

SECTARIAN VIOLENCE

Attack kills 13 Shias in Pakistan

AFP, Quetta

Gunmen attacked a bus carrying Shia Muslims in Pakistan's insurgency-torn southwest yesterday, killing 13 people in the second major sectarian attack to hit the area in two weeks, police said.

Pakistanis have faced mounting criticism from its minority Shia community and human rights groups for failing to prevent thousands of sectarian murders, which further destabilise the fragile US ally in the war on al-Qaeda.

Yesterday's drive-by shooting happened on the outskirts of Quetta, the capital of oil and gas-rich Baluchistan, which borders Iran and Afghanistan.

"Four gunmen riding two motorcycles opened fire on a bus in the outskirts of Quetta," local police official Hamid Shakeel told AFP. "The death toll has risen to 13," he added.



President of Afghanistan Hamid Karzai, left, shakes hands with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during a meeting in New Delhi yesterday.

Karzai in India amid shifting S Asia ties

AFP, New Delhi

Afghanistan and India, two nations united in their suspicion of Pakistan, are set to forge closer ties yesterday as Hamid Karzai visits New Delhi during a highly unstable time in South Asia.

The Afghan president, in the Indian capital on his second trip to the country this year, was to meet Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh against a backdrop of shifting relations in the war-wracked and nuclear-armed region.

Some analysts in India predict that Karzai will elevate New Delhi's role in stabilising his violence-torn country as he eyes a drawdown of US-led troops by 2014 after more than a decade of fighting.

They argue that Karzai is losing patience with Pakistan, which he accuses of funding militant groups, and has a troubled relationship with the United States, his key backer.

"Karzai is coming to India to confer on India the tag 'reliable ally'... India will get the right to play a more pronounced role (in Afghanistan) after Karzai's visit," said Saeed Naqvi from the Observer Research Foundation think-tank.

The Indian Express newspaper reported on Sunday that the Afghan leader would sign

a "strategic partnership" agreement with Singh, his first such pact.

The proposed alliance, which foreign ministry officials declined to confirm, was said to include an Indian commitment to increase its training of Afghan security forces, including the police.

Indian involvement in Afghanistan is extremely sensitive because of the delicate and often deadly power games in South Asia.

New Delhi, fearful of the return of an Islamist regime in Kabul, has ploughed billions of dollars of aid into the country to gain influence -- raising suspicion in Pakistan which views Afghanistan as its backyard.

But anger in Kabul about the recent death of former president and peace envoy Burhanuddin Rabbani -- killed by a Pakistani citizen, according to Karzai's office -- is seen as pushing Afghanistan further into India's orbit.

"After all the destruction and misery, the double game towards Afghanistan and the use of terrorism as an excuse still continues," Karzai said of Pakistan on Monday evening.

Karzai was scheduled to meet Indian Foreign Minister SM Krishna later yesterday and then Singh. On Wednesday, he is set to deliver a speech on "The Future of Afghanistan and South Asia."

Apple unveils faster iPhone

AP, California

Apple Inc unveiled a new iPhone on Tuesday that is faster and more powerful but stops short of a more radical upgrade.

The new iPhone 4S has an improved camera with a higher-resolution sensor. The processor is faster, which helps run smoother, more realistic action games. There had been speculation that Apple would reveal a more radical revision of the phone, an "iPhone 5." The no-show leaves room for speculation that Apple will reveal a new model in less than a year.

Apple is including a "personal assistant" application called Siri in the iPhone 4S. It responds to spoken questions and commands such as "Do I need an umbrella today?" It's an advanced version of speech-recognition apps found on other phones.

The new iPhone also comes with new mobile software that includes such features as the ability to sync content wirelessly, without having to plug the device to a Mac or Windows machine.

The iPhone announcement came during Apple's first major product event in years without Steve Jobs presiding. New CEO Tim Cook led the show after Jobs, who has been battling health problems, resigned from the post in August.

Apple's new mobile software, iOS 5, will also be available on Oct 12 for existing devices the iPhone 4 and 3GS, both iPad models and later versions of the iPod Touch.

Apple said the new phone will come in black or white. The launch ceremony was held at Apple headquarters in Cupertino, California.

'Worst' Thai floods toll rises to 224

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's worst monsoon floods in decades have killed 224 people and affected three quarters of the country, including part of the ancient city of Ayutthaya, officials said yesterday.

Authorities were meanwhile battling to stop the floods reaching the centre of low-lying Bangkok, as forecasters warned of more wild weather to come.

"It's the worst flooding yet in terms of the amount of water and people affected," said an official at the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation who preferred not to be named.

Two months of flooding have inundated 58 of 77 provinces -- with 25 still severely affected -- and damaged the homes or livelihoods of millions of people, according to the government.

Global meet for cut

FROM PAGE 20 Migration (IOM).

Recommendations of the conference were presented to journalists by Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Zafar Ahmed Khan at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

Delegates from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, China, Italy, United States, United Arab Emirates, Switzerland and host Bangladesh attended the meet.

