



No rush' for Afghan exit

Says Nato chief

AFP, Brussels

Nato yesterday insisted there was no move towards a speedier withdrawal from Afghanistan despite recent setbacks, including deadly insider attacks, as the alliance prepared for its post-2014 role.

As Washington named a new commander in Afghanistan, Nato head Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the pullout of combat forces by 2014 was on course and that the process would see regular troop drawdowns and redeployments.

"These should not be seen as a rush for the exit," Rasmussen told a press conference at the end of a two-day Nato defence ministers meeting in Brussels.

Any such reading was a "misinterpretation," he said, with such changes the logical consequence of the handover to Afghan forces.

The transition to 2014 was proving a success, with Taliban attacks down in areas now controlled by government forces and home to some 80 per cent of the Afghan population, he said.

But among the setbacks which have grabbed headlines in recent months, he noted, have been a spate of so-called "green-on-blue" insider attacks in which renegade local troops have killed more than 50 of their unsuspecting Nato comrades.

US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta yesterday sought to reassure Nato allies effective action was being taken to stop "insider" attacks on their soldiers.

He said the coalition's response to attacks by Taliban insurgents disguised as Afghan policemen or soldiers and its efforts to improve its partnership with Afghan security forces would be critical to the success of the war with the Taliban.

Rasmussen said ministers agreed Nato could now begin planning plan for its post-2014 role of training and assistance, which he stressed would "not be a combat mission."

To oversee the transition, Panetta announced the nomination of deputy US Marine Corps commander Joseph Dunford to succeed General John Allen as head of Nato forces in Afghanistan.

Allen in turn will take over as Nato supreme commander, replacing Admiral James Stavridis to a post traditionally held by a US officer. Both nominations are subject to confirmation by the US Senate.

BSP defers decision on support to UPA

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati yesterday deferred a decision on whether to continue her party's outside support to Congress-led UPA government in India, saying a final call on the issue will be taken by her soon.

At the same time, she asked her party cadres to be ready for snap parliamentary polls which "can take place any time" in view of a state of "instability" at the Centre.

The polls are due in 2014 in normal course.

Mayawati, who had said on Tuesday that a decision on the issue of continuing support to the UPA will be taken on Wednesday, said BSP National Executive and the Parliamentary Board have authorized her to take a final call on it.

"But there will be no delay. The decision will be taken soon and conveyed to you," she told reporters in Lucknow after the meeting.



A Balinese woman lays an offering under the plaque of a memorial monument for the 2002 Bali bombing built next to the site of the blasts, as Bali prepares to mark the 10th anniversary of the attack in the Kuta tourist area near Denpasar on the Indonesian resort island of Bali yesterday. The 2002 blast, blamed on the militant Jemaah Islamiyah network linked to al-Qaeda, tore apart a busy nightclub strip on the resort island of Bali killing 202 people, including 88 Australians.

PHOTO: AFP

India PM slams negative mindset over graft

PTI, New Delhi

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday decried creation of "mindless atmosphere of negativity and pessimism" on the corruption issue and promised to strengthen the anti-graft law by including corporate failure to prevent bribery as a new offence besides other steps.

Corruption has become a hot issue since Singh was re-elected in 2009, and his government has been rocked by scandals over mobile phone licences, coalfields and the Commonwealth Games in New Delhi.

"The mindless atmosphere of negativity and pessimism that is sought to be created over the issue of corruption can do us no good. It can only damage the nation's image and hit the morale of the executive," he said.

With his government facing increasing attacks on the corruption issue from the opposition and activists, Manmohan said a clear and unambiguous definition of corruption is being sought to be provided through amendments to plug gaps in the Prevention of Corruption Act and bringing it in line with international practices.

"A clear and unambiguous definition for the term 'corruption', covering both the supply and demand sides, is being sought to be provided," he said.

The prime minister said amendments in the Act were necessary as the experience has shown that in vast majority of cases, it is difficult to tackle consensual bribery and the supplier of the bribe goes scot-free by taking resort to provisions of the Act.

Thai court upholds royal slur law

AFP, Bangkok

Two Thai "royal insult" suspects yesterday lost a landmark legal case against the kingdom's controversial lese majeste rules as a court ruled the law was in line with the constitution.

The judges unanimously agreed that the rules -- which carry a maximum penalty of 15 years in jail.

