

Pak army top brass meets amid US row

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's powerful army chief General Ashfaq Kayani met with his top commanders yesterday in a "special" meeting to discuss the security situation, the military said, as the war of words with the United States escalated.

The extraordinary meeting of the corps commanders came against the backdrop of sharp US allegations that Pakistan army's powerful spy agency supported the Haqqani militant group Washington blames for the recent attack on its embassy and other targets in Kabul.

"The prevailing security situation was discussed," military spokesman Major-General Athar Abbas said without giving details.

Kayani, who is departing for London later tonight to address the International Institute for Strategic Studies and the Royal College of Defence Studies, chaired the meeting.

Separately, the US CENTCOM commander General James N Mattis met with Chairman of Pakistan's Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Khalid Shameem Wyne who

expressed concern over the "negative statements emanating from (the) US."

"He (Wyne) stressed upon addressing the irritants in relationship which are a result of an extremely complex situation," the military said in a statement.

In the most blunt remarks by a US official since Pakistan joined the US-led war on militancy in 2001, the outgoing chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, on Thursday testified before the US Senate that the Haqqani militant network is a "veritable arm" of the Directorate of Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) of the Pakistan army.

He also for the first time held Islamabad responsible for the Kabul attack, saying Pakistan provided support for that assault.

The Pakistan government as well as the army rejected the allegations and Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani spoke to political leaders by telephone on Sunday and decided to call a meeting of to discuss the issue of tensions with the United States.

On Saturday night, Gilani rejected US allegations as a sign of American "confusion and policy disarray."



PHOTO: AFP

Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (L) and former prime minister and current leader of the opposition Abhisit Vejjajiva (R) sitting together during an anti-corruption event in Bangkok yesterday. Thailand said it will review political trials and royal insult cases connected to five years of unrest in response to independent recommendations.

Plane crash kills all 19 on board in Nepal

AFP, Kathmandu

An aircraft taking tourists on a morning sightseeing trip around Mount Everest crashed into a hillside near the Nepalese capital Kathmandu yesterday, killing all 19 people on board.

The Buddha Air Beechcraft plane, carrying 10 Indians, two Americans, one Japanese citizen and three local passengers, came down in heavy rain and fog at Godavari, around 10 kilometres from Kathmandu.

The three Nepalese crew also died in the accident as the plane smashed into wooded slopes, leaving the fuselage broken into several pieces. "All 19 people have died. The Buddha Air-103 was returning from a moun-

tain flight when it crashed into Kotdada Hill," Bimlesh Lal Karna, head of the rescue department at Tribhuwan International Airport, told AFP.

Police spokesman Binod Singh said one person had initially survived the crash but had died in hospital. "The rescue efforts have been hampered by heavy rain," he added, confirming the nationalities of the passengers.

Airport authorities on the ground lost contact with the plane at 7:30am and it crashed minutes later.

Buddha Air, a private airline based in Kathmandu, was not immediately available for comment but was due to release a statement later.

Alarm rings over world economy

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new powers for their 440-billion-euro fund, known as the EFSF, attention will turn to how to get more impact from the existing money.

"We need to find a mechanism where we can turn one euro in the EFSF into five, but there is no decision on how we could do that yet," another senior European official said on condition of anonymity.

The rescue fund would need to be at least 2 trillion euros to safeguard Italy and Spain if the crisis were to spread, financial analysts estimate.

The United States and other nations have urged Europe to leverage up the fund, possibly with support from the European Central Bank.

But officials from the ECB and from Germany, the region's paymaster, remained wary of using the central bank, which has a strict mandate to pursue low inflation.

"We should not think of leveraging a public pot of funds as a free lunch," said ECB Governing Council member Patrick Honohan.

Nonetheless, arming the euro zone with a bigger war chest to lend to governments or shore up banks was the focus of top finance officials from around the globe who met in Washington for semiannual meetings of the International Monetary Fund.

The sovereign debt crisis threatens to throw the euro zone into recession and has placed a troubling drag on an already slow US economy. It could come to weigh on emerging economies too.

"Brazil's experience with past crises suggests you have to confront the problems in a fast, consistent manner," said Mohamed el-Erian, co-chief investment officer of bond giant PIMCO, said on Saturday after further signals that Europe was bolstering its defences.

