

# Karzai angered by Pak border attacks

AFP, Kabul



Afghan President Hamid Karzai met the head of Pakistan's army yesterday and said he had demanded a halt to a series of cross-border rocket attacks that have caused a row between the two countries.

Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan have long been strained over mutual accusations of responsibility over Islamist militants fighting against both governments, particularly in the porous border area.

Karzai met General Ashfaq Kayani at his palace in Kabul shortly after a top Pakistani army spokesman admitted gunfire may have crossed the border, alleging that five "major attacks" launched from Afghanistan have killed 55 security personnel in a month.

A statement issued by Karzai's palace after the meeting said he "expressed concerns over the continuation of rocket attacks on the Afghan border region from Pakistan soil and demanded an immediate halt to

these attacks."

The palace claimed that Kayani had agreed to launch an investigation, but that could not be immediately confirmed.

Afghanistan last week said Pakistani artillery shelling killed four children on Thursday and warned that attacks from Pakistan could harm "improving trust and cooperation".

Pakistani army spokesman Major General Athar Abbas earlier said he could not rule out that a "few accidental rounds" had been fired across the border by security forces targeting fleeing militants, but he cited his own casualties.

"In the last month, there have been five major attacks from Afghan side of the border where 250-300 terrorists crossed over and assaulted our border posts in Dir, Mohmand and Bajaur," he said.

The attacks resulted in the deaths of 55 paramilitary and pro-government tribal militiamen and wounded 80 others, according to Abbas.

# Bomb attack kills 25 in Nigeria

BBC ONLINE

A bomb attack in the north-eastern Nigerian town of Maiduguri has killed at least 25 people and wounded dozens, security sources say.

They say the attack, which occurred in a beer garden, was carried out by the Islamist sect Boko Haram.

The group wants to establish an Islamic government in Nigeria.

It has carried out a number of bombings in north-eastern Nigeria earlier this month.

Gunmen on two motorcycles attacked a packed beer garden late on Sunday, officials said.

"The attackers believed to be Boko Haram members threw bombs and fired indiscriminate gun shots on a packed tavern at Dala Kabompi neighbourhood," a police officer told the AFP.



PHOTO: AFP

Mumbai Police produce the arrestees in the alleged murder of a prominent Mumbai crime journalist after a press conference in Mumbai yesterday. Indian police said they had arrested seven people for the murder of Jyotirmoy Dey and revealed that the hit was believed to have been ordered by an underworld boss.

# Lebanon hopes Hariri indictments soon



REUTERS, Beirut

Lebanese officials said yesterday they expected a UN-backed tribunal investigating the assassination of former prime minister Rafik al-Hariri to issue indictments soon.

The long-awaited indictments are expected to accuse members of Shi'ite group Hezbollah of involvement in the killing and have already triggered a political crisis which brought down the government of Hariri's son, Saad al-Hariri, in January.

Hezbollah, which denies any role in the 2005 assassination, and its allies resigned from Hariri's unity government just days before the tribunal prosecutor filed his indictments to a pre-trial judge on January 17.

The indictments, twice amended since then, have remained secret while the pre-trial judge assessed whether there was enough evidence to proceed with a trial.

A spokesman for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon declined to comment on reports in two pan-Arab newspapers that the indictments would be issued within two days. One of them, Asharq al-Awsat, said five Hezbollah members would be indicted.

# Row over decision

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capacity to produce so many MRPs in such a short time," said Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain.

However, Syed Ahsan Habib, a consultant to the MRP project, said, "Although challenging, MRPs can be issued to the workers within the deadline."

"The positive thing is that a Malaysian firm [IRIS JV] is implementing the MRP project in Bangladesh. It has necessary logistics and manpower to do the job," he said.

In a surprise move, Mosharraf told reporters on May 31 that the workers would be issued with hand-written passports.

The announcement came after the decision of issuing MRPs for the workers was made at inter-ministerial meetings between the home and the foreign ministries, and another meeting at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The Malaysian government has also been insisting on issuing MRPs for the workers.

