

20-hour Taliban siege on Kabul ends

At least 25 killed, US plays down attacks importance

BBC ONLINE

A brazen Taliban assault on the Afghan capital was quelled yesterday after raging for 19 hours in a hail of rockets, grenades and suicide blasts that left at least 25 dead and six foreign troops wounded.

The US ambassador to Afghanistan, Ryan Crocker, dismissed the attack as "harassment" and "not a very big deal".

The dead included 11 civilians, among them children, along with at least four police and 10 insurgents.

The Nato commander in Kabul, Gen John Allen, admitted the insurgents had scored a propaganda victory.

"The attacks beginning yesterday afternoon were designed to derail transition... the insurgent attack didn't succeed, it failed," he told a news conference in Kabul.

"I'll grant that they did get an IO [Information Operations] win on this," he added.

International forces have begun handing over responsibility for security to the Afghan authorities in a transition which is scheduled for completion in 2014.

"This really is not a very big deal," said Ambassador Crocker. About six or seven rockets landed within the embassy perimeter fence, he said.

"That isn't [the] Tet [offensive], that's harassment," he went on.

The 1968 Tet offensive was the turning point in the Vietnam war which eventually led to the pull-out of US forces.

Tuesday's attack, the most complex in Kabul to date, comes as US and other foreign forces begin to withdraw their troops.

During the attack, at least six gunmen took over a multi-storey building overlooking Kabul's heavily protected diplomatic quarter.

It began at about 13:30 local time on Tuesday when a car packed with insurgents was stopped at a checkpoint at

Abdul Haq Square about 1km (0.6 mile) from the US embassy.

Witnesses said there were several large explosions and the insurgents entered a nearby nine-storey building under construction.

From there, several militants opened fire on the embassy complex with machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and possibly a mortar.

In the end, Afghan forces had to work their way up through the building, exchanging fire with all the militants on the floors above until the last of the gunmen was killed, 20 hours later.

Suicide bombers were also sent to other targets in the city. One was heading for the airport when he was killed by Afghan security forces.

The Taliban said it was behind the attack, although Afghan officials blamed the Haqqani network, an insurgent group linked to the Taliban and al-Qaeda but which operates independently.



PHOTO: AFP

Afghan security personnel stand alert in front of a building in Kabul yesterday from where Taliban fighters attacked the most heavily protected part of the Afghan capital on Tuesday.

DELHI BLAST

Two teens arrested for sending email

AFP, Srinagar

Police in Indian-ruled Kashmir yesterday arrested two teenage students suspected of sending an email claiming responsibility for a bomb blast at New Delhi's High Court that left 13 dead.

The email, which said the Pakistan-based militant group Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami (HuJI) carried out the September 7 attack, was traced to an Internet cafe in Kishtwar, near the Kashmiri city of Jammu.

Police, who identified the two students as Abid Hussain and Sharik Butt, said investigators were unable to confirm whether the email was a genuine claim or a hoax.

"We have arrested two people suspected of sending the email," a police officer told AFP, declining to give his name. He said the arrests were made a few days ago.

The two, both aged 17 or 18, were tracked down after questioning of the Internet cafe owners and people using its computers when the email was sent.

A court remanded the two teenagers in custody for 10 days, the officer said, adding the pair have been charged with hatching a criminal conspiracy and committing acts prejudicial to maintenance of harmony.

They were among seven people detained over the past week in Kishtwar. Five others have been set free after questioning.

WAR CRIMES

Sri Lanka recalls diplomat

AFP, Geneva

Sri Lanka on Tuesday recalled its deputy ambassador to Germany and Switzerland, Jaghat Dias, a former general that rights groups have accused of war crimes, Swiss media said.

The Sankt-Galler Zeitung newspaper and ATS news agency said the information was provided by diplomatic sources, but the missions in Berlin and Geneva did not comment.

Two rights groups last month filed a criminal complaint with Swiss authorities against Dias for alleged war crimes.

Dias is the deputy ambassador at Sri Lanka's embassy in Berlin, which also handles diplomatic dealings with Switzerland and the Vatican.

US will respond to Myanmar reform

AFP, Yangon

A new US envoy to Myanmar ended his first visit to the country yesterday by urging "genuine and concrete" reforms by the army-backed regime and said Washington would respond "in kind".

Derek Mitchell, who was appointed as the first US coordinator for policy on Myanmar last month, said the Southeast Asian nation should begin by releasing political prisoners, ending ethnic conflicts and reaching out to critics.

Mitchell urged Myanmar to "prove the sceptics wrong" as he prepared to leave the country after a visit that included talks with ministers of the new nominally-civilian government and opposition icon Aung San Suu Kyi.