"Now they need to translate this into decisive actions underpinned by a common vision of what they want the euro zone to look like in five years time."

Some policymakers now talk openly of a possible Greek default and the need to move much more aggressively to prepare for it.

"Decisions as to how to conclusively address the region's problems cannot wait until the crisis gets more severe," Geithner said.

His warning was echoed by China's central bank governor, Zhou Xiaochuan, who urged quick action to bring greater financial stability to the Europe.

Canada's central bank governor, Mark Carney, told Canadian radio that the euro area's bailout fund should be more than doubled to "the neighborhood of a trillion euros."

A default by Greece could cause a domino effect in other highly indebted euro zone countries, putting at risk

European banks which hold their debt.

Greek Finance Minister Evangelos Venizelos said Athens was determined not to default and would stay in the euro zone.

Greece will always be in the euro and Greece will never go bankrupt because this would be destructive for the euro zone and for many other countries beyond the euro zone," he said.

Athens is in tense talks with the IMF and European authorities to secure a new 8 billion-euro instalment of its rescue package.

In return, it has pledged deep austerity measures but negotiators are frustrated at what they say is Greece's slow reform pace. A loan payment, however, is still expected to be made in October. The next instalment is due in December.

Venizelos was quoted by two newspapers on Friday as

saying an orderly default with a 50 percent "haircut" for bondholders was one way to resolve the heavily indebted euro zone nation's cash crunch. European banks have agreed to take a 21 percent loss on their Greek bonds in a restructuring deal.

To battle the crisis, Geithner called for more cooperation between European policymakers -- who set their own tax and fiscal policy -- and their central bank.

One option to increase the potency of the EFSF would be for the ECB to commit large amounts of funding, with the temporary bailout fund putting forward money to cover potential losses.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said he was open to the idea of leveraging Europe's rescue fund but said that did not necessarily mean the ECB should provide the extra firepower.

In another sign of new thinking by Europe, Schaeuble said Germany backed bringing forward the launch of the euro zone's permanent rescue mechanism, which is currently scheduled for mid-2013. The new mechanism would give policymakers powers to impose losses on private bondholders in a default and could be leveraged more easily than the temporary version of the fund.

Germany, as the strongest economy in Europe, needs to play a central role in any effort to curb a debt crisis, but public opinion there has turned against further big bailouts for potential losses.

Schaeuble stuck to Germany's insistence that austerity was the cure for the crisis. "You can't cure an alcoholic by giving him alcohol ... The main reason for the lack of demand is the lack of confidence," he said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Cooperatives
Local Government Division
Second Local Governance Support Project (LGSP-II)
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

No.46.018.031.00.00.006.2011-17

Date: 21.09.2011

Request for Expressions of Interest for Selection & Employment of Audit Firm for Annual External Financial Audit and Performance & Safeguards Compliance Assessment of Union Parishads of Jessore, Khulna, Bagerhat & Shatkhira Districts (Contract Package No. S-30)

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has applied for a credit towards the cost of the Second Local Governance Support Project (LGSP-II) from the International Development Association (IDA). The Local Government Division (LGD) of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MLGRD&C) has initiated the implementation of LGSP II and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit towards the eligible payments under contract for Audit of Union Parishads (UPs) of 4 Districts: Jessore, Khulna, Bagerhat & Shatkhira (Contract Package No.S-30) by an Audit Firm (A).
- The scope of services includes conducting financial and performance (including technical) audits of Annual Financial Statement (AFS) for Financial Years (FY) 2010-11 and 2011-12 of about 312 UPs each year in all Upazilas of 4 Districts: Jessore, Khulna, Bagerhat & Shatkhira. The completion time of the audit will be 90 calendar days in each FY, based on the tentative timeline provided below. The working area under the package (Districts, number of Upazilas and UPs) may vary in RFP and during contract negotiation.
- The Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives now invites eligible Audit firms to submit their Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the above contract package for providing the required services. Interested Audit firms must provide information with documentary evidences indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, copy of its original registration, description of assignments of similar nature, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate professional qualifications and experience among staff, etc.). The EOIs received will be evaluated on the basis of the following:
 - Registration of the firm
 - Age of the firm
 - Availability of key personnel
 - Experience of the firm in similar assignments
 - Experience of the firm in other works
 - Support services of the firm
- Information provided by the firms will be verified with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) and/or other entities, wherever applicable. Firms may associate with others to enhance their qualification, but should mention whether the association is in the form of a "joint venture" or "sub-contractancy". In the case of an association, all members of such associations should have real and well-defined inputs to the assignment.
- Audit Firm will be selected using the Selection under a Fixed Budget (SFB) procurement method in accordance with the Public Procurement Act 2006 and Public Procurement Rules 2008 issued by the GOB (www.cptu.gov.bd). It is expected that the assignment will be initially to conduct audit of 2 (two) Financial Years with possible extension, to be determined later. It shall commence around November 2011 throughout the 4 Districts: Jessore, Khulna, Bagerhat & Shatkhira and shall be completed by March 2013, as per the following schedule:

