

Afghan Taliban declare 'spring offensive'

AFP, Kabul

Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan yesterday announced the start of their annual "spring offensive" against the US-backed government, vowing a nationwide series of attacks as foreign troops withdraw.

The Islamist extremists said that multiple suicide bombings, "insider attacks" by Afghan soldiers and "special military tactics" would target international airbases and diplomatic buildings to inflict maximum casualties.

They warned Afghans working for President Hamid Karzai's "stooge" regime to distance themselves from the government to avoid being caught up in the promised violence, and called for young people not to join the police or army.

This year's "fighting season" is seen as crucial to Afghanistan's future as its much-criticised security forces pit themselves against the insurgents who have fought against the Kabul government since 2001.

Nato combat operations in Afghanistan are due to end next year, and coalition commanders say that the local army and police have made enough progress to provide security and keep the Taliban at bay.

Afghanistan's fighting season traditionally begins in April or May as snow recedes from the mountains, and in

recent years the Taliban have marked the occasion with a public declaration of their intent to bring down Karzai.

The insurgents' latest statement celebrated the start of the NATO withdrawal, saying that "the enemy, with all its military might, has been overwhelmed and finally forced to flee from their military bases".

It added that this year's offensive, named after 7th-century general Khalid bin Waleed, would start on Sunday "in unison throughout the country... against the transgressing invaders and their degenerate backers".

Last week a study by the Afghanistan NGO Safety Office found attacks by the Taliban and other insurgents rose 47 per cent in January-March compared with the same period last year.

The United Nations has separately reported a rise of almost 30 per cent in civilian casualties in the first quarter compared with the same period last year, with 475 civilians killed and 872 wounded.

But Nato insists that the war is being won, with US General Joseph Dunford, head of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), saying on Thursday there was "indisputable" progress towards the goal of a stable nation.

Dawlat Waziri, a defence ministry spokesman, told AFP that Afghan forces were ready to take on the rebels alone.

SINO-INDO BORDER DISPUTE We do not want to accentuate situation Says Manmohan Singh

PTI, New Delhi

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday said India does not want to accentuate the situation in the wake of the recent Chinese incursion in Ladakh and is working on a plan to resolve it.

"We do have a plan. We do not want to accentuate the situation. We do believe that it is possible to resolve this problem. It is a localised problem. I think the talks are going on," he said when asked if the government had any plans to resolve the issue.

The Prime Minister was speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the defence investiture ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

On April 15, a platoon-strength contingent of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) had come inside the Indian territory in Burthe in the DBO sector and established a tented post there.

The government had on Friday told a Parliamentary Committee that Chinese troops have pitched tents 19 km deep inside the Indian territory in Ladakh region.

The Army has given its inputs to the government and the National Security Advisor-headed China Study Group, which is handling the present situation in Ladakh.

The Army has also given various options to the government on the issue including the aggressive use of military to handle the present situation.



Thousands charged with corruption in China

PTI, Beijing

China's prosecutors handled 3,657 corruption cases, and 1,481 cases involving dereliction of duty and rights violations during the first quarter of 2013, the Supreme People's Procuratorate (SPP) said yesterday.

All these violations had directly infringed upon peoples' interests, according to an SPP statement, which added that 5,102 people as well as a total volume of 540 million yuan (\$87.5 million) were involved in the corruption and bribery cases, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

The first three months saw 2,054 people found culpable of dereliction of duty or rights violations, including five municipal-level cadres.

The SPP statement said it will continue focusing on such cases that have a direct bearing on people's interests.

New grass 'flood reduction hope'

BBC ONLINE

A hybrid farmland grass, developed by a team of UK researchers, could help reduce flooding, a study has shown.

A team of plant and soil scientists said tests showed the new cultivar reduced run-off by 51%, compared with a variety widely used to feed livestock.

They added that rapid growth and well developed root systems meant that more moisture was retained within the soil rather than running into river systems.

The findings appear in the journal Scientific Reports.

The novel grass is a hybrid of perennial ryegrass (Lolium perenne) - which is widely planted by farmers for grazing livestock - and meadow fescue (Festuca pratensis), which has environmental stress-resistant characteristics.

Co-author Kit Macleod, senior research scientist at the James Hutton Institute based in Aberdeen, said a long-term project had been developing novel forage grasses but their environmental benefits had not really been tested.

"So I had the idea to... set up an experiment to look at how these novel grasses could be good for not only production from a farmer's perspective but also reducing run-off," he told BBC News.

"There is a lot of interest in how we manage agricultural landscapes to produce multiple benefits - particularly in relation to environmental stresses, such as changing precipitation and temperature patterns."

Over a two-year period at the Rothamsted Research site in North Devon, the team found that the hybrid grass reduced run-off by up to 51% compared with perennial ryegrass and by 43% compared with meadow fescue.

78,000 Bhutan refugees move to West: UN

AFP, Kathmandu

Some 78,000 Bhutanese refugees have moved to the West from camps in Nepal where they have been living for two decades after being forced out of their homeland, the United Nations said Friday.

The refugees have been offered new lives in the United States and other countries following the failure of years of negotiations to secure their return to Bhutan, which says they were illegal immigrants.

Another 38,000 refugees remain in the camps. All are ethnic Nepalese who fled across the border in the early 1990s, claiming persecution after Bhutan made national dress compulsory and banned the Nepalese language.

The United Nations' refugee agency, UNHCR, said in a statement on Friday that 100,000 have submitted applications for the resettlement so far.

"Making 100,000 submissions and reaching nearly 80,000 departures are incredible achievements in the history of this refugee programme and for UNHCR," said Diane Goodman, acting representative of the UNHCR in Nepal.