The royal family is an extremely sensitive subject in politically turbulent Thailand.

Nepal rejects UN report on war crimes

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's foreign ministry yesterday dismissed as "irrelevant" a UN report documenting thousands of cases of human rights violations during a decade-long civil war.

The 233-page document, titled the "Nepal Conflict Report", was published on Monday and detailed crimes committed by all parties during the Himalaya nation's decade-long civil war that ended in 2006.

The report criticised Nepalese authorities for failing to bring to justice perpetrators of thousands of serious rights violations during the conflict which killed more than 16,000 people and left more than 1,000 missing.

Nepal's foreign ministry said the report's conclusions were "out of context and irrelevant".

The document was "prepared without proper consultation with the stakeholders," the ministry said.

The ministry said the government's had asked the United Nations not to publish the report, adding that the country had initiated its own justice process to deal with the rights violations.

The former rebels, who now lead a caretaker administration, signed a peace accord with the government in November 2006.

Most of the rights violations listed in the report are linked to forced disappearances, executions and arbitrary detentions, as well as torture and sexual violence.

HEIFER Career Opportunity

Position: Administrative Officer/Assistant to the Country Director

Function: To Lead the Administration Department of the Heifer Project International Bangladesh Program in Accordance with HPI Objectives, policies and procedures.

Responsibilities:

- Manage the smooth day-to-day running of the office
- Procure office supplies and equipment and maintain inventory
- Ensure the proper use and maintenance of office facilities, equipment and vehicles
- Assist the Finance Manger in ensuring that all legal requirements are met for ownership of office vehicles and assets (e.g. registration, renewal, secure licenses, etc.)
- Ensure the security and insurance of office property
- Provide support to the Country Director in all human resource related issues
- Assist the Country Director in the preparation of employment contracts and other contracts for executing specific assignments with external agencies and individuals
- Maintain office and personnel records, and ensure confidentiality
- Coordinate annual performance evaluations, ensuring timeliness and correctness
- Assist the Country Director in preparing official correspondence and review of priority communications with project organizations
- Prepare and maintain timesheets and travel approval forms for the Country Director
- Maintain an accurate and current calendar for the Country Director including scheduling of internal and external meetings as requested
- Act as a reporter of internal meetings, seminars, conferences and workshops
- Copy and fax documents as requested by the Country Director
- Coordinate and/or facilitate arrangements for travel, meetings, conferences and training workshops, including local transportation
- Regularly update the HPI Bangladesh Policy and Procedure Manual and ensure adherence to local law and HPI policies
- Assist the Country Director in the preparation of HPI Bangladesh's annual operation budget
- Provide adequate and timely logistic support for office operations and other activities of HPI Bangladesh - Organize regular staff meetings and maintain minutes
- Act as a member of the HPI Bangladesh Project Review Committee
- Coordinate with NGOAB and other government agencies
- Serve as a team motivator in the Heifer Bangladesh team.
- Seek continued growth in the knowledge of Heifer International programs and issues of hunger and poverty.
- Perform other job-related duties as requested

Education and/or Experience:

A minimum of a Bachelor's Degree is required, Master's Degree is preferred, plus three to five years of experience. Other job-related education and/or experience may be substituted for all or part of these basic requirements.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Computer proficient in word processing, spreadsheets, electronic mail and internet (Microsoft preferred).
- Good typing skills in Bangla and English
- Good leadership qualities. - Good communication skills
- Ability to meet and deal with others in a courteous and tactful manner
- Have an interest in animal agriculture/community development
- Ability and willingness to work a flexible schedule
- Excellent organizational skills including strong attention to detail
- Motivated to work responsibly with little supervision
- Demonstrate a high degree of honesty and integrity
- Willingness and ability to travel extensively, both locally and internationally
- Ability to foster and maintain a spirit of unity, teamwork and cooperation
- Sensitivity in working with multiple cultures and beliefs, and to gender equity

Salary Grade: 07 (Seven).

How to Apply:

Apply to Country Director, Heifer Project International Bangladesh. House - 6/5, Block - B, Lalmatia, Dhaka - 1207 by 4th November 2012 along with Forwarding Letter, Updated CV with two references and one passport size photograph.

UK concerned over Maldives crisis

Nasheed freed

AFP, London

Britain on Tuesday urged the Maldives to usher in "democratic reforms" after the Indian Ocean archipelago's former president was arrested and then freed from detention.

