

Rabbani killing plotted on Pak soil

Kabul hands Pakistan proof



REUTERS, Kabul

Afghanistan's intelligence agency said yesterday that it had handed Pakistan evidence that the Taliban's leadership plotted the recent assassination of ex-president and government peace envoy Burhanuddin Rabbani on Pakistani soil.

The interior minister, giving testimony in parliament, also said that a master-mind of the plot -- Hameedullah Akhondzada -- had been arrested. The minister said Pakistan's spy agency, the Directorate of Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), played a role in the killing.

Rabbani, who was head of the High Peace Council charged with trying to reach a negotiated settlement to the war, was killed at his Kabul home by a suicide bomber claiming to be carrying a message of peace from the Taliban leadership.

"Without any doubt Pakistan's ISI hand has been involved," Interior Minister Bismillah Mohammadi told lawmakers yesterday, while discussing Rabbani's killing.

"We have detained Hameedullah Akhondzada who confessed that it was nothing but a plot," he added.

Karzai abandons peace talks with the Taliban

Obama renews call to sort out Haqqani 'problem'

BBC ONLINE

Afghan President Hamid Karzai yesterday said his government will no longer hold peace talks with the Taliban.

He said the killing of Burhanuddin Rabbani had convinced him to focus on dialogue with Pakistan.

Former Afghan President Rabbani was negotiating with the Taliban but was killed by a suicide bomber purporting to be a Taliban peace emissary.

US President Barack Obama has renewed calls for Pakistani action against militants of the Haqqani network.

Karzai, speaking to a group of religious leaders, said there were no partners for dialogue among the Taliban. It was not possible to find the Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, he added.

"Where is he? We cannot find the Taliban Council. Where is it?" he said.

"A messenger comes disguised as a Taliban Council member and kills, and

they neither confirm nor reject it. Therefore, we cannot talk to anyone but to Pakistan," Mr Karzai told the meeting.

"Who is the other side in the peace process? I do not have any other answer but to say Pakistan is the other side in the peace talks with us."

A statement by members of the nationwide council of religious scholars praised Rabbani's efforts to bring peace to the country, and condemned his killing in the strongest terms.

Last week, the US military accused Pakistan's spy agency of helping the Haqqani militant network in a recent attack on Kabul.

Pakistan's foreign minister responded by warning that the US could lose Pakistan as an ally if it continued to publicly accuse Islamabad of supporting militants.

Late on Friday, President Barack Obama renewed calls for Pakistan to take action against the group.

"My attitude is, whether there is

active engagement with Haqqani on the part of the Pakistanis or rather just passively allowing them to operate with impunity in some of these border regions, they've got to take care of this problem," said Obama.

Pakistan has long denied supporting the Haqqani group, but BBC correspondents say it has a decades-old policy of pursuing foreign policy objectives through alliances with militants.

Although Islamabad denies the network has safe havens inside Pakistan, the country's former national security adviser told the BBC that it was operating in North Waziristan, in Pakistan's restive tribal belt.

"Today North Waziristan is a hot bed," said Retired Maj Gen Mahmoud Durani.

"It's not just Haqqanis. Everybody who is anybody in the terrorist field is there. Although there is military (there)... I think they have a fair amount of freedom of action."

Senior Haqqani leader held in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

A senior commander of the Taliban-allied Haqqani network in Afghanistan who is also the uncle of its leader has been captured, the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force said yesterday.

The announcement of Haji Mali Khan's capture comes as the US steps up pressure on Afghanistan's neighbour Pakistan to act against the Haqqanis, linked to al-Qaeda and blamed for a string of attacks on Western targets.

"Security forces detained Haji Mali Khan, uncle of Siraj and Badruddin Haqqani and the senior Haqqani commander in Afghanistan," the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a statement.

Khan was captured close to Afghanistan's porous border with Pakistan in Pakiya province Tuesday, it added, hailing the detention as "a significant milestone" in disrupting Haqqani operations.

