

Pakistan PM rules out military intervention

AFP, Islamabad

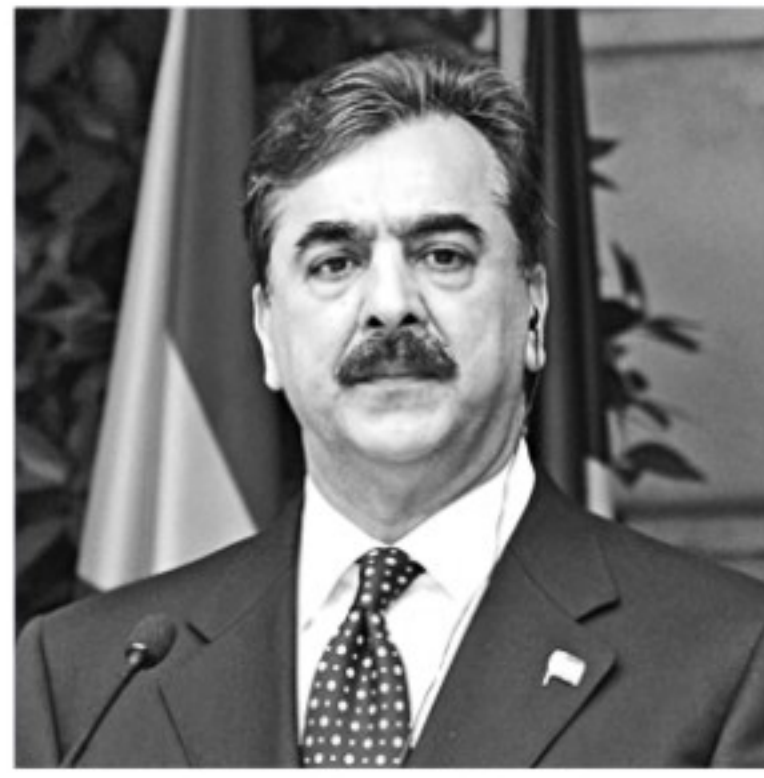
Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani yesterday denied a military intervention was imminent against his government over a secret memo that sought US help to prevent a supposed coup.

Tensions between the army and government appear to have soared in recent days as intelligence chiefs demanded

an inquiry into the scandal that threatens to implicate President Asif Ali Zardari, who is abroad following an illness.

"There is no room for a martial law in Pakistan," Gilani said in a brief televised interaction with the media in the eastern city of Lahore, two days after he met army chief General Ashfaq Kayani in Islamabad.

Pakistan's military, which has staged four coups, remains the chief power-broker in



Yusuf Raza Gilani

the country.

But Gilani described the memo as a "non-issue" which was being blown up unnecessarily.

The scandal relates to a memo that sought US intervention to prevent a feared military coup in exchange for overhauling Pakistan's security leadership after US troops killed Osama bin Laden near the Pakistani capital on May 2.

Opposition leader Nawaz Sharif filed a petition in the Supreme Court on December 1, demanding to know who was responsible for the document.

In separate responses submitted to the court late Thursday, the attorney general said the petition should be dropped, but Kayani said the memo impacted "national security" and urged investigations.

The court is scheduled to resume hearing Sharif's petition today.

UPA expands coalition in India

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

In a limited expansion of his council of ministers, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh today inducted veteran regional politician Ajit Singh, chief of Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD), in his cabinet, in a move aimed at improving Congress party's prospects in elections to the legislative assembly in the key state of Uttar Pradesh early next year.

Ajit Singh, son of late farmer leader Charan Singh, has been given the key portfolio of Civil Aviation. This is the fourth time Ajit Singh has been inducted into the federal cabinet.

With RLD joining the ruling coalition, the Congress-led UPA's strength in the Lok Sabha has gone up from 272 to 277.

Quader Molla charged

FROM PAGE 1

Bangalees, he unleashed a killing spree even before the crackdown on the Bangalees by the Pakistani forces on the black night of March 25, 1971, known as "operation searchlight", Alisaid.

The three-member tribunal fixed December 28 for taking the charges into cognisance.

It also re-fixed December 28 for taking the charges against top Jamaat leaders Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Mohtamad Mojaheed and Muhammad Kamaruzzaman into cognisance.