"I noted that progress on these issues will be essential to progress in the bilateral relationship, and that if the government takes genuine and concrete action, the United States will respond in kind," he told reporters at Yangon airport.

Mitchell, who was on his first official visit to the country as part of Washington's strategy of engagement, did not directly mention the wide ranging sanctions imposed against Myanmar by the US.

But he said he had discussed American "policy approaches" with Suu Kyi and her party.

Myanmar's government has recently appeared to be seeking to improve its image by reaching out to critics such as Suu Kyi, who last month met President Thein Sein, a former general, for the first time.

DENGUE OUTBREAK Schools forced-shut in Pakistan

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan's most populous province shut educational institutions yesterday in a bid to control an outbreak of dengue fever that has killed at least nine people since last month, officials said.

Schools, colleges and universities across the central province of Punjab, where the disease has affected nearly 5,000 people so far, will remain closed for 10 days for fumigation.

Local media said nearly two dozen people have died, including a senior government official, over the past two months. But officials have confirmed nine deaths.

Punjab government spokesman said on Wednesday that 4,989 cases had been reported in the province so far, of which 4,118 were in Lahore alone.

CORRUPTION ALLEGATION

Strong proof against Mayawati: CBI

NDTV ONLINE

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) yesterday reiterated that there is strong documentary and oral evidence against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati in the disproportionate assets case.

In an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, the CBI has said, "The investigation against Mayawati is based on cogent evidence available in the form of documentary evidence, oral evidence and strong circumstantial evidence which shows nexus between income of the relatives and Mayawati, as well as between Mayawati and 'donors' to her and her relatives."

The affidavit also says that the CBI be allowed to file a chargesheet before the CBI court in Lucknow. The Supreme Court may take up this case tomorrow.

The Uttar Pradesh chief minister had moved the Supreme Court seeking quashing of the disproportionate assets case in May 2008. The Supreme Court had stayed the filing of chargesheet against her by the CBI.

US embassy cables from 2007 to 2009 released by the WikiLeaks website in recent days describe Mayawati, 55, as "a first-rate egomaniac" and corrupted who "is obsessed with becoming prime minister".



INDIA POLLS, 2014

US predicts Rahul, Modi contest

PTI, Washington

As the debate on potential prime ministerial contenders for the 2014 elections picks up in India, a US Congressional report says it might just turn out to be a direct contest between controversial Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

A report on India by the Congressional Research Service (CRS), a bipartisan and independent research wing of the US Congress, finds Modi a strong prime ministerial candidate for the opposition BJP in 2014, while at the same time discussing the prospect of the Congress putting up Rahul Gandhi for the position.

However, the report which gives a detailed account of international political dimensions of India, does not clearly state it would be a Modi vs Gandhi affair in 2014.

"The 2009 polls may have represented a coming out party of sorts for the younger Gandhi, who many



Narendra Modi Rahul Gandhi

expect to be put forward as Congress' prime ministerial candidate in scheduled 2014 elections," said the report dated September 1, which was made public yesterday by the Federation of American Scientists.

CRS reports are meant for consumption of US lawmakers and are generally not available in the public domain.

"Yet this heir-apparent remains dogged by questions about his abilities to lead the party, given a mixed record as an election strategist, uneasy style in public appearances, and reputation for gaffes," the CRS


said.

Party chief and UPA chair, Sonia Gandhi is seen to wield considerable influence over the coalition's policy making process, it said.

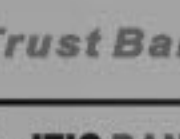
On the BJP's front, on the other hand, Modi is among the party's likely candidates for the prime ministership, the report said.

"At present, the BJP president is Nitin Gadkari, a former Maharashtra official known for his avid support of privatisation. Although still in some disorder in 2011, there are signs that the BJP has made changes necessary to be a formidable challenger in scheduled 2014 polls," it said.


"Among the party's likely candidates for the prime ministership in future elections is Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi, who has overseen impressive development successes in his state, but who is also dogged by controversy over his alleged complicity in lethal anti-Muslim rioting there in 2002," it said.



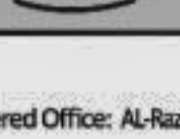
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First Janata Bank Mutual Fund



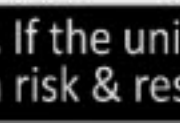
(Asset Manager : RACE Management PCL)

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DISTRIBUTION OF DIVIDEND WARRANTS

DISTRIBUTION TIME 9.00 A.M TO 4.00 P.M.