Haji Mali Khan is the senior commander in Afghanistan of the Haqqani network, blamed for some recent Afghan attacks and accused of links to Pakistan.

The BBC's Paul Wood in Kabul says Afghan officials describe him as the brain of the network.

The Haqqani are affiliated to the Taliban and have pledged allegiance to their spiritual leader, Mullah Omar. However, some in the West believe the Haqqani also have links to Pakistan's intelligence agency, an accusation Islamabad denies.

A large number of other insurgents was captured in the operation, in Jani Khel district, including Mali Khan's deputy and bodyguard.

Call for consensus

FROM PAGE 1
yesterday that the next parliamentary election would be held without a caretaker government and through a reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC).

The politicians and civil society members worry that general elections without a caretaker government in place might not be free and fair. However, they appreciate the premier's emphasis on a reconstitution of the EC through discussions with all.

Dr Akbar Ali Khan, a former adviser to a caretaker government, is of the view that if the major political parties participate in the next election, which can be held under either an interim government or a

political government, that election will be acceptable.

On the basis of previous experience, it is clear that elections can be held in a more neutral manner under a caretaker government than under a political government, said Sultana Kamal, also a former adviser to a caretaker government.

She is convinced that if the two major political parties do not reach a consensus on the modalities of the next spate of elections, the nation will surely be up against political conflict.

In her comments on the issue, Dilara Chowdhury, former professor of governance and politics at Jahangirnagar University, said that it was a good sign that the prime minister had placed emphasis on

discussions regarding a reconstitution and strengthening of the EC.

But she did note that if the next election was not held under a caretaker government, the administration might not be fully neutral, and thus the voting might not be conducted in a free and fair manner.

In his comments, Prof Mozaffar Ahmed said, "We just pray and hope that the two parties will sit together, discuss the issue and take a decision so that political clashes don't take place and people won't have to suffer."

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, former vice chancellor of Dhaka University, in his response stated that the parliamentary system was bipartisan and therefore it

would be wise for the government to talk to the opposition in the interest of a stable political situation and economic advancement.

In the opinion of BNP standing committee member Lt. Gen. (ret) Mahbubur Rahman, the government should take meaningful steps toward resolving the caretaker government issue through engaging with the opposition. "Both the ruling party and the opposition should sit at the table to devise a proper solution to the issue and so avert an unwanted conflict," he added.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, MP, observed that the BNP should join the next general election in light of the reality of recent constitu-

tional amendments. However, he suggested that the party come forward with its proposals on the caretaker issue.

For his part, Mujahidul Islam Selim, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Bangladesh, said the government should abide by the Supreme Court verdict on the caretaker government issue. The next two national elections, he noted, should be held under the caretaker government in line with the verdict.

"Reform of the Election Commission should be undertaken with the participation of honest, impartial and competent individuals so that no one is able to influence elections by a use of black money and muscle power," he said.

Salman Taseer's assassin gets death sentence

AFP, Islamabad

A Pakistani court yesterday convicted a policeman of murder and sentenced him to death for killing one of the country's top liberal politicians who wanted to reform controversial blasphemy laws.

The judge has also ordered him to pay a fine of 200,000 rupees (\$2,300).

Salman Taseer, Punjab governor and member of the main ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) was shot dead outside an upmarket coffee shop close to his residence in the leafy capital Islamabad on January 4.

His police bodyguard, Malik Mumtaz Hussain Qadri, immediately confessed to the murder and was praised by hundreds of hardline Islamists who have demanded he be released from prison, saying Taseer deserved to die.



Salman Taseer

Qadri said he killed Taseer over his calls to amend the blasphemy law, which sentences to death those convicted of defaming the Prophet Mohammed, after backing a Christian mother of five on death row for alleged blasphemy.

Judge Pervez Ali Shah announced the verdict at an anti-terrorism court sitting behind closed doors in the high-security Adiyala prison in the capital's twin city of Rawalpindi, the lawyer said.