| Sl. No. | Annual Financial Statement of | Start of Audit | Completion of Audit |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| i | 2010-11 | November 2011 | February 2012 |
| ii | 2011-12 | September 2012 | December 2012 |

- Interested Audit firms may obtain further information from the office of the undersigned during office working hours on working days. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs received without assigning any reason thereof.

- Two (2) sets of Expressions of Interest (EOIs) must be delivered to the address below by October 12, 2011, within 02.00pm. The covering envelope (sealed) should be clearly marked as "EOI for Selection & Employment of Audit Firm for Annual External Financial Audit and Performance & Safeguards Compliance Assessment of Union Parishads of Jessore, Khulna, Bagerhat & Shatkhira Districts (Contract Package No.S-30)".

- EOIs received after the deadline will not be considered for short-listing. The Local Government Division of the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives will not be responsible for any delay in submission of EOIs including delay due to postal or any other reason whatsoever.

Syed Mahboob Hasan

Additional Secretary, LGD

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India tests nuke capable missile

AFP, Bhubaneshwar

India tested a medium-range nuclear-capable missile along its eastern coast on Saturday, an official said, as part of the nation's efforts to build up its atomic deterrent.

The indigenous surface-to-surface Shourya missile, with a striking range of 700km, was fired from a range in the eastern state of Orissa as a trial for the Indian army, said SP Dash, director of the Integrated Test Range.

"The launch of the missile was perfect. It followed the path exactly to the predefined target in the Bay of Bengal," Dash told AFP.

India's Defence Research Development Organisation is developing a series of missiles as part of the country's deterrent strategy against neighbouring Pakistan and China, which also have nuclear weapons.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) is inviting applications for appointment of Director (Research & Policy) (1 position). The position is Dhaka-based. Monthly Gross Salary: Tk. 140,650.00. Other benefits include Provident Fund & Gratuity.

Before applying please visit TIB website: www.ti-bangladesh.org/vacancy for further details including position description and application procedure. Applications which are not consistent with the given procedure will not be considered. Only the short listed candidates will be called for selection process. Short-listing will be made on the basis of quality; all candidates meeting the minimum application criteria will be considered, but may not be short-listed.

Applications must be submitted using the Applicant Information Format available on the website.

Last date of application: October 11, 2011.

DESCO
POWER IS YOURS
Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO)
House # 3, Road # 24, Block-K, Banani Model Town, Dhaka-1213
Tel. No. 8859642, 8860341, 9880400, 8826206, Fax No. 8854648
E-mail: pcm_ho@desco.org.bd

Invitation for Tenders

| 1 | Agency | Dhaka Electric Supply Company Limited (DESCO) |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| 2 | Procuring Entity Name | Office of the Manager (Procurement & CM Division), DESCO |
| 3 | Procuring Entity District | Dhaka and Gazipur |
| 4 | Invitation for | Procurement of Goods and Related Services |
| 5 | Tender No. | 27/2011 |
| 6 | Invitation Ref No. | DESCO/Procurement/Local Tender/2011/813 |
| 7 | Date | 22/09/2011 |

KEY INFORMATION

| 8 | Procurement Method | Open Tendering Method (Single Stage Single Envelope) |
|---|--------------------|--|
|---|--------------------|--|

FUNDING INFORMATION

| 9 | Budget and Source of Funds | DESCO's own fund |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|
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PARTICULAR INFORMATION

| 10 | Tender Name | Procurement Of Electricity Bill Format. |
| --- | --- | --- |

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