

Terrorists have no place to hide: Panetta

AFP, London

“Terrorists” who attack American interests have no place to hide, US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said yesterday as fears grew for dozens of foreigners taken hostage by Islamists at a gas plant in Algeria.

“Terrorists should be on notice that they will find no sanctuary, no refuge. Not in Algeria, not in North Africa, not anywhere,” Panetta said in a speech at Kings College London university.

“Those who would wantonly attack our country and our people will have no place to hide.”

He added that US officials were “working around the clock” to secure the safe return of an unknown number of Americans who were among those taken hostage at the remote In Amenas gas plant in southern Algeria.

“Regardless of the motivation of the hostage takers, there is no justification for the kidnapping and murder of innocent people,” said Panetta.

“We will continue to be in close consultation with the Algerian government.”

The defense secretary was in London as part of a visit to several European capitals, and was due to give a press conference with his British counterpart Philip Hammond today.



Leon Panetta

French-backed Malian troops reclaim key town

AFP, Bamako

The Malian army backed by French troops yesterday wrested a key central town from Islamist rebels, as the UN warned up to a million people could be driven from their homes by fighting in coming months.

As a dramatic hostage siege unfolded in neighbouring Algeria -- where Islamists took hundreds captive in a gas field to retaliate for the week-old military intervention in Mali, sparking a deadly commando raid -- fighting has continued unabated on the ground in Mali.

French and Malian troops marked a victory over the rebels after days of fighting in Konna, a key town about 700 kilometres from the capital Bamako.

“We have wrested total control of Konna after inflicting heavy losses on the enemy,” the Malian army said in a brief statement.

A security source said Malian soldiers were backed by French air strikes to ease their entry into the town.

The UN refugee agency warned fighting in the next few months could displace another 700,000 people, adding to some 350,000 already forced to flee their homes -- taking the overall number of displaced over

the million mark.

Islamist rebel groups who have controlled northern Mali since April pushed south into government-held territory and seized Konna on January 10, spurring former colonial ruler France to launch a military campaign to halt their advance.

Paris says it already has 1,400 soldiers in Mali, set to increase to 2,500 troops, while regional powers have pledged some 5,800 troops for an African military force.

The crisis in Mali began when Tuareg separatists -- boosted by weapons secured in Libya -- took up arms for independence of the north last January, overwhelming the country's under-equipped army.

In March angry soldiers overthrew the government in Bamako, and the rebel juggernaut, now joined by Islamic hardliners, toppled the north within days.

The Malian conflict was unfolding in parallel to a fast-moving hostage crisis in Algeria, where Islamists were still holding an undetermined number of foreign hostages at a remote gas field Friday, as criticism mounted of Algiers' decision to launch a deadly rescue bid at the site.

Obama sends message with new cabinet

AFP, Washington

A dearth of diversity in Barack Obama's top picks for his new cabinet is overshadowing signs of intent the US president is sending with his freshened team ahead of his second term.

Obama takes the oath of office tomorrow ahead of four more years in the White House, a watershed moment that will see familiar faces, led by Hillary Clinton, depart and new blood ushered in to implement the president's political agenda.



John Kerry



Chuck Hagel



Jack Lew

His personnel decisions, both at the cabinet level and in a rejigging of his White House inner circle, presage a fierce defense of Obama's political legacy at home and abroad in his second term.

While posts in a president's cabinet are highly sought after, the centralization of power in the White House often leaves the secretaries of top government departments chafing at a lack of clout.

But several of Obama's top cabinet picks -- like Chuck Hagel, John Kerry and Jack Lew, his nominees to run the departments of Defense, State and Treasury -- clearly reflect the president's worldview and may wield significant influence.

Some cabinet members who are staying on, like Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius -- in charge of implementing Obama's top domestic achievement health care reform -- will also play key roles.

Senator Kerry and ex-senator Hagel, Vietnam veterans both, are skeptical of US military adventures abroad, and backed a fundamental project of Obama's presidency -- getting troops home from Iraq and Afghanistan.

They are also wary of embroiling the United States in another war over Iran's nuclear program.

Obama has been criticized for picking a all-white middle aged men for top cabinet jobs. Thomas Mann, a political scholar at the Brookings Institution in Washington said that once Obama's full cabinet is announced -- with expected or announced openings in big departments like Interior, Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency -- the picture could be more diverse.

IAEA-Iran talks end with no deal

AFP, Vienna

The chief UN nuclear inspector yesterday returned from Iran without a hoped-for deal on investigating its nuclear programme, dampening hopes of progress in renewed talks with world powers.

