

Panetta blasts Karzai over troop deaths

AFP, Lima

US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta has voiced frustration with Afghan President Hamid Karzai preferring to "criticize" American troops, rather than acknowledging the sacrifices they have made.

Panetta, who arrived in Peru late Friday to begin a Latin American tour, told reporters aboard the military plane taking him to Lima that Karzai should remember that more than 2,000 US troops have died in Afghanistan.

Speaking at a press conference in Kabul, Karzai accused the United States of playing a "double game" by fighting a war against Afghan insurgents rather than their backers in Pakistan where, in Karzai's words, "terrorism is financed and manufactured."

But a visibly displeased US defense secretary suggested the Afghan president had focused on the wrong things.

"We've lost over 2,000 US men and women, ISAF has lost forces there and the Afghans have lost a large number of their forces in battle."

"Those lives were lost fighting the right enemy, not the wrong enemy. And I think it would be helpful if the president, every once in a while, expressed his thanks for the sacrifices that have been made by those who have fought and died for Afghanistan rather than criticize."

It was not first time

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Soumen Sengupta, son of former railway minister Suranjit Sengupta.

"I was there when discussion on Soumen Sengupta's business took place," he said.

The driver went into hiding since the railwaygate scandal surfaced on April 9. The interview was his first appearance before the media after the incident.

On the night of April 9, he drove Faruq's microbus into Pilkhana, the headquarters of Border Guard Bangladesh, and divulged that Tk 74 lakh was stashed in the vehicle.

Apart from Faruq, railway's general manager (east) Yusuf Ali Mridha and Dhaka division security commandant Enamul Huq were in the microbus.

After the vehicle entered Pilkhana, border guards detained the four, including Azam, for the night but let them go the next day when their identifications were confirmed.

Faruq was later sacked while Mridha and Enamul were suspended over the scandal.

During the interview with the private television channel, Azam also claimed that not only as minister, Suranjit had also been involved in the recruitment and transfer business while he had been the head of the Parliamentary Standing

Committee on Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

The driver claimed that Suranjit used to call the State Minister for Law Quamrul Islam over the phone and tell him, "I am sending my APS. See if you can manage some posts for me in certain quotas."

"If Suranjit gave, say, five (names), the APS would add five more. A share of this money would go to Mr Faruq," claimed Azam.

He also said that after the scandal, APS Faruq had offered him Tk 10 to 20 lakh to save Suranjit Sengupta.

Azam quoted the APS as saying over the phone, "We both know where the money was going. I have taken all the responsibilities [for the money]. Do not implicate anyone else. Do not implicate Suranjit Sengupta. Implicate me. Tell that the money is mine."

"The APS told me that if I agreed I would get a handsome amount of money. But I told him that I could not do that," the driver said.

Before the scandal surfaced, the APS had planned and even told Azam that carrying money by microbus was too risky and that they would do this for one last time as from the next time it would be done through a bank account of Suranjit's friend, said Azam, adding that he thought this was his last chance to blow

the whistle.

"It was my target to have them arrested with the money. So I drove the microbus into Pilkhana," said the driver.

Azam fears that he might be killed or abducted if he gives up hiding. He sought the prime minister and home minister's help for the security of his life.

"It feels bad when my daughter cries to see me. I want to get back to my father and mother," he said.

When Rtv contacted seeking his comment, Suranjit, now a minister without portfolio, termed all the allegations absurd stories.

He said, "What is the meaning of this? Is it to ruin the government? He [Azam] had been called by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) several times. But he did not show up. It is all nonsense. Why didn't he say anything in the last six months?"

Meanwhile addressing a rally at Hossainpur Bazar in Derai upazila, Suranjit yesterday said the scandal was a national and international conspiracy against him.

He said he would answer to all queries at a press conference on October 10, after returning to the capital.

The minister without portfolio also said the media was engaged in a foul propaganda against him although he had been found innocent

in investigations by all government agencies.

Suranjit said, "It should be checked with much importance that who had kept him [Azam] hidden all this time and who has brought him before the media."

In the first part of the interview aired on Thursday night, Azam told Rtv that the money in the microbus had been being taken to then railway minister Suranjit Sengupta's house.