On December 11, the prosecution charged the trio with war crimes and crimes against humanity including genocide, rape, arson and looting during the war.

The tribunal was originally scheduled to accept the charges against them yesterday.

Jamaat was against the

liberation of Bangladesh, and its leaders collaborated with the invading Pakistani army. Around 30 lakh Bangalees were killed and some two lakh Bangalee women violated by the Pak forces and their Bangladeshi collaborators during the nine-month war.

Prosecutor Ali said although Quader Molla committed crimes against humanity even before the war broke out on March 26, 1971, he was charged with the atrocities between March 26 and December 16, as the tribunal is dealing with the crimes committed during the war.

After the press briefing, he narrated to this paper how a pro-liberation student named Pallab was killed on Quader's instructions.

On April 3, 1971, a group of collaborators picked up Pallab, a Bangla College student, from Dhaka's Nawabpur and took him to Mirpur-12. There they tied

him with a tree near an Eidgah ground and left him in that way for two days.

The collaborators then came back on April 5 and cut off several of his fingers before shooting him to death. A collaborator named Akhter fired five shots at Pallab, as Quader Molla looked on, Alisaid.

The body of Pallab, who had been organising freedom fighters, was left hanging from the tree for two more days before he was buried at Mirpur's Kalapani along with seven other bodies.

The identity of the seven bodies, however, could not be known.

"Quader in association with the razzakars [collaborators] formed Al-Badr [an auxiliary force of the Pakistani army] and established a reign of terror in Mirpur, Kalyanpur and Mohammadpur areas during the Liberation War," he said.

The Jamaat leader was

also involved in torching many villages in Keraniganj, in which other Jamaat leaders including Nizami, Mojaheed and Kamaruzzaman were involved, Alisaid.

At present, five Jamaat and two BNP leaders including Salauddin Quader Chowdhury face war crimes charges. While Salauddin Quader is in jail, the other BNP leader Abdul Aleem is on bail due to illness.

MEANWHILE, JAMAAT NAYEBE-AMEER DELAWAR HOSSAIN SAYEED'S COUNSELS YESTERDAY began cross-examining the second prosecution witness Ruhul Amin Nabin in the case filed against him on war crimes charges.

Defence counsels Mizanul Islam and Kafil Uddin Chowdhury cross-examined Nabin for around four hours.

The cross-examination will resume today.

Help arrest lawbreakers

FROM PAGE 1

Hasina, also the Awami League president, held the main opposition BNP and their allies Jamaat-Shibir activists responsible for yesterday's bomb explosions and vandalism in different areas of the country.

She strongly condemned the killings and asked the countrymen to help arrest the culprits.

"They have become desperate to save the war criminals," the prime minister said adding that none will be able to stop the trail of the war criminals through these types of destructive incidents.

She said children, juveniles and youths are now being imbued with the spirit of Liberation War and they are vocal about the trial of the war criminals.

Earlier, AL acting general secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said the BNP-Jamaat coalition yesterday resorted to violence in the capital and elsewhere in the country in a planned way to create anarchy and capture power through bloodshed.

Condemning the violence strongly, he said the government would investigate it, track down the culprits and give exemplary punishment to

them to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

The opposition alliance's bid to create anarchy is aimed at foiling the trial of war criminals and saving Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko (sons of BNP chief Khaleda Zia) from corruption charges, Hanif said at a press conference at the party president's political office at Dhanmondi in the capital.

"BNP-Jamaat coalition knows that it will not be able to take power in a democratic way, getting the people's mandate. So, it has become desperate to capture state power through backdoor and bloodshed by creating an artificial crisis in the country," said Hanif, also special assistant to the prime minister.

It is not possible now to capture power through conspiracy, killings and bloodshed as in the past, and to mislead the people through lies, he said.

The AL leader further said the two parties are involved in a deep-rooted conspiracy to create instability and a reign of terror in the country through subversive activities.

Thus they seek to boost the broken morale of their party men, and to foil the trial of 10-truck arms haul case and the August 21 grenade attack case.

He urged the people to get united and resist such activities of the opposition parties.

The AL leader questioned why the BNP-Jamaat started bomb blasts, vandalism and violence immediately after Fazr prayers when their reception programme was scheduled for 3:00pm.