Instead all the team led by Herman Nackaerts of the International Atomic Energy Agency returned to Vienna with was an arrangement to meet in the Iranian capital again on February 12.

“Differences remain so we could not finalise the structured approach to resolve the outstanding issues regarding possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear programme,” Nackaerts told reporters at Vienna airport, without elaborating.

One Western diplomat told AFP that Iran had put on the table “unacceptable conditions”.

The IAEA conducts regular inspections of Iran's declared nuclear facilities but it also wants access to what it believes are sites where undeclared activities aimed at developing nuclear weapons took place until 2003, and possibly since.

Nackaerts had said in December after an earlier visit to Tehran that he had expected, after a string of fruitless meetings this past year, to at last sign a deal this week.

A blatant abuse of the law

FROM PAGE 1

The next day, counsels of Fakhrl moved to the chief metropolitan magistrate's court seeking bail, which he was denied in both cases.

The magistrate said the transport damaging case was non-bailable. It did not matter that non-bailable means it was up to the judge to allow a bail or not. In not allowing Fakhrl bail, the judge must have found him to be a person who posed high security threat.

Then his lawyers moved to metropolitan session judge (vacation). The session judge also thought he was a dangerous person not to be allowed to fight his case while free on bail.

Moreover, the session judge in his order in both the cases said law and order might deteriorate, security of public life and property might be hampered, and investigation into the cases might also be hampered if Mirza Fakhrl was released from jail on bail.

“Considering overall situation and importance of

the allegation the bail petitions of the accused were rejected,” read the order issued on December 24.

Denied bails, counsels of Fakhrl moved to the High Court seeking reversal of the situation.

Unlike the session judge, the High Court, however, did not find Fakhrl a threat to law and order and security of public life and properties. It granted him six months' bail.

Fakhrl might have been happy thinking his freedom is near. If so, then he had forgotten the crafty cops who know the rules of the game. They had, by now, filed 20 more cases where they mentioned Fakhrl as the instigator to violence.

These cases now became handy.

As Fakhrl's lawyers furnished bail bonds to the CMM court for his release, the cops stood against his release and prayed to the CMM to accuse him in two such cases filed with Sutrapur and Motijheel police stations.

The CMM allowed police to implicate him and show Fakhrl “arrested” in the two new cases which were filed much earlier, and in which police did not accuse him at the time.

Fakhrl's lawyers prayed for bail again, and again it was denied.

The irony is that all of those who were accused in this case (Sutrapur case) for obstructing police in their duty, got bail. Fakhrl was not an accused. Yet he did not get bail from the magistrate's court.

The magistrate's observation on Fakhrl was quite a paradox.

He said Fakhrl was not an accused in the case. Allegations against him are not specific either. The accused is sick. He has stent in his heart.

But then the baffling decision came: “Considering these, both petitions for bail and remand were rejected.”

His confounded lawyers moved to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court.

Fakhrl got bail as he was not mentioned in the case filed by the police.

“The accused is acting secretary general of opposition party and there is no possibility of him being a fugitive if he is granted bail,” the judge observed.

But freedom was still elusive for Fakhrl. He did not get bail in the other case of cocktail blast filed with Motijheel Police Station.

The judge thought Fakhrl was not long enough in jail and so, the judge probably thought, a little more time spent in jail would do him good. The judge said: “He is in jail for not a long time. Therefore, considering all aspects, bail petition was rejected.”

As if one case--the one with Sutrapur police station--was not good enough to tie Fakhrl to jail, the cops implicated him in two more cases now. Thus the litany of cases went on.

Fakhrl now has 20 cases against him in connection with violence during the road blockade. There are 18

cases where he can be implicated in the same way. He is accused in two other cases filed in connection with arson and hurling cocktails inside the secretariat in April, 2012.

For a long time of his foreseeable political life, or as long as he stays in the opposition, Fakhrl will have a lot on his hand--trying to get out of the jail--until he has spent enough time behind bars and softened up or rather becomes “wise”. Political harassment under the guise of legality is nothing new. Those who are old enough, remember this to go back to the British days. Our period with Pakistan saw more blatant use of the law to cower political opponents. We saw the same in Bangladesh period, which is being repeated now. The same three periods also testify to the fact that these methods have never worked. In fact it had the reverse effect. Our people always support the under-dog.

Bibiyana field much larger than thought

FROM PAGE 1

year to address the country's gas crisis.