On April 15, Yusuf Ali Mridha in a written statement to the ACC said he along with Faruq and Enamul had been going to Suranjit's Jigatola house on the night of April 9.

And though a government investigation found irregularities in the recruitment in the railway's east zone, a railway departmental report on May 13 gave a clean chit to Suranjit Sengupta, saying he had no involvement in the scandal.

According to railway sources, some 1,128 people were given jobs in the railway's east zone in the last one year. There are allegations that Yusuf and Faruq took Tk 3 to 5 lakh from each jobseeker.

The government probe committee also found that Mridha and four other railway officials "changed the exam papers of many disqualified jobseekers in exchange for money".

A wake-up call to all

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he admits, with a gap-toothed grin that belies his age. His sunken eyes and stick arms say poverty better than anything ever could, but they curiously disguise his age. He could be eight, or he could be twelve. He himself does not know.

Monir is hardly alone. On Friday mornings he takes a break from his work and his hobby and sneaks into one of the many playgrounds around Gulshan and Banani with friends and kicks around a deflated football. "It is fun," he says, with another smile, "but we are usually chased out very soon."

Monir and his friends are the crux of perhaps Bangladesh's darkest secret. Statistics on child labour are hard to come by, but the most reliable ones state that there are among the 7.4 million economically active children in the country. This means that some 19pc of the total child population of the country is economically

active. Some are engaged formally, most informally.

But Monir is also lucky. Although he is employed in the informal sector, his job is relatively less hazardous. Not that trolling through garbage is ever a recommended lifestyle for your pre-teen years. But Monir is lucky because, unlike many of his male counterparts, he doesn't work in shops or factories.

On the banks of the reeking Buriganga and beyond in Kamrangichar, children of Monir's age are found less on streets and more in shops. Many inhabit silver shops, learning the trade, welding and mixing a plethora of metals in potentially hazardous environments. They end the day covered in a clownish assortment of soot and silver, which would have been funny if it had not been so shocking. For girls, the stories can be much worse. A lot end up working as underage domestic helps, while others are less lucky end up as prostitutes or

worse, are trafficked.

The numbers are stark and it makes for painful reading. Which is something Monir cannot do. He has never been to school, although he admits he would like to. "I like the uniforms," he says.

Monir moved to Dhaka when he was very young. He does not know when. For him, the hours seep into days into years. Time holds no meaning. He is not sure if he remembers his parents. His vaguest recollection is of travelling with his father to the city and being left with a chacha who would offer his food and lodgings in exchange for money. He might not be able to read, but the economics of life were drilled into him from an early age.

According to the sources from Save the Children, such instances are common. Thousands of children in Bangladesh migrate to urban areas far from their origins and lead very unsafe

lives. They have to fend for themselves in the cities. A recent study by the international children's charity estimates that about 50pc of parents in rural areas have no contact with their migrated children. Monir will be lucky to ever see his parents again.

Korvi Rakshand, who runs a school for urban slum children in the city's Rayerbazar area and for him, says cases like Monir are common. Through his school, Jaago Foundation, Korvi aims to provide an alternative lifestyle for these children.

"Most of the kids who attend the school were either rubbish collectors or beggars. We want to introduce them to the system of formalised schooling to encourage their growth."

"It has hardly been easy," says Korvi admitting that a lot of time is spent trying to convince the parents to keep sending them to school and not engage them in eco-

nomic pursuit.

The lives of children like Monir are part of our everyday existence but perhaps attaching some semblance of normality to the lives of these children will rescue a generation of children that would otherwise be lost.

Statistics say that 78pc of working children are not going to school. Instead they work and often find themselves drawn into Dhaka's seedy underworld, into a life of crime.

Organisations like Jaago Foundation along with local NGOs are working in this sphere along with internationally recognised charities like Save the Children and Unicef. But it is hardly enough. As Dhaka's urban populace keeps rapidly increasing and the youth keep being tunneled into unsafe economic pursuits, the country faces the real fear of losing a generation that could have promised much, but may end up being a burden.

AL men behind Ramu incident

FROM PAGE 1

fearlessly," she said while addressing a huge rally at Natun Math in Habiganj yesterday.

