the east of Libya around the city of Benghazi, Libya's third-biggest city Misrata, and a mountain range stretching from the town of Zintan, 150 km south of Tripoli, toward the border with Tunisia.

Western powers have said they expect Gaddafi will be forced out by a process of attrition as air strikes, defections from his entourage and shortages take their toll.

Panos Moutmtzis, the UN humanitarian coordinator for Libya, told Reuters in Tripoli that some food stocks in areas under Gaddafi's control were likely to last only weeks.

Indo-Pak glacier talks yield no progress

AFP, New Delhi

India and Pakistan yesterday concluded a 12th round of talks over a disputed Himalayan glacier where troops have clashed intermittently since 1984 without reporting any progress.

The estranged South Asian neighbours in a joint statement said talks which began Monday "enhanced understanding of each other's position" on the Siachen glacier, the world's highest battlefield.

"Both sides presented their positions and suggestions towards the resolution of Siachen," it said following the two-day talks between Indian Defence Secretary Pradeep Kumar with his Pakistani counterpart Syed Athar Ali.

It added that they had agreed "to meet again at a mutually-convenient date in Islamabad," without giving any further details.

India in 1984 occupied key areas on Siachen, raising fears of another all-out conflict between the neighbours, and in 1987 the two militaries fought a fierce skirmish on the 6,300-metre high frigid mass.

28 killed in Indian bus plunge

AFP, Guwahati

At least 28 members of a wedding party were killed in India's northeastern state of Assam when their bus plunged into a gorge after hitting a wooden bridge, police said yesterday.

The accident took place on Monday night in Kamrup district, 30 kilometres from Assam's main city of Guwahati.

About 40 people were thought to be on the crowded bus, with several taken to hospital with serious injuries.

Pakistani jet attacks kill 17 Taliban

REUTERS, Kalaya

Pakistani warplanes attacked Taliban positions in the north-western Orakzai region yesterday, killing 17 militants, a senior regional government official said.

Orakzai is one of seven ethnic Pashtun tribal areas where the Pakistani army has tried to root out militants with offensives against their strongholds.

The strike came a day after a local newspaper reported that Pakistan will launch an offensive in North Waziristan, a known sanctuary for al-Qaeda and Taliban militants.

Pakistan's performance in fighting militancy has come under close scrutiny again after it was discovered that al-Qaeda chief Laden had been living in the country.

Army operations in areas like Orakzai have failed to break the back of militant groups such as the Pakistani Taliban, who have stepped up suicide bombings since US special forces killed bin Laden near Islamabad on May 2.

Residents in the town of Mamoozai, where the air strike took place, said several helicopter gunships were hovering overhead hours after the attack.

Food prices to double

FROM PAGE 1

which has already seen food prices double in the last 20 years.

Half of the rise to come will be caused by climate change, Oxfam predicts.

It calls on world leaders to improve regulation of food markets and invest in a global climate fund.

"The food system must be overhauled if we are to overcome the increasingly pressing challenges of climate change, spiralling food prices and the scarcity of land, water and energy," BBC quotes Barbara Stocking, Oxfam's chief executive, as saying.

Among the many factors continuing to drive rising food prices in the coming decades, Oxfam predicts that climate change will have the most serious impact.

Ahead of the UN climate summit in South Africa in December, it calls on world leaders to launch a global climate fund, "so that people can protect themselves from the impacts of climate change and are better equipped to grow the food they need".

FOOD JUSTICE
Food prices are forecast to increase by something in the range of 70 to 90 percent

by 2030 before taking into account the effects of climate change, which would roughly double price rises again, Oxfam said.

"Now we have entered an age of growing crisis, of shock piled upon shock: vertiginous food price spikes and oil price hikes, devastating weather events, financial meltdowns and global contagion," Oxfam said in a report.

Entitled "Growing a Better Future: Food Justice in a Resource-Constrained World," the report said: "The scale of the challenge is unprecedented, but so is the prize: a sustainable future in which everyone has enough to eat."

Oxfam believes one way to tame food price inflation is to limit speculation in agricultural commodity futures markets. It also opposed support for using food as a feedstock for biofuels.