The Bibiyana gas field is currently producing over 820 mmcfd gas and 3,610 barrels of condensate (a liquid petroleum by-product) a day. Many experts say that over-extraction of gas from this field would lead to premature death of this large field.

But Chevron differs with this opinion. Discovered in 1998, the Bibiyana field was initially estimated to have 2.4 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of proven recoverable gas. But follow-up studies and development of this field have confirmed that the field is much larger than the initial assessment.

“Bibiyana is a world class reservoir that has the capacity to safely and efficiently deliver additional gas supply,” says Chevron Bangladesh's Country Manager Geoff Strong.

Adding to Chevron's statement, a Petrobangla source said that the first assessment of the field's size was conducted in 2000 by DeGolyer & MacNaughton. In 2007, (Chevron expert) Ryder Scott conducted a new assessment that

included additional data from 12 wells and a 3D seismic survey. Again, in September 2009, DeGolyer & MacNaughton gave a second report to Petrobangla.

This new report scaled up Bibiyana's proven gas reserve to 4.42 tcf, almost double the previous assessment. The report also said there is a high possibility of hitting up to 5.76 tcf gas in the field, the Petrobangla source said.

Based on this new figures, Chevron was allowed to increase production.

From Bibiyana, Moulavibazar and Jalalabad fields, Chevron is currently producing 1150 mmcfd, roughly half the country's daily gas consumption.

Till now, the company has invested more than one billion dollars to explore and develop these fields under different Production Sharing Contracts (PSC). With most of the old investments recovered by Chevron, Petrobangla enjoys a major share of this gas for free.

Bibiyana field development

Under a programme approved by Petrobangla,

Chevron is now drilling 10 wells in the Bibiyana field. Some of these wells will be drilled in the western and far southern part of Bibiyana that were untapped before.

This programme includes installation of a new Liquids Recovery Plant (LRP) to separate efficiently liquid fuel (condensate) from natural gas stream for other uses. This will produce around 4,000 barrels of Natural Gas Liquids (NGL) per day, which is worth \$175 million a year at current import prices.

“The Bibiyana Expansion project remains on track for start up in 2014 as previously announced. The project includes the drilling of four additional development wells, expansion of the gas plant's processing capacity and construction of an enhanced liquids recovery unit,” Geoff Strong added.

“However, realising the full benefits of the Bibiyana expansion project requires the completion of the Bibiyana-Dhanua pipeline. Chevron's production is currently constrained by the existing national pipeline system capacity. We know GTCL is working hard on the completion of this critical

project,” he added.

But GTCL sources said construction of this pipeline remains uncertain as of today as its tender drew offers way much costlier than initially estimated. The authorities remain indecisive about whether they would go for a re-tender or go ahead with the costly offers.

Other activities

Describing the activities in its two other fields, Geoff Strong said, “Following a six-month 3D seismic survey programme in

Moulvibazar, two new wells were drilled that started production in July-August 2012. These wells are now contributing about 60 percent of the Moulvibazar gas field's current total production. We continue to study the Moulvibazar field to look for more development well opportunities.

“Chevron is in the process of conducting a 3D seismic survey at Jalalabad to better delineate the field, evaluate additional reserves, and to assess the potential for additional development wells. The survey is expected to be complete by the end of 2013.”

The company launched a

compressor station in Muchai last year to improve gas supply pressure from Sylhet end to the national grid.

“The Muchai compression station has increased the capacity of the North-South-gas pipeline system by about 80 mmcfd, mostly supplied from the Chevron-operated Bibiyana, Jalalabad and Moulvibazar gas fields,” Strong said.

Besides, the oil company runs a number of social investment initiatives in collaboration with the NGOs around its gas fields to help them carry out their socio-economic activities. “Currently, 30,000 people benefit from our programmes,” said Strong.

Setting examples

Chevron Bangladesh is globally regarded as one of the best safety performers as it has worked for more than 37 million hours without a day lost due to injuries. It has employed around 2,500 Bangladeshis.

The company follows some exemplary practices which other companies can pick up for better environment and cost-effective operation. For instance, only 0.23 percent of Chevron's total natural gas production from its three fields is flared. Each gas field needs to run flares as a safety measure. The gas burnt by all other national fields for flare is manifold higher, experts say.

Chevron is also the only company in Bangladesh to re-inject water into the gas reservoir. This water comes out with the gas production. For instance, the Bibiyana field produces 250 barrels of water a day, all of which is re-injected into the field.