It proposed "modernising and digitising" labour recruitment process, maintaining transparency in all agreements signed between the labour recruiting and sending nations, and making those public on websites.

Social implications of migration that have been ignored for long should be taken into consideration while framing policies, the delegates suggested.

High cost of migration causes exploitation of foreign workers, and a global meet took up this issue for the first time, sources noted.

Over the decades, job visas have become a trad-

able commodity in black market. These visas are even put on auctions and sold to those offering the highest prices, the conference was told.

The meet resolved that all efforts should be made both in labour-receiving and sending countries to stop visa trading, Zafar said.

Derek Mueller, counsellor at the Swiss Embassy in Dhaka, said labour-sending countries have to have stronger regulations and their strict enforcement for effectively reducing migration cost.

The recommendations of the conference will be placed at the GFMD meeting in Switzerland on December 1-2. Although these are not legally binding now but gradually could be made so, Muller said.

Meanwhile, migration cost of Bangladeshi male workers is Tk 1.5 - 5 lakh although the government-fixed rate is Tk 84,000. For a female domestic worker, the cost is fixed at Tk 20,000 but it is violated in many cases.

PAKISTAN FLOODS Millions at risk over world inaction: WFP

AFP, Islamabad

The United Nations warned on Monday that the international community had failed to respond to the latest flooding crisis in Pakistan, leaving three million people in urgent need of food handouts.

The nuclear-armed Muslim state has suffered two consecutive years of floods but has been at increasing risk of international isolation since US troops found and killed Osama bin Laden near the capital in May.

On September 18, the United Nations led an appeal for \$357 million in emergency funding to shore up rescue and relief efforts for millions affected but WFP sources said the funding is slow.

The Pakistani government says more than 350 people have been killed and over eight million people affected this year by floods.

Maoists in W Bengal announce ceasefire

BBC ONLINE

Maoist rebels in India's have begun a month-long ceasefire, the rebels said in a statement.

The statement, signed by Maoist leader Akash and government-appointed mediators, was made public yesterday.

The rebels want the government to withdraw forces from the Janglemahal area - where they are active - and start the process of peace talks.

Maoists leaders stress that their move will only apply to West Bengal and is not a pan-Indian ceasefire.

The rebels are active in several eastern and central states. Political rivals

One of the mediators told the BBC after the announcement that "the ball is now in the government's court".

"If the government accepts the ceasefire and reciprocates it, it will move towards the peace talks," Sujato Bhadra said.

Soon after winning the state assembly elections in May, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee appointed a team of mediators to negotiate with the Maoists.

Starting peace talks with the rebels was a part of her election manifesto.

During elections, her political rivals accused her of taking support from the Maoists. Ms Banerjee denied the charge.

She unseated the state's communists after more than 35 years in power.

The Janglemahal region of West Bengal, which borders the state of Jharkhand, comprises West Midnapore, Bankura and Purulia districts.

In May 2010, more than 145 people were killed when a train crashed in the area after Maoist rebels allegedly sabotaged the rails.

Office of CMES (Air)
Kurmitola, Dhaka Cantt

Ref No. 6000/Notice/07/E-6 Dated: 28-9-2011

Invitation for Tenders

1. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence.		
2. Agency	Military Engineer Services.		
3. Procuring entity name	CMES (Air) Kurmitola.		
4. Procuring entity district	Dhaka.		
5. Invitation for tender	As per Ser No. 15.		
6. Procurement method	OTM.		
7. Budget and source of funds	GOB.		
8. Tender publication date	05-10-2011.		
9. Selling of tender paper will be closed on	18-10-2011 (During office hours only).		
10. Last date and time for submission of tender	20-10-2011	1200 hours.	
11. Date and time for opening of tender	20-10-2011	1230 hours.	
12. Name & address of the office: Selling, receiving and opening of tender documents	CMES (Air) Kurmitola, Dhaka Cantt, Dhaka.		
13. Eligibility of tenderer	MES enlisted 'D' & 'E' class contractors and non-enlisted contractors whose security are cleared by DGFI.		
14. Brief description of goods or works	As per Sl. No. 15 (a), (b) and (c).		
15. Name of work & location	Tender security amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order in favour CMES (Air) KTL (Tk.)	Price of tender document (non-refundable) (Tk)	Completion time (month)
(a) Supply of goods for Internal Water and Sanitary for SDO E/M-II under GE (Air) Tejgaon.	15,000/-	500/-	12
(b) Supply of goods for External Water, T&P and Gas for SDO E/M-II under GE (Air) Tejgaon.	15,000/-	500/-	12
(c) Repair/Replacement/Removal/Re-fixing of External Electrification works for SDO E/M-I under GE (Air) Tejgaon	15,000/-	500/-	12
16. Name of official inviting tender	CMES (Air) KTL.		
17. Designation of official inviting tender	S E		
18. Address of official inviting tender	CMES (Air) Kurmitola, Dhaka Cantt, Dhaka.		
19. Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. No. 8752024	Fax No. 8754298	E-mail No. cmesair@yahoo.com
20. If the date of selling, submission and opening is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, same time & place will be applicable for next working day.			
21. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason.			