"Financial speculation must be regulated, and support dismantled for biofuels that displace food," it said.

Stocking said she favoured the introduction of regulators of position limits in agricultural commodities futures trading, noting that financial speculation aggra-

vated price volatility.

The report said: "The vast imbalance in public investment in agriculture must be righted, redirecting the billions now being plowed into unsustainable industrial farming in rich countries toward meeting the needs of small-scale food producers in developing countries."

GOVERNMENTS TO BLAME

The report said the failure of the food system flowed from failures of government to regulate and to invest, which meant that companies, interest groups and elites had been able to plunder resources.

"Now the major powers, the old and the new, must cooperate, not compete, to share resources, build resilience, and tackle climate change," it said.

"The economic crisis means that we have moved decisively beyond the era of the G8, when a few rich country governments tried to craft global solutions by and for themselves.

"The governments of poorer nations must also have a seat at the table, for they are on the front lines of climate change, where many of the battles -- over land, water, and food -- are being fought."

'Caretaker' left to JS

FROM PAGE 1

pose in this regard. So, we'll leave the issue to parliament to decide," said Suranjit Sengupta, spokesperson of the committee.

Suranjit, also co-chair of the special committee, talked about the outcomes of their meeting with the prime minister. He was speaking at a press conference held at the Parliament Media Centre yesterday.

He said the special committee hopes the main opposition will play a constructive role, join the House and place their proposals after the government places the constitution amendment bill in parliament.

Talking to some members of the special committee, it was learned that the premier

took a stance against maintenance of caretaker rule in the wake of BNP's "non-cooperation and uncompromising" stance in this regard.

The premier did not consent to the special committee's proposals for maintaining the caretaker system for holding two more parliamentary elections.

Advised by the prime minister, the special committee was earlier considering two proposals -- the Pakistani model for the interim government and the existing structure for the caretaker government.

A member of the special committee said the premier thinks if the opposition is now given a concession, they will try to mount pressure on the government on other issues.

The opposition will come up with more demands, he observed.

He said the premier was in favour of maintaining the caretaker government system even after the Supreme Court's cancellation of the constitution's 13th amendment that introduced it in 1996. She even asked the special committee to find ways to that end, the member added.

"But the way BNP and pro-BNP lawyers staged demonstrations against the Supreme Court and the immediate past chief justice and continued threatening to wage agitation against the government prompted the premier to change her political stance," said the member asking not to be named.

Besides, the government

does not want to move hurriedly right now as it has over two years in hand before the next national polls, he added.

He believes the ruling party is now in a better position than the BNP over the caretaker issue. If the caretaker system is not maintained, the next parliamentary elections will be held under the AL-led government.

So, the prime minister's recent stance against the caretaker government will prompt BNP to review its "uncompromising" stance, he observed.

He added the AL-led opposition in 1996 realised their demand for introduction of the caretaker system through long and vigorous street agitations against the then BNP-led government.


USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS


SDLG
Strengthening Democratic Local Governance

Tetra Tech ARD pursuant to the authority contained in the U. S. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, is seeking Request for Applications (RFA) from qualified Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to implement grants program under the Strengthening Democratic Local Governance (SDLG) Program in Bangladesh. Funding for this activity is provided under the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Contract No. EPP-I-00-04-00035-00, Task Order No. AID-388-TO-11-00001.

The SDLG Program in Bangladesh is an activity funded by the USAID to contribute to the achievement of USAID Program Strategic Objective, "more effective and responsive democratic institutions and practices." The SDLG objective is "to improve transparent and participatory public administration at the sub-national level and to enhance legal and policy reform at the national level in order to promote and expand decentralization." The SDLG works under four broad program areas referred to as Project Components. These are: 1) Component 1 – Roles and Authorities of Local Governments; 2) Component 2 – Advocacy and Capacity Building of Local Government Associations; 3) Component 3 – Transparent and Effective Service Delivery by Local Governments; and 4) Component 4 – Citizen Participation in Local Decision Making.