Mosharraf claimed he made the decision after consulting with the officials concerned. Staff from the Department of Immigration and Passport (DIP) will be sent to Malaysia for issuing hand-written passports, he said.

Asked about the cheating of workers, the minister said, "The workers should know how to preserve their interests."

Seeking anonymity, a senior home ministry official said, "The minister's announcement surprised us all." The official was present at the first inter-ministerial meeting on the issue on May 25.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder chaired the meeting attended by secretary of expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry Zafar Ahmed Khan, DIP officials and experts of the MRP project. A decision to

take a crash programme to issue MRPs for the three lakh workers was made at the meeting.

Officials of the DIP and MRP project explained how MRPs can be issued within the deadline.

Secretary Zafar Ahmed Khan and Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia AKM Atiqur Rahman also suggested issuing MRPs for the workers.

The suggestion for issuing MRPs for the migrant workers also came up at another inter-ministerial meeting at the foreign ministry on May 26.

A meeting was also held at the PMO two months ago to discuss how quickly expatriate workers can be given MRPs in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Nearly four million Bangladeshis now work in those countries.

The meeting was convened following Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's instructions to expedite the process of issuing MRPs for all expatriate workers, said sources.

Officials and experts said hand-written passports cannot be a wise choice when countries around the world are objecting to manual passports.

"We cannot go for manual passports when the facility to issue MRPs is in place," said a DIP official, seeking anonymity. He said it takes less than 10 minutes to produce an MRP, and 15 to 20 minutes to prepare a manual one.

There is a risk that there would be mistakes in hand-written passports, as hired hands will prepare them.

The government has to send 200 to 300 people in several groups to Malaysia for issuing the passports. At least 5,000 passports have to be issued a day to meet the deadline.

A DIP official said the government can consider outsourcing the task. "The government should take the matter seriously in the interest of the workers and the country," the official added.

# ACC to probe Niko scam

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"If the preliminary enquiry gathers enough evidence, a full-fledged investigation will be conducted based on which we will decide whether or not to file a case against him," said ACC Chairman Ghulam Rahman. Investigation will take place following the enquiry report.

On June 25, The Daily Star quoted an Associated Press report regarding the Canadian oil and gas company which was fined 9,499,000 Canadian dollars (US\$9,750,794) after it pleaded guilty the previous day of providing goods or services "to influence the acts or decisions of a foreign state."

On June 26, the news was widely covered by a number of Bangla and English dailies. The company admitted to have provided the ex-minister with a luxury vehicle along with a trip to North America to escape from the

country without compensating for the explosions at Tengratila, one of Niko's natural gas fields, in January 2005.

The blowout damaged at least 10 billion cubic feet (BCF) of gas worth \$2.5 million, apart from severely damaging the geological zone.

Mosharraf resigned on June 18, 2005 after the then prime minister Khaleda Zia asked him to step down following the allegation.

Along with three other cases filed by the ACC, Mosharraf was also accused of causing the government a loss of Tk 13,777 crore by awarding gas exploration work to Niko.

He was also among the top five accused on the list prepared by the former BNP-led government.

Canadian Senator denies his role in the Niko graft

Canadian Senator Mac Harb, the focus of a breach-of-trust investigation in his country, has denied using public office to influence the Bangladeshi government on behalf of Niko Resources.

The long-time Ottawa politician issued a statement on the weekend saying he has never used his Senate post "for personal gain," following a Globe and Mail report on allegations that Harb improperly used his seat in the Senate to lobby Bangladeshi ministers on behalf of Niko in a dispute over natural gas.

"As a city councillor, a member of Parliament and as a senator, I have always put the public interest first." Harb, who was paid \$65,000 by Niko, said in his statement. "I am confident that there will be no finding of wrongdoing."

Corporal Kevin Duggan of

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Canada's national police service, alleged in a sworn affidavit that Harb travelled to Bangladesh four times using a special passport reserved for MPs, senators and retired ambassadors to help steer Niko out of a crisis.