Foreign Office Minister Alistair Burt said: "The British government is monitoring the situation in the Maldives with concern following the arrest and subsequent release of former President Nasheed. Along with our international partners, we call on the Maldivian authorities to ensure any trial is fair and transparent."

Mohamed Nasheed, 45, who resigned in February in what he calls a coup, was arrested on Monday and taken before a three-judge bench after he had ignored two court summonses and violated an order to remain on the capital island Male.

Nasheed, who was freed Tuesday and has 25 days to answer allegations of abuse of power, is accused of giving an illegal order to the military to arrest a senior judge in January when he was the president.

If convicted, he could be jailed or banished to a remote island for three years -- a punishment that could bar him from future elections.

The Maldives, better known as a luxury holiday destination, has been rocked by violent protests over the past year in a standoff between Nasheed's Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) and its opponents who are now in power.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project, Bangladesh (Component A)

Invitation for Bids for Procurement of Low Lift Pumps and Grain/seed Silos

Credit No. 4507 - BD, Project ID No. UTF /BGD/ 040 /BGD, Bid Package No.5G2.C and 3G34.C

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Procurement of goods against different packages. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of Low Lift Pumps and Grain/Seed Silos. Bidders having a minimum of 3 (three) years of experience in the supply of the tendered items/similar items are only encouraged to participate. The delivery period is 8 (eight) weeks to 12 (twelve) weeks from the date of the Notification of the Award.

Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, (current edition), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from the ECRPP office of FAO Representation in Bangladesh (Hs. # 27, Rd. # 9/A, Apt. # A - 1, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka - 1209, Telephone 8130758/104, 01761-496222) during office hours i.e. 08:00 to 16:30 Hrs. A complete set of bidding documents in English for each package may be purchased by the interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee as mentioned below. The method of payment for the tender documents will be in cash against a written receipt. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security for an amount mentioned below.

Package No.	Item	Quantity	Bid Security (Tk.)	Price of Bid Document (Tk.)
5G2.C	Grain/Seed Silos	7654 Nos.	400,000	2000
3G34.C	Low Lift Pumps	280 Nos.	300,000	1500

Bids shall be delivered to the address below by 14:00 Hrs. on 08 November 2012. They will be opened immediately thereafter, in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected.

FAO Representation in Bangladesh
House # 37, Road # 8
Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205
Tel: 880-2-8118015
Fax: 880-2-811 3446

The publishing of this notice and the receipt of bids does not commit FAO in any way to any party.

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH

TENDER NOTICE

Since: 1993

(For Office and Faculty Furniture of IUB Campus at Bashundhara)

- Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide contractors/suppliers for fabrication and supply of office and faculty furniture for Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) campus at Bashundhara, Dhaka. The bidders shall be required to submit a complete offer including the cost for each item of the BoQ in accordance with the specification provided with the tender documents.
- The bidder shall apply in their official letterheads to the undersigned along with the following documents:
 - The experience certificate(s) from the employer(s) for supplying similar type of furniture to reputed educational institutions/universities/government/other organizations having a contract price not less than Tk.50 lac for a single contract.
 - Copies of the latest Trade License, Income Tax and VAT Registration Certificates.
- The bidder shall furnish as part of the bid, an earnest money of 2.5% of the bid amount in favour of Independent University, Bangladesh in the form of a bank draft/pay order from a scheduled bank located in the country.
- Interested bidders are requested to collect the Tender Schedule from the office of the undersigned between 9:30 am to 4:00 pm on the working days from 14 October 2012 to 23 October 2012 on payment of Taka 4,000/- only in cash (non-refundable) for each schedule.
- The tenders will be received at the office of the undersigned up to 2:00 pm of 15 November 2012 and shall be opened at 2:30 pm on the same day at the same place in presence of the bidders who may like to attend the tender opening.
- IUB reserves the right to accept only the technically responsive tender without any consideration of the lowest bid and shall have the right to reject any tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Deputy Director, Planning & Development
Plot # 16, Block-B, Bashundhara, Dhaka
Tel: 8401645-53

VACANCY NOTICE



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the post of Procurement Associate (2 Positions, SB-3 Level) under service contract modality.

The duration of the service 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 Monday, 22 October 2012.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.
Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.