ISPR/Air/138
02/10/11
GD-4150

Trend setter

FROM PAGE 1

nutrition security. Presenting a paper at the workshop, Deputy Director of Poverty, Health and Nutrition Division of IFPRI Dr John Hoddinott said Bangladesh's SSNPs have got relatively high coverage by developing country standards and relatively good targeting performance.

John, however, expressed concern over leakage and inefficiency in delivery, and lack of coordination among many SSNPs.

Dr Akhter Ahmed, IFPRI senior research fellow and chief of party of its flagship programme in Bangladesh, the Policy Research and Strategy Support Programme (PRSSP), stressed the needs for proper targeting of the poor, and streamlining of too many safety net programmes to get maximum benefits.

Referring to the "chronically poor" people who cannot afford enough food on a daily basis in Bangladesh, Dr Akhter noted that 60 percent of rural people are landless in the country and there remains no fallow land to expand farm acreage, so "future production increase will have to come from higheryields."

"Bangladesh's past successes highlight the importance of combining investments in agriculture with well-functioning institutions, policy reforms, social safety net programmes, and market incentives to achieve food security," said Dr Akhter.

Inaugurating the workshop as chief guest Food and Disaster Management Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razaque stressed

the need for developing new technologies in agriculture with higher yield potential including hybrids and biotechnology, and disseminating them among farmers through effective extension systems.

"Recognising and strengthening the links between agriculture, nutrition, and health has great potential to reduce malnutrition and enhance human well being," said Marie Ruel, Director of IFPRI's Poverty, Health, and Nutrition Division.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, ex-caretaker government advisers Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman and Dr AMM Shawkat Ali, Director General of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Dr Mustafa K Mujeri, Executive Director of BRAC Dr Mahabub Hossain, and USAID Mission Director Richard Greene also spoke at different sessions of the workshop on the first day.

They observed that with the highest population density in the world, little arable land, and frequent natural disasters, Bangladesh often struggled to feed its population. However, the country has achieved some important successes. Bangladesh tripled its annual rice production in a span of only three decades, its infant mortality rate declined dramatically, and its home-stead food production programmes have been effective in tackling malnutrition by providing food rich in key vitamins and minerals.

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation
Ship Stores Management Department
BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road
Chittagong-4100, Bangladesh

International Tender Notice for Enlistment of Lub Oil Suppliers for BSC Vessels

01. Ministry/Division	Ministry of Shipping.		
02. Agency/procuring entity	Bangladesh Shipping Corporation.		
03. Tender package No. & date	No. SSD/F/Lub Oil-13/11-12 Date: 28-09-2011.		
04. Invitation for	Enlistment of Lub Oil suppliers to BSC vessels at different Ports of the World including Home Ports at Chittagong and Mongla, Bangladesh for 02 years.		
05. Procurement method	Open Tendering Method.		
06. Budget and source of fund	BSC's own fund.		
07. Tender document last selling date & time	Date: 15-11-2011 & Time: 1700 hrs LT.		
08. Tender submission date and time	Date: 16-11-2011 & Time: 1500 hrs LT.		
09. Tender opening date and time	Date: 16-11-2011 & Time: 1530 hrs LT.		
10. Name & address of the office receiving & opening tender	Deputy General Manager (Ship Repair Department), BSC Bhaban, Saltgola, Road, Chittagong-4100.		
11. Name and address of the offices selling tender document	Tender schedule will be available on payment of USD. 40.00 = Taka 3,000.00 (three thousand) only (non-refundable) during office hour from: (a) Cash Section, Accounts Department, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong. (b) BSC Office, Amin Court (4th Floor), 62-63, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. (c) M/s. Collyer Shipping Pte Ltd, 20, Harbour Drive # 05-03 PSA Vista, Singapore-117612, Tel: 65-68366776, Fax: 65-67330768.		
INFORMATION FOR TENDER/TENDERER			
12. Eligibility of tenderer	Genuine and established leading manufacturers/blenders/suppliers for supply of Lub Oil to BSC Vessels at different Ports of the World including Home Ports at Chittagong and Mongla, Bangladesh as specified in the Standard Tender Document (STD)		
13. Description of goods:	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location Tender security amount Tender validity/ completion time
	01.	Supply of Lub Oil of different grades as specified in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS)	Different ports of the world USD. 1,000/- (refundable) 120 days/immediate supply on order
14. Name, designation & address of the official inviting tender	Md. Rafiqul Islam Khan, Deputy General Manager (SSM), Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, BSC Bhaban, Saltgola Road, Chittagong-4100. Phone: 880-31-723272, Fax No-880-31-710506, 722380, E-mail: gm-ssm@bsc.gov.bd web site: www.bsc.gov.bd		
15. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders.			
In case the tender receiving and opening is not possible on the date of receiving and opening for obvious reasons, the same will be done on the following working day in presence of the tenderer/representative, if any.			

Deputy General Manager (SSM)
Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

GD-4120