More than 500 people rallied outside the prison, chanting slogans in support of Qadri such as "Free Mumtaz Qadri" and "We are ready to sacrifice our lives for the honour of Prophet Mohammad," said an AFP photographer.

The protestors later blocked off a main road in the city by setting tyres alight. The defence said they would appeal against the verdict.

BNP's Taimur counts

FROM PAGE 20
Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC), was detained on April 18, 2007 by the military-backed caretaker government and subsequently indicted on several graft charges.

He was sentenced to two years' simple imprisonment by a Dhaka court on January 13, 2009 for his failure to submit his wealth statements to the Anti-Corruption Commission. Earlier, on June 12, 2008, Taimur was sentenced to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment in two cases filed against him on charges of accepting bribes during his tenure as

BRTC chief.

If all BNP factions swing into action for Taimur, he might obtain the full support of dedicated party leaders and workers. But, as some residents of the city noted, his previous image would surely affect his chances of getting the popular vote at the election.

Speaking to The Daily Star at his Narayanganj residence, Taimur, however, claimed that people were seriously fed up with what he called the misrule of the present government.

"People will vote for me at the election because of the failure of the government to keep its promises about

containing the prices of essentials and resolving the crises in the power, water and gas sectors," he said.

Narayanganj district AL stalwart Shamim Osman and town unit vice president of the AL Selina Hayat Ivy are the two other strong mayoral candidates.

In the opinion of some locals, Taimur would benefit if the two remained in the electoral race with AL backing. It would split the popular vote as well as the support of ruling party leaders and workers if Osman and Ivy decided to battle it out.

"Since he [Taimur] stands tough against crimi-

nal activities and is involved in many local social activities, people will choose him at the election," Abdul Barek, a local voter, told The Daily Star in Narayanganj.

Taimur, a lawyer by profession and son of a BNP leader of the district, attracted the attention of the BNP high command when he was harassed by AL activists during their party's tenure in office between 1996 and 2001 for his anti-terrorism role, said locals. They added that one of his brothers was killed for raising his voice against criminal activities in the town.

Slapped

FROM PAGE 20
from the school in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital.

Injured student Sabbir Hussain Sami, 15, is undergoing treatment at the neuro-surgery department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital with minor head injuries.

Quoting Rafiqul Islam police said Sabbir had an altercation with the teacher over getting a new answer script for an exam he was taking. The teacher said Sabbir had ripped the script he was given while having fun with his friends in the exam hall.

Sabbir was setting for a mock test.

At one stage of the altercation, the teacher slapped Sabbir which left him unconscious, said Officer-in-Charge Zia-uz-Zaman of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station.

Sabbir told The Daily Star that the mock test started at 10:00am and Rafiqul was the on-duty invigilator. He said his answer script was torn when two of his classmates pushed and shoved him during the test.

"I told the teacher and asked for a new answer script but the teacher got angry and held my head by the hair and banged my head repeatedly against the wall," he claimed.

In police detention, Rafiqul denied banging the head of Sabbir against the wall but did admit to slapping him for being disrespectful towards him.

Other students in the exam room started agitating after Sabbir fainted and the test had to be postponed, police said.

Head teacher of the school Fouzia Ahmed who went to DMCH to visit Sabbir told reporters that a school board meeting will be held in this regard, investigation will be carried out and if the teacher concerned was found guilty, exemplary punishment would be given.