Meanwhile, city units of the AL and its associated bodies brought out processions protesting yesterday's violent incidents.

AL's allies Jatiya Party and Workers Party of Bangladesh condemned the violence and demanded stern action against the culprits.

Echoing the AL view, JP said the bid to create anarchy was made in a planned way to destroy democracy.

"Those who resorted to violence in the country today [Sunday] are enemies of democracy, and patrons of terrorism and militancy. All the progressive forces and political parties will get united to resist them," JP Presidium Member Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu said.

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon said in a press statement the anti-Liberation War forces have started killing people to avenge their defeat in 1971 and to hinder the war criminal trial.

Khaleda blames

FROM PAGE 1

government's popularity continues to wane, it now wants to cling to power with the help of police.

She alleged that the government has resorted to secret killings to hide its failures. Secret killing is also a crime against humanity, and the people in the present government have to face trial for that, she said.

The BNP chairperson said at least 40,000 people were killed during Awami League's rule since the Liberation War, and nearly 15,000 people have been killed so far during this government's tenure.

She urged the freedom fighters to get prepared for a new fight against the government to uphold the country's sovereignty that is now "under threat."

Khaleda said her party asks for an impartial and acceptable war crimes trial. But the accused war criminals in the ruling party must also be tried. She alleged that some Awami League leaders, who hold important posts in the party, committed crimes against humanity during the Liberation War.

If AL moves to bring them

to justice, it will prove that the ruling party has good intentions of holding trial of war criminals, she said.

Khaleda said they are not against the trial of war criminals but they want the trial to be transparent and impartial, and of international standard.

She demanded that non-partisan people must be appointed as judges in the tribunal.

Khaleda also alleged that any offender belonging to the ruling party gets released easily but an innocent activist of BNP has to face imprisonment or remand.

The BNP chief said if her party is voted back to power, it would patronise the freedom fighters, check price hike of essentials, establish the rule of law and generate employment.

She said BNP founder Ziaur Rahman was the announcer of the country's independence, and the Eight Bengal Regiment under his leadership first revolted against the Pakistani rulers.

Col (ret) Oli Ahmed, president of Liberal Democratic Party, and other BNP leaders also spoke at the programme.

Quader pledges

FROM PAGE 20

Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan, Secretary in Charge of the communications ministry MAN Siddique, Chairman of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board Dr Salehuddin, Chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority Ayubur Rahman, Chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation Major (ret) MM Iqbal and representatives of transport owners' association spoke on the occasion.

Shajahan said the government wants to make visible development in the transport sector. Steps would be taken to set up a stopover terminal beside the city's railway station to reduce traffic jam significantly.

He suggested engaging community police side by side with police personnel to check traffic jam. Speaking on the occasion, the stakeholders of the transport sector held excessive plying of rickshaws on the city streets, influx of private cars and

hawkers on waysides responsible for the nagging traffic gridlock.

Later, briefing reporters on the outcome of the meeting, MAN Siddique said they have a plan to sit with the stakeholders to address traffic jam. "We will go for enforcement of existing laws to ease traffic

jam after consultation with the stakeholders one after another."

He stressed the need for increasing the city's parking facilities and one-way roads and the campaign to raise the use of foot over bridges for reducing the traffic jam.

Rajuk suspends

FROM PAGE 1

Hirajheel Properties Development Ltd, Four Seasons Holdings Ltd, Bashukunja Lands Development Ltd, Bashudha Builders Ltd, US Bangla Group, Udayan Properties Development Ltd, Purbachal NRB Homes Ltd.

The capital's housing authority, however, spared two projects -- Priya Prangan and Alifia Model Town -- owned by Nasrul Hamid Bipu, a ruling party lawmaker and also president of Rehab.

Sheikh Abdul Mannan, member (planning) of Rajuk, said that they would go for filing cases against owners of illegal projects if they fail to prove the legality of their projects.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan, executive director of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela), said, Rajuk could have taken a much more pro-active role beforehand.

The unapproved housing project owners have excellent skills to buy off the system, she said.

"At one point, they [illegal project owners] would argue that they have sold out plots in the fair and thus they cannot withdraw," she added.

The owners have undertaken their illegal land projects in violation of town improvement act, master plan of Dhaka, environment conservation act and private housing development rules.