Khaleda, also leader of the opposition, blamed ruling party men for the pagodas and Buddhists homes getting destroyed at Ramu of Cox's Bazar on September 29.

"BNP is a pro-liberation force and is always against corruption. The Awami League created militancy in the country while BNP uprooted it taking action against militant kingpins," she claimed.

Thousands of leaders, workers and supporters of the opposition alliance

attended the rally with colourful banners, placards, posters and portraits of late president Ziaur Rahman, Khaleda Zia and their son Tarique Rahman.

They chanted anti-government slogans.

The rally was organised by 18-party alliance as part of Khaleda's month-long mass communication programme to drum up public support for restoration of the caretaker government system.

The opposition had been demanding restoration of the system to conduct the next general election since parliament scrapped it following a court order in this regard.

Hundreds of arches were erected and the whole area was decorated with colourful posters and banners to welcome the leader of the opposition. The rally venue and adjacent areas turned into a human sea when Khaleda entered the ground around 4:40pm.

Amidst non-stop claps and slogans, Khaleda began her speech at 4:55pm and called the prime minister "world's grand thief" and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad "shameless".

"The country is now under the clutches of a grand thief and the most shameless. We have to rescue our country. We all have to be cautious if we want develop-

ment, peace..." she said.

The former premier said the Election Commission and the government were singing the same tune. That free and fair election cannot be held under the current Election Commission and the government.

No election would be allowed under a partisan government, she said.

"The Awami League wants to hold elections staying in power, as it knows it won't be able to come back to power if election were held in a free and fair manner."

She blamed the prime minister's son-in-law and son for "the Padma bridge graft" and bitterly criticised the ministers for "indulging

in corruption".

She blamed people in the government for illegal VOIP trade, the Hall-Mark scam, corruption in quick rental power, and the railway sector.

She showed a news item published yesterday in different dailies about former railway minister Suranjit Sengupta and said "everyone in the government is corrupt".

"Tk 300 crore was looted from the Padma bridge project even before it started. This government is a grand thief," she said, adding that a famine-like situation exists but the government was too busy looting money.

"Even Anti-Corruption Commission won't be spared as they are not taking any action against the corruption committed by the present government," she said while mentioning what her party would do when voted to power.

The BNP chief claimed that the Awami League men were involved in the BDR carnage in February 25-26, 2009, and those people would face trial when BNP assumes power.

Khaleda said BNP leader Ilias Ali was made to disappear but people would not forget it. "Tough punishment is a must for those who are behind this."

Khaleda returned to the capital last night.

কো-অপারেটিভ মার্কেট ব্যবসায়ী সমবায় সঞ্চয় সমিতি লিঃ, রেজিঃ ৮০/৯৩

১১নং মাজার কো-অপারেটিভ মার্কেট সোসাইটি লিঃ (৪র্থ তলা),
মিরপুর-১, ঢাকা-১২১৬। ফোন- ৯০০৯৮৭৫

INVITATION FOR TENDERS

Sealed tender are hereby invited from the eligible tenderer's as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned work as per terms and conditions below.