This is to inform the valued unit holders of EBL 1st Mutual Fund, Trust Bank 1st Mutual Fund, IFIC Bank 1st Mutual Fund & First Janata Bank Mutual Fund that the dividend warrants will be distributed as per attached schedule. Unit holders are humbly requested to collect dividend warrants showing the actual BO setup, Authorisation Letter from 9.00 a.m to 4.00 p.m as per following schedule:

Fund Name	Dhaka Zila Krira Sanghstha Zilpar, Motijheel, Dhaka.
 <div>EBL 1st Mutual Fund</div>	Saturday 17 September 2011
 <div>Trust Bank 1st Mutual Fund</div>	TO
 <div>IFIC Bank 1st Mutual Fund</div>	Thursday 22 September 2011
<div>First Janata Bank Mutual Fund</div>	

N.B. If the unitholders are failed to collect Dividend Warrants by this time, those will be sent through courier service at unit holders own risk & responsibility.



সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন

SADHARAN BIMA CORPORATION

জনসংযোগ বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়

৩৩, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা।

দেয়াল ক্যালেভার মুদ্রণ কাজের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১. বিভাগ

২. প্রকিউরিং

৩. প্রকিউরিং এনটিটি জেলা

৪. কাজের নাম

৫. টেন্ডার নাম্বার

৬. কার্য পদ্ধতি

৭. ব্যয়ের উৎস

৮. দরপত্র লট নং

৯. প্যাকেজের নাম

১০. দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ

১১. দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়

১২. দরপত্র জমাদানের তারিখ ও সময়

১৩. দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়

১৪. দরপত্র বিক্রয়কারীর পদবী ও ঠিকানা

১৫. দরপত্র গ্রহণকারীর পদবী ও ঠিকানা

১৬. দরপত্র যে কর্মকর্তা খুলবেন তার পদবী ও ঠিকানা

১৭. প্রাক দরপত্র সভার স্থান

১৮. দরদাতার যোগ্যতা

১৯. কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণী

২০. দরপত্রের মূল্য

২১. সরবরাহকৃত কাজ সমাপ্ত করণের সময়

২২. দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর পদবী ও ঠিকানা

২৩. যোগাযোগ (প্রয়োজনে)

২৪. ক্যালেভারের নমুনা

২৩. কর্তৃপক্ষ সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

জনসংযোগ বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।

সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন।

ঢাকা।

ইংরেজী ২০১২ সালের দেয়াল ক্যালেভার মুদ্রণের (সঙ্গে বাংলা ও আরবী তারিখসহ) দরপত্র।

সাবীক/পিআরডি/প্রাক/দেয়াল ক্যালেভার মুদ্রণ/২০১১।

উল্লিখিত দরপত্রের মাধ্যমে (পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর সংশোধিত ২০০৯) সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন এর নিজস্ব তহবিল।

লট-১।

ইংরেজী ২০১২ সালের দেয়াল ক্যালেভার মুদ্রণের দরপত্র।

প্রযোজ্য নয়।

২৮/০৯/২০১১, সময় দুপুর ২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

০৫/১০/২০১১, সময় দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

০৫/১০/২০১১, সময় দুপুর ১২:৩০ ঘটিকায়।

ব্যবস্থাপক, জনসংযোগ বিভাগ, সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন, ৩৩ দিলকুশা বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০।

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প্রযোজ্য নয়।

মুদ্রণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের ডিমা ই মেশিন, কম্পিউটার, প্লেট এক্সপোজার মেশিন ইত্যাদি থাকতে হবে। তাছাড়া, ড্রাম স্ক্যানিংয়ের সুবিধাসহ বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা। সরকার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত পাবলিকেশন/প্রেস ডিরেকশন সার্টিফিকেট, টিন সার্টিফিকেট, ভ্যাট সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত আর্থিক স্বচ্ছতার সাম্প্রতিক সার্টিফিকেট এবং উন্নতমানের ক্যালেভার মুদ্রণের ৩(তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতার সনদের সত্যায়িত কপি সিডিডলের সাথে সংযুক্ত করে দিতে হবে।

তথ্যাদি সম্বলিত দরপত্র সিডিউল মোতাবেক।

প্রতি সেট টাকা ৫০০/- (টাকা পাঁচশত) মাত্র (অফেরতযোগ্য)।

কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ২১ (একুশ) দিনের মধ্যে।

ব্যবস্থাপক, জনসংযোগ বিভাগ, (৮ম তলা) সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশন, ৩৩ দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।

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দরপত্র আহ্বানকারীর নিকট রক্ষিত আছে, যা দেখা যেতে পারে।

সাবীক/জস/টেন্ডার-১০/১১, তাং-১২.০৯.২০১১

(শামীমা সুলতানা)

ব্যবস্থাপক

জনসংযোগ বিভাগ

ফোন : ৯৫৫২২৩৮