Officials of Real Estate and Housing Association of Bangladesh (Rehab), which had organised the fair, gave Rajdhani Unnayan

Kartripakkha (Rajuk) the responsibility of preventing the illegal projects from the fair.

The High Court earlier declared at least 68 land projects in and around the capital city illegal.

As per Private Housing Land Development Rules of 2004, advertisement and sale of unapproved housing projects is illegal.

Private Housing Development and Management Law, 2010 has the provision of offering punishment of two years imprisonment to law-breakers or a fine of Tk10 lakh or both for their offences.

The other companies, whose registrations were suspended, are Well Care Consortium Ltd, Sabuj Chhaya Abashan Ltd, Tanshir Properties Ltd, Uttoron Properties Ltd, Nasim Group, Glorious Lands Development Ltd, Inspired Development Ltd, Atlantic Properties Ltd, Dakhina Real Estate Ltd, Invite Properties Ltd and Bangladesh Development Company Ltd.

Ideal Real Estate Ltd, New Dhaka Alliance Ltd, Al Warish Properties Ltd, Actual Lands Development Ltd, Garden Homes and Development Ltd, Vision 21 Design and Development Ltd, Innovative Holdings Ltd, Inspired Development Ltd (Probashi Polli), Dhanshiri (BD) Ltd, AG Properties Ltd, Yes Group are the other companies that were served with notices by Rajuk.

The five-day fair of Rehab will end today.

McKinsey paints buoyant future

FROM PAGE 1

around \$36 billion to \$42 billion," itsaid.

Bangladesh fetched \$12.59 billion from garment exports in 2010-2011, accounting for around 80 percent of national exports and 13 percent of gross national product, according to government data.

Recently, McKinsey has conducted a study to review Bangladesh's RMG growth formula. It is an extensive interview-based survey of chief purchasing officers from leading apparel players in Europe and the US, who account for \$46 billion in total apparel sourcing value and covering 66 percent of all apparel exports from Bangladesh.

The study also included telephone-based survey of more than 100 local garment suppliers and in-depth research.

It said, while China is starting to lose its attractiveness due to a rise in costs of doing business, the sourcing caravan is moving on to the next hot spot. Costs have also increased significantly in other key sourcing markets, leading buyers to question their current sourcing strategies.

In 2010, China dominated RMG imports to Europe and the US, accounting for about 40 percent of the import volume in each region. But the McKinsey survey shows that CPOs almost unanimously favour moving some of their sourcing away from China. Fifty-four percent of them shared their plans to decrease their activities in the world's second largest economy by up to 10 percent, while 23 percent stated that they sought to decrease their share of sourcing by more than 10 percent over the next five years.

"As western buyers search for the 'next China', they are evaluating all options to strengthen their proximity sourcing, moving on to Northwest China, Southeast Asia, and other Far East supplier countries. Bangladesh is clearly the preferred next stop for the sourcing caravan."

It said other markets in Southeast Asia will increase their exports too, but will not be able to replace -- at least in the near future -- Bangladesh as a viable RMG sourcing hub.

Bangladesh offers the two main "hard" advantages -- price and capacity. It also provides satisfactory quality levels, especially in value and entry-level mid-market products, said the research firm.

All CPOs named price attractiveness as the first and foremost reason for purchasing in Bangladesh, and said the country's price levels will remain highly competitive in the future.

Half of the CPOs mentioned capacity as the second-biggest advantage of Bangladesh. With a current 5,000 RMG factories employing about 3.6 million workers, the country is clearly ahead of Southeast Asian suppliers in terms of capacity offered (e.g., Indonesia has about 2,450 factories, Vietnam 2,000, and Cambodia 260 factories).

Other markets, such as India and Pakistan, would have the potential to be high-volume supply markets, but high risk or structural workforce factors prevent utilisation of their capacity.

A high share of European CPOs strongly emphasise the advantages of sourcing in Bangladesh due to favourable trade agreements, with the broadening of the EU Generalised System of

Preferences rules on duty-free imports of garments from the country.

Taking these drivers into account, Bangladesh's RMG industry will continue to face growing demand. The CPOs of value players want to increase the value of their sourcing in Bangladesh by about a 10 percent annual growth rate, whereas mid-market players plan an annual growth rate of around 14 percent.