Condolence

We deeply mourn at the sudden demise of Asha Lata Ghosh (87), beloved mother of Sukumar Ranjan Ghosh, Managing Director, Sun Pharmaceutical (Bangladesh) Limited on the 14th January 2013. We pray to Almighty for the salvation of the departed soul.

We express our condolence to the bereaved family.

Members of Sun Pharmaceutical (Bangladesh) Ltd.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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জাতীয় ভূমি জেনিং প্রকল্প
জাতীয় মহিলা সংস্থা ভবন (৮ম তলা), ১৪৫, নিউ বেইলী রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০
Website: www.landzoning.gov.bd, E-mail: info@landzoning.gov.bd

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০৩-১০-১৪১৯ বঙ্গ

Individual Local Consultants পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নাধীন "National Land Zoning Project (2nd Phase)" প্রকল্পের আওতায় Individual Local Consultants হিসেবে নিম্নবর্ণিত পদে প্রকল্পের মেয়াদকালীন চুক্তিভিত্তিক নিয়োগের জন্য পার্শ্বে উল্লিখিত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। নির্বাচিত স্থানীয় পরামর্শকগণ এ প্রকল্পের অনুমোদিত ডিপিপিতে বর্ণিত হারে মাসিক Remuneration প্রাপ্ত হবেন।

Sl No.	Name of Post	Nos of Post	Qualification and Experience
01.	Chief Technical Expert/Team Leader	01	He/she should have a Master degree in Soil Science/Agriculture from any recognized university. He/she should have minimum 25 years of working experiences in the field of Land Use Survey including Soil Survey, Planning of Agricultural Development Project, Management of Land and other Natural Resources, monitoring and evaluation of land and water management projects. He/she should have sufficient experiences in writing reports of the similar project and must have 05 years experiences in organizing and managing a team of multidisciplinary professionals as a Team Leader. Working experiences in government/non-government organization, donor funded projects; computer skill will be considered as added advantages. Person having working experiences in similar project will be given preference for this post.
02.	Forest Specialist	01	He/she should have a Master degree in Forestry/Botany from any recognized University. He/she would have at least 12 years working experiences in related field. He/she must have a thorough understanding of the Bangladesh Forest and field experience in data acquisition, analysis and reporting. Knowledge in the relevant computer software especially in MS-Word, Excel and Power Point is compulsory. Person having sound academic background and sufficient knowledge in report writing will be given preference for this post.

আবেদনপত্র প্রেরণের শর্তাবলীঃ

- ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয় অথবা 'জাতীয় ভূমি জেনিং প্রকল্প' এর ওয়েবসাইট (www.minland.gov.bd or www.landzoning.gov.bd) হতে আবেদনপত্র ও জীবন-বৃত্তান্ত সংক্রান্ত নির্ধারিত ছক ডাউনলোড করে তা পূরণপূর্বক আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।
- পত্রিকায় বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ১৪ (চৌদ্দ) দিনের মধ্যে সচিব, ভূমি মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা-কে সম্বোধন করে আবেদনটি প্রকল্প পরিচালক, জাতীয় ভূমি জেনিং প্রকল্প, জাতীয় মহিলা সংস্থা ভবন (৮ম তলা), ১৪৫, নিউ বেইলী রোড, ঢাকা-১০০০ এর কার্যালয়ে ডাকযোগে পৌঁছাতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সম্প্রতি তোলা ০৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা/অভিজ্ঞতার সত্যায়িত সনদপত্র সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- নির্ধারিত তারিখের পরে প্রাপ্ত কোন আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- ক্রটিপূর্ণ ও অসম্পূর্ণ দরখাস্ত কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।
- চাকুরীত প্রার্থীদের স্ব-স্ব নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে এবং যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে দাখিলকৃত আবেদন পাওয়া না গেলে অগ্রিম কপি পেলেও তা বিবেচনা করা হবে না।
- নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।
- খামের উপর পদের নাম অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে এবং ৫/- (পাঁচ) টাকা মূল্যমানের ডাকটিকেট সম্বলিত ফেরত খাম সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- যে কোন প্রার্থী আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে।
- পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ অনুযায়ী নিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়া সম্পন্ন করা হবে এবং নিয়োগের ব্যাপারে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে।
- কেবল মাত্র Short listed প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য ডাকা হবে।

মোঃ আব্দুল হাই
প্রকল্প পরিচালক
জাতীয় ভূমি জেনিং প্রকল্প
জিডি-২২৭
ফোনঃ ৮৩২২৩৫৮ (অ.)