প্রাইম ইউনিভার্সিটি
জমি ক্রয়ের আইনগত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, আমরা মক্কেল, প্রাইম ইউনিভার্সিটির জন্য মেট্রোপলিটন বিস্তার লিঃ এর পক্ষে এর ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক কে.এম জাকের হোসেন (যাহাদের আমমোক্তার সেক প্রপার্টি ডেভেলপমেন্ট লিঃ টিকানা- বাড়ি নং-১১, রোড নং- ৭, ফ্লাট নং- এ/১, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা-১১১২ এর পক্ষে ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক, জনাব এ.কে.এম মজিবুর রহমান) এর সহিত নিম্নতফসিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তি ক্রয়ের জন্য যোগানামা চুক্তিতে আবদ্ধ হইতে যাইতেছি।

অতএব, নিম্ন তফসিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তির ব্যাপারে কাহারো কোন মালিকানা, স্বত্ব, স্বত্বের উত্তরাধিকার সম্পর্কিত কোন দাবী থাকিলে অত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে নিম্নলিখিত টিকানায় যথাযোগ্য প্রমাণাদিসহ যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে, অন্যথায় তফসিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তি নিষ্পকটক এবং দায়মুক্ত বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। উক্ত সময়সীমা অতিক্রমের পর নিম্নতফসিল বর্ণিত সম্পত্তিতে কাহারো কোন দাবী গ্রহন যোগ্য হইবে না।

সম্পত্তির তফসিল

জেলা- ঢাকা, থানা- দারুলসলাম, সাব-রেজিষ্ট্রি অফিস- মিরপুর, মৌজা- জহুরাবাদ, জে এল নং- সাবেক-২২৬, হাল-৫০, খতিয়ান নং- সি.এস-১৫৬, এস.এ-১১১, আর.এস-১৪৫, ২৯৪ ও ২২৬, মহানগর জরিপ-২৮৩, দাগ নং- সি.এস ও এস.এ- ২২২/২০০, আর.এস-২১৯, মহানগর জরিপ-১৪৯৬, উক্ত দাগের মোট জমির পরিমাণ-১.১২ একর।

এম ফারুক আহমেদ, ব্যারিস্টার, এ অফ ইকুইটি
আরাফা নিলয়, স্যুট # এন ডিউই-১ (২য় তলা), বাড়ি নং- ১৬, রোড নং- ১০, গুলশান-১, ঢাকা-১১১২, মোবাইল: ০১৭১৩-০৩৬১৫০

INDONESIAN PLANE CRASH All 18 missing found dead

AFP, Medan

All 18 people aboard a plane that crashed on Indonesia's Sumatra island were found dead yesterday, an official said, after two days of hampered efforts to reach the remote jungle site.

But after rescuers finally reached the site, national search and rescue operations head Sunarbowo Sandi announced: "We received a radio response from our team on the ground that all 18 people on the plane had died."

Vacancy Announcement

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces the vacancy for the following post for the **Civil Service Change Management Programme Project**.

Project Coordinator- SC (SB5) - 1 Post

The duration of the Service Contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance and availability of funds

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be received no later than 17:00 pm, 15 October 2011. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Bangladesh

PUBLIC NOTICE
DWASA

Transmission Mains Pipe laying Works For Saidabad Water Treatment Plant phase ii at

Gulshan Link Road Rampura Road Mirpur Road

International Contractor MTHojgaard/Degremont JV is has been engaged by DWASA to carry out the Saidabad Water Treatment Plant Project, Phase II.

An important element of this project to supply potable drinking water to the people of Dhaka City, is the transmission mains pipe laying works along the following routes:

- ✓ Rampura Road (from Malibagh Bazar to Rampura Bridge)
- ✓ Shahid Tazuddin Road (from Tibet, along Gulshan Link Road to the National Shooting Club)
- ✓ Panthapath (from Green Road Crossing across Russell Square to Mirpur Technical Centre)

The pipe laying works will commence in October 2011 and are programmed to be finished by December 2012.

MTHojgaard/ Degremont JV will make every effort to ensure that this project remains on schedule with minimal disruption to the road traffic and general public along these routes, and your co-operation in this regard will be highly appreciated, as we work together to provide a reliable supply of potable drinking water to the City of Dhaka and serve you better.

We are sorry for the temporary inconveniences.

MTHojgard / Degremont JV
Saidabad Water Treatment Plant Project, Phase II
Dhalpur, Saidabad, Dhaka.