While Bangladesh represents some very promising advantages in certain dimensions, a number of challenges could create hurdles for companies seeking to source from the country.

For all business stakeholders, infrastructure (transport and utilities supply) is the single largest issue hampering Bangladesh's RMG industry. The power supply issue seems more likely solvable within the next two or three years, although 90 percent of local suppliers rate the current energy supply as very poor or poor.

Some 93 percent of the European and US CPOs interviewed agreed that the compliance standard in Bangladesh has somewhat improved (67 percent) or strongly improved (26 percent) within the last five years. However, gaps exist and new risks may be emerging.

A gap between customer requirements and supplier capabilities or investment plans is emerging, as currently only 50 to 100 local garment manufacturers are able to produce at an advanced level in terms of product categories, productivity, services and compliance.

Apart from a lack of investment in new machinery and technologies, the

current insufficient size of skilled workforce also impedes an increase in productivity and a move towards more sophisticated products.

Experts estimate that there is currently a 25 percent shortage of skilled workers in Bangladesh's RMG industry.

Also, existing challenges will multiply if suppliers are not able to fill higher-skill middle management positions, according to McKinsey.

The European and US CPOs say economy and political stability are one of the key areas of risk when sourcing in Bangladesh. About half of them said they would reduce the value of their sourcing in the country if political stability was to decrease. A majority of them sees corruption as a major hurdle for doing business in Bangladesh.

It says productivity needs to improve to close the existing productivity gap in comparison to other sourcing countries.

The McKinsey study said the potential for Bangladesh's RMG growth can be realised only if the challenges in areas of infrastructure, compliance, supplier performance and workforce supply, raw materials, and economy and political stability are tackled.

The study notes the three main stakeholders -- government, suppliers and buyers -- can accomplish the development potential and solve Bangladesh's RMG growth formula. "Only if wholehearted efforts are led by all stakeholders together, will the stage be set to support a future 'rebranding' of Bangladesh."

Bashundhara

FROM PAGE 20

The three other accused in the case are Sadat Sobhan, Shah Alam's son and one of the company's directors, Mahbub Morshed Hasan, vice-chairman, and Towhidul Islam, deputy managing director.

In the case statement, the plaintiff said he bought two plots, each of five kathas, from Baridhara project of the company in 2007 at company-fixed price of Tk 2.5 crore. Following the plots' registration in February, 2008, walls were built around them.

Meanwhile, Shah Alam went into hiding to avoid arrest as the caretaker government took over the country's charge. Back home in 2008, he demanded an additional Tk 2 crore from the NSU chairman saying he would not hand over the plots otherwise, according to the complaint.

Shahjahan on October 16 this year went to the housing company to talk about the

approval of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha required for construction on the plots. But the company told him that there were no plots in his name. On November 30, the company refused to hand over the property or even give back the paid money and told him he could only get the plots by paying the additional amount, Shahjahan alleged.

Habibur Rahman Shawkat appeared for the complainant.

Earlier on March 20 this year, Shah Alam was sent to jail in connection with two cases in which he had been sentenced to ten years imprisonment in absentia.

The cases -- one for tax evasion and the other under the Foreign Currency Control Act -- were filed against him during the last caretaker government rule.

Later, he obtained bail from the High Court.

BPDB-RPCL Powergen Ltd.

Construction of Kodda 150 MW (±10%) Dual Fuel (HFO/Gas) Power Plant Project.

Corrigendum Notice

Tender No. B-R Powergen/Board-11/2011/24 Date: 31-10-2011 for construction of Kodda 150 MW (±10%) Dual Fuel (HFO/Gas) Power Plant Project is hereby amended as follows:

Sl. No.	Description	Date		Time
		As Published	As Amended	
16	Last Date and time for selling the tender document	01.01.2012	16.01.2012	17: 00 hours(BST)
17	Last date and time for submission of tenders	02.01.2012	17.01.2012	12: 00 hours(BST)
18	Date and time for opening of tenders	02.01.2012	17.01.2012	12: 30 hours(BST)

All other terms and conditions of the Tender Notice shall remain unchanged. This corrigendum will be the integral part of the Tender Document.

Company Secretary
BPDB-RPCL Powergen Ltd.
Bidyut Bhaban (Level-12)
1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka-1000