01	Procuring Entity	কো-অপারেটিভ মার্কেট ব্যবসায়ী সমবায় সঞ্চয় সমিতি লিঃ
02	Invitation For	Supply, installation, Testing & Commissioning of (a) 630 kg capacity Gearless traction Type Capsule lift, (b) 1600 kg 24 passenger capacity Gearless traction Type passenger lift, (c) 900 / 1000 kg (Medium-width 1500 mm) Escalator, (d) (1000 + 1000)- 2000 KVA SubStation System of Co-Operative Market Babasayee Somobay sanchay Somity Ltd. For Commercial building, Plot # C, 1-6, Block-Ka & Kha, Main Road & Road 1/1, Section # 6, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216.
03	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method
04	Source of Funds	Own Source
05	Project Name	Co-Operative Market Babasayee Somobay sanchay Somity Ltd. for Commercial building, Plot # C, 1-6, Block-Ka & Kha, Main Road & Road 1/1, Section # 6, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216. (Eastern side Mirpur Model Thana)
06	Tender Selling (Started) Date & Time	Date: 08/10/2012 At 10 am-8pm except Thursday.
07	Tender Last Selling Date & Time	Date: 05/11/2012 At 10am-8pm except Thursday.
08	Tender Submission Last Date & Time, Tender Opening Date & Time	Tender Submission Date: 06/11/2012 At 1.30 am. Opening Date: 06/11/2012 and 2.00 pm (In presence of the Bidders or their authorize person who would wish to be present.
09	Name & Address of the office for selling Tender document, Receiving Tender document and opening Tender document.	অফিস ঠিকানা : কো-অপারেটিভ মার্কেট ব্যবসায়ী সমবায় সঞ্চয় সমিতি লিঃ ১১নং মাজার কো-অপারেটিভ মার্কেট সোসাইটি লিঃ (৪র্থ তলা), মিরপুর-১, ঢাকা-১২১৬। ফোন- ৯০০৯৮৭৫
10	Eligibility of Tender	The Tenderer shall have be minimum qualifying criteria for participating in the Tender otherwise their Tender will not be considered: a) General Experience: The minimum number of general experience of the tender in the successful completion of Same Group as prime contractor must be 3 (three) years. b) Valid Papers: The Tenderer should have valid trade license, up to date income tax clearance certificate and VAT registration certificate. c) Financial Turnover: The Tenderer should have financial turnover of at least Tk- 3 (Three core) over the last 3 (Three) years any Govt / Semi Govt / Private Organization in Bangladesh. d) Liquid Assets: The minimum amount of free funds (liquid assets) and or credit facilities net of other Contractual shall be taka- 50 (fifty lac).
11	Price of Tender Document	Group- (a) Taka- 1000.00 (one thousand), Group- (b) Taka 2000.00 (Two thousand), Group- (c) Taka 5000.00 (Five thousand), Group- (d) Taka 2000.00 (Two thousand), only Nonrefundable for cash tender document.
12	Location of project	Commercial building, Plot # C, 1-6, Block-Ka & Kha, Main Road & Road 1/1, Section # 6, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216. (Eastern side Mirpur Model Thana)
13	Tender Security Amount	All Group 2% of quoted amount
14	Time for Completion of Work	4 (four) Months from the date of work order.
15	Brief description of works.	Supply installation, testing & commissioning of Group (a) Capsule-lift (8/10) Passenger- 630 kg capacity 1 (one)-set, (b) Passenger lift 24 passenger- 1600 kg capacity 2 (two)- set Gearless traction Type passenger lift system etc and required electrical work (c) 900 / 1000 kg (Medium- width 1500 mm) Escalator 6 (six) pair with frame, control, signal, supports etc and required electrical work (d) (1000 + 1000)- 2000 KVA Sub Station with necessary work switchgear, transformer, damper etc and required electrical work.
16	Name of official inviting Tender	Dhali Mohammad Shahjahan, Secretary
17	Special Instruction	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders with or without assigning any reason whatsoever.

কো-অপারেটিভ মার্কেট ব্যবসায়ী সমবায় সঞ্চয় সমিতি লিঃ, রেজিঃ ৮০/৯৩

১১নং মাজার কো-অপারেটিভ মার্কেট সোসাইটি লিঃ (৪র্থ তলা),
মিরপুর-১, ঢাকা-১২১৬। ফোন- ৯০০৯৮৭৫

দরপত্র আহ্বান

কো-অপারেটিভ মার্কেট ব্যবসায়ী সমবায় সঞ্চয় সমিতি লিঃ কর্তৃক নির্মিত ১৪ তলা ভবনের নবম তলা পর্যন্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত কাজের জন্য অভিজ্ঞ ঠিকাদারের নিকট হইতে -দরপত্র- (Quotation) আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

স্ব স্ব গ্রুপের ন্যূনতম ৫ বছর অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন ঠিকাদারগণ নিম্ন লিখিত কর্তৃপক্ষের অফিসে ব্যক্তিগতভাবে যোগাযোগ করিয়া কাজের বিস্তারিত সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। প্রতিটি গ্রুপের সিডিউলের বিক্রয় মূল্য ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা এবং শুধু গ্রুপ 'এ' এর সিডিউলের বিক্রয় মূল্য ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকা (সকল সিডিউলের মূল্য অফেরত যোগ্য)। এক জন ঠিকাদার এক বা একাধিক গ্রুপের সিডিউল জমা করতে পারবেন।