Experts in parliamentary procedure suggest that the outcome of the probe will depend on how Harb represented himself during his trips. For instance, in April of 2006, when he walked into the home of the Bangladeshi foreign affairs minister Morshed Khan, did he present himself as a Canadian senator or an employee of Niko?

The Criminal Code of Canada dictates that for a public official to be in breach of trust, they must be acting "in connection with the duties of his or her office."

# WFP cuts Afghan food assistance


AP, Kabul

The UN World Food Program announced yesterday it will cut food assistance to more than 3 million Afghans in about half the country's 34 provinces because of a shortage of money from donor nations.

The UN agency said it had planned to help feed more than 7 million people in Afghanistan this year, but a shortage of donor funds means 3.8 million people will be helped through meals provided at schools and training and work programs. The program said it needed an additional \$220 million to continue its work in Afghanistan at the level originally planned.

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Tender No. CSD: 5(EES)-94/2011

Date: 22/06/2011

### Invitation for Tenders

Tenders through electronic media (e-tendering) are invited from the bonafide supplier or agent for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of sub-station equipment for 11-storied residential building at Bangladesh Bank Colony Premises, Motijheel, Dhaka. Necessary information are given below:

1.0	Procuring entity name	: Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka.
2.0	Source of funds	: Bangladesh Bank Own.
3.0	Tender name	: Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of sub-station equipment for 11-storied residential building at Bangladesh Bank Colony Premises, Motijheel, Dhaka.
4.0	Procurement method	: Open tendering method through web (e-tendering).
5.0	Eligibility of tenderers	: The tenderer shall have minimum of 10 (ten) years of overall experience and having experience of supply, installation, testing and commissioning of Electric Sub-station equipment under as single contract in the last five years whose contract amount should not be less than Tk. 15,00,000.00 (fifteen lac) in govt./semi-govt./autonomous organization/corporation/limited company of Bangladesh.
6.0	Address of collecting and submission of e-tender document	: From web: www.bangladeshbank.org.bd www.bangladesh-bank.org (e-Tender).
7.0	Name & address of the office to receive original tender security & other documentary evidence	: General Manager, Common Services Department (6th Floor of 30-storied building), Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka. On or before 2.45pm.
8.0	Last date & time for submission of e-tenders through web	: 24/07/2011 on or before 2.30pm.
9.0	Date, time and place for tender opening	: All tender will be opened at Common Services Department (6th Floor of 30-storied building) Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka on 24/07/2011 at 3.00pm (intending tenders or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the tender opening).
10.0	Amount of tender security	: Each tender must be accompanied by a tender security money amounting to Tk. 100,000.00 (one lac) only in the form of Bank Draft or Pay-Order from any schedule bank of Bangladesh issued in favour of the General Manager, Common Services Department, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka. Scan copy should be submitted through the web.
11.0	Time for completion of the works	: 02 (two) months.
12.0	Special instructions	: i) The tenderer shall submit tender through Bangladesh Bank website (e-tendering) & must have valid e-mail address for participating through e-tendering. ii) Original PO/BD as tender security and original master print catalogue of offered equipment along with original tender submission letter (G-1 form) must reach to General Manager, Common Services Department, within stipulated date and time of TDS. iii) Tenderer should submit attested documentary evidence etc. (attested or original whichever necessary) when requested, failing which the tender may be considered as non-responsive. iv) The tenderer shall submit the form G-2 (tenderer information) (dully filled in) as per format given in tender document and attached during submission of tender in web (as pdf format). v) G-1 form should be completed and signed by the authorized signatory on the letterhead pad, attached by scanning during submitting tender and original will send to the General Manager (CSD) at scheduled time as per TDS. vi) Furnishing of any false, misleading documents may result in rejection of tender and may lead to action under Reg. 127 of PPR 2008/Reg. 12 of BBPR 2004. Bangladesh Bank reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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