This RFA is to solicit grant applications from non-governmental organizations (NGOs) for activities to be funded under SDLG's Grant Program. Applicants must have both a permanent office presence and demonstrated working experience in one or more of the following areas/districts: Bagherhat, Bhola, Bogra, Chandpur, Chuadanga, Faridpur, Gaibandha, Gopalganj, Jamalpur, Jessore, Kishoreganj, Kushtia, Lakshmipur, Meherpur, Naogaon, Narail, Natore, Pabna, Rangpur, Satkhira, Sherpur and Sirajganj.

SDLG expects to utilize the Grants to support activities and projects that complement SDLG technical activities and help achieve program results. Specifically, this RFA will provide support in the following areas: Training of local government officials at the union, municipal and upazila levels, periodic mentoring of local government officials

to establish practices of transparency and accountability, and mobilization of citizens to engage constructively with local governments in planning and budgeting.

SDLG will provide grant funds using USAID's Standard Provisions for awarding Simplified or Standard Grants. Support will be provided to (ranging from Taka 45 million to Taka 90 million for a two year period based on the number of local government units served) Bangladeshi NGOs that meet SDLG's eligibility and evaluation criteria and can contribute to project results. In addition, NGO applicants must be registered with the NGO Affairs Bureau and eligible to receive foreign funding.

Eligible Applicants will be given two weeks from today's date to request the full RFA package by sending an email to RFA002@sdlg-bangladesh.com. Those who wish to pick up a hard copy may do so at SDLG office at House 1, Road 18, Block A, Banani (left gate).

SDLG will close RFA package access at 4:30pm on June 13, 2011. The applicants will have 13 days from the start of RFA package access to submit questions on the RFA to SDLG Grants Manager. The deadline for questions is June 13, 2011 at 4:30pm. Both the questions and answers will be distributed to all applicants within seven business days from the RFA question deadline by June 22, 2011.


Applicants will have 30 days from today to submit soft copies (preferred) or hard copies of the full application to:

E-mail submission to: hrahman@sdlg-bangladesh.com

Hard copy submission to:
Attention: Grants Manager
SDLG Project Office
House 1, Road 18, Block A, Banani, Dhaka-1213
Office Number: +8802-9884775

This RFA will expire on June 30, 2011 at 4:30pm. No late applications will be accepted. Only those applicants selected will be contracted.

SDLG and USAID/Bangladesh reserve the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.


BRITISH COUNCIL

RECRUITMENT

Head of Business Processes and Development - Educational and Professional Examinations

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We operate in 110 countries. Our purpose is to build mutually beneficial relations between people in the UK and other countries and increase appreciation of the UK's creative ideas and achievements.

British Council invites applications for the position of Head of Business Processes and Development for our Educational & Professional Examinations department.

The incumbent will be expected to:

- Manage day-to-day delivery of the educational and professional examinations operation
- Plan, monitor and report business performance for educational and professional examinations
- Develop and maintain relationships with the stake holders and monitor their satisfaction
- Monitor and develop customer service and exams administration standards
- Manage the operational team
- Promote the existing products to ensure the business growth and to look for new business opportunities/markets/products

The successful applicant will:

- Show real dedication to the long-term mission of the British Council and the team
- Create energy and clarity so that people want to work purposefully together
- Challenging him/her self and others to deliver and measure better results
- Actively appreciating the needs and concerns of others
- Excellent language skills in both English and Bangla
- Experience in Financial Planning and Management and Business Development

Only shortlisted applicants will be called for an English & IT competency test and interview. We will only shortlist applications submitted on a British Council application form. We will not respond to CVs.

To apply, please download Role Profile and the application form from www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh-about-us-jobs
Applications can be submitted electronically to nasreen.sultana@bd.britishcouncil.org or in hard copy to British Council, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka 1000. Please mark the application for the attention of the Deputy Country Exams Manager.

Closing date: 15 June 2011.

The British Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and are keen to reflect diversity at every level within the organisation. We welcome applications from all sections of the community.

"The British Council believe that all children have potential and that every child matters - everywhere in the world. The British Council affirms the position that all children have the right to be protected from all forms of abuse as set out in article 19, UNCRC, 1989"

www.britishcouncil.org/bangladesh