সিডিউল সংগ্রহের সময় : ০৮/১০/২০১২ ইং তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ টা হইতে ০৩/১১/২০১২ ইং তারিখ রাত ৮টা পর্যন্ত (বৃহস্পতিবার ব্যতিত)।

দরপত্র জমার শেষ সময় : ০৪/১১/২০১২ ইং দুপুর ১.০০ টা।

দরপত্র খোলার সময় : ০৪/১১/২০১২ ইং দুপুর ১:৩০ টা হইতে গ্রুপ 'এ' থেকে 'ই' পর্যন্ত পর্যায়ক্রমে দরপত্র খোলা হবে।

গ্রুপ 'এ' : বাণিজ্যিক ভবনের ভিতর এবং বাহিরে কার্টেন ওয়ালের কাজ। (কম / বেশী ৪০০০০ বর্গফুট)

গ্রুপ 'বি' : বাণিজ্যিক ভবনের ভিতরের ফ্লস সিলিং ও উভেজ সিলিং এর কাজ। (কম/বেশী ৫৪০০০ বর্গফুট)

গ্রুপ 'সি' : বাণিজ্যিক ভবনের ভিতরের ফায়ার প্রটেকশন সিস্টেম এর কাজ।

গ্রুপ 'ডি' : বাণিজ্যিক ভবনের ভিতর এবং বাহিরের ইলেক্ট্রিফিকেশনের কাজ।

গ্রুপ 'ই' : বাণিজ্যিক ভবনের ভিতর এবং বাহিরের এস এস রেলিং এর কাজ। (বেইজ ম্যান্ট হইতে ৯ম তলা পর্যন্ত ৪টি শিডি ও অন্যান্য লবি।)


গ্রুপ 'এফ' : বাণিজ্যিক ভবনের বাহিরে এলির ট্রাস তৈরির কাজ। সিডিউল সংগ্রহের সময় : ০৮/১০/২০১২ ইং তারিখ সকাল ১০.০০ টা হইতে ১৯/১০/২০১২ ইং তারিখ রাত ৮টা পর্যন্ত (বৃহস্পতিবার বাদে)। দরপত্র জমার শেষ সময় : ২০/১০/২০১২ ইং দুপুর ১.০০ টা। দরপত্র খোলার সময় : ২০/১০/২০১২ ইং দুপুর ২:০০ টা।

উল্লেখিত তৎসংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের গ্রুপ 'ডি', 'ই' ও 'এফ' এর সকল প্রকার মালামাল কর্তৃপক্ষ সরবরাহ করিবেন। ঠিকাদারগণ প্রয়োজনীয় দক্ষ জনবল, ওয়ার্কশপ ও আনুসঙ্গিক যন্ত্রপাতি সরবরাহ করিবেন। আর অন্যান্য গ্রুপের সকল প্রকার মালামাল সরবরাহসহ ঠিকাদারগণ প্রয়োজনীয় দক্ষ জনবল, ওয়ার্কশপ ও আনুসঙ্গিক যন্ত্রপাতি স্থাপন করিবেন।

দরপত্রের সহিত সকল গ্রুপের জন্য দরপত্রে উল্লেখিত দরের ২.৫% জামানত দিতে হইবে। দরপত্র জয়ের রশিদ ও জামানতের অর্থ পে-অর্ডার সংযুক্ত করে সীলগালা মারা অবস্থায় কর্তৃপক্ষের অফিসে জমা দিতে হবে। দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণকারী ব্যক্তি / প্রতিষ্ঠান অকৃতকার্য ঠিকাদারের জামানতের টাকা, উত্তীর্ণ ঠিকাদার নিয়োগ চূড়ান্ত হওয়ার সাত দিন পর ফেরত দেওয়া হবে।

কোন কারণ দর্শানো ছাড়াই যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষন করে।

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VACANCY NOTICE

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the post of Executive Assistant to Country Director (ICS-5) in the Country Office.

The duration of the Fixed Term Appointment contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be submitted no later than **Saturday, 20th October 2012.**

Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.