"We have been able to achieve these major milestones thanks to the generosity of the resettlement countries and our donors, the great support of the government of Nepal, and the resilience of the refugees."

The programme began in 2007 following a lack of progress in years of high-level talks to secure their return to Bhutan.

Some 66,000 refugees have left for the United States, while Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands and Britain have also taken thousands.

Survived at a price

FROM PAGE 1

She was taken to the Orthopaedic Hospital, after being rescued one and a half hours after the incident.

Shapla regained consciousness on Thursday afternoon and looked for her son, Morsalin, 6, whom she had left with her father in Nawabganj, Dinajpur. She was not aware that her husband was still missing.

Shapla's father Mohsin Ali said, "Please do something, at least for this child," as he is not well-off enough to ensure Morsalin's future.

Stories of the other victims, most of them poor and garment workers, are no different.

Sujan Roy, a 22-year-old packaging worker from the same floor, could not imagine how his family of five would survive.

Doctors at the Orthopaedic Hospital are set to amputate his gangrene afflicted left leg,

fractured by a fallen pillar, within a day or two. He was found buried under rubble and was rescued five hours after the collapse.

Having been the only source of income for his family, Sujan is worried about educating his sisters -- students of Class IV and Class II at Mithapukur, Rangpur.

"Since I could not manage to study after class VII, I tried my best to ensure their [his sisters] education, sending home Tk 5,000 from my Tk 8,000 salary," he said.

With no land or property and his father Saju Roy, a farmer, who remained ill most of the time, the youth appealed for an alternative job to support his family.

Lovely Akhter, 25, worked on the same floor and had her left hand crushed under a wall from the collapse.

She was unable to visit her two daughters for the last eight months due to financial constraints. Lovely was distraught and didn't know how to support her children and her ailing husband -- a rick-

shaw-puller who stayed home since his appendectomy five-six years ago.

Possibly no other victim was traumatised as much as Pakhi Begum, 25, a machine operator's helper on the fifth floor. She was pinned down, while conscious the whole time, by a pillar which crushed both her legs.

"Lying there amid blood in the pitch dark, I could only think about my two daughters because I saw death so closely. Two others were lying dead beside me," she said, now at Enam Hospital.

She shouted for help as she saw light coming through a hole Thursday morning. Rescuers tried, but failed to free her legs.

She pleaded them to cut her legs off. "I told them I'd rather live as a beggar to support my daughters than die there." The rescuers complied with her request using machetes.

Pakhi's husband Jahangir Alam, a worker at another garment factory in Savar, did not visit her since the collapse and she knows he does not care much about the daughters.

Garment workers

FROM PAGE 1

which collapsed on April 24.

In Savar, at least 20 garment workers were injured as the agitating workers were locked into clashes with police on Dhaka-Aricha highway at Ulail and Phulbari.

They vandalised at least 10 vehicles, halting vehicular movement in the areas for more than three hours from 9:00am.

Witnesses said the apparel workers damaged vehicles, roadside factories and shops, and hurled brick chips at the police as the law enforcers tried to free the road at Ulail.

Police fired rubber bullets and teargas canisters, and charged batons to bring the situation under control, leaving three workers bullet-hit.

In Gazipur, the RMG workers vandalised six textile factories at Shreepurupazila.

Those factories were running yesterday morning defying the garment factory owners' decision to keep the factories shut on Saturday and Sunday.

The protesters attacked CRC Textile Mill on

Shreepur-Mawna road at Vangnahati around 10:30am, damaging the windowpanes of the factory.

The agitators also hurled brick chips at the building, injuring at least eight workers of the factory.

Hundreds of agitating garment workers blocked a road in the capital's Mirpur, disrupting vehicular movement on the adjacent thoroughfares.

In Chittagong, the RMG workers blocked the Chittagong-Rangamati highway at Oxygen intersection for one hour, and the city's Airport Road for more than two hours.

They also torched three covered vans of Star Ship and vandalised six vehicles in Nasirabad Industrial area.

The RMG workers from Karnaphuli Export Processing Zone blocked the Airport Road at the CEPZ intersection, creating long tailbacks on both sides of the road at Cement Crossing intersection and Salt Gola Intersection.

They withdrew barricade around 11:00am, said Zahedul Islam, OC of Bandar Police Station.

DESCO ঢাকা ইলেকট্রিক সাপ্লাই কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (ডেসকো)		
প্লট নং- ২২/বি, ফারুক সরণী, নিকুঞ্জ- ২, ঢাকা-১২২৯		
টেলিফোনঃ ৮৮ ০২ ৮৯০০১১০-১১, ৮৯০০৮২০-২০, ফ্যাক্স + ৮৮ ০২ ৮৯০০১১০০		
ই-মেইলঃ info@desco.org.bd, ওয়েব সাইটঃ www.desco.org.bd		
ভাড়াই সিএনজি চালিত এয়ারকন্ডিশন মাইক্রোবাস সরবরাহের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি		
১।	এজেন্সি	ঃ ঢাকা ইলেকট্রিক সাপ্লাই কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (ডেসকো)।
২।	দরপত্রের নাম	ঃ ভাড়াই সিএনজি চালিত এয়ারকন্ডিশন মাইক্রোবাস সরবরাহ।
৩।	দরপত্র নং	ঃ ১১/২০১৩।
৪।	দরপত্রের বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ও তারিখ	ঃ স্মারক নং- ডেসকো/গ্রনিকিউরমেট/লোকাল টেন্ডার/২০১৩/৪৬৬, তারিখঃ ২৪/০৪/২০১৩ ইং।
৫।	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	ঃ উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (এক পর্যায় এক খাম বিশিষ্ট)।
৬।	কাজের সংক্ষিপ্ত বিবরণ	ঃ ঢাকা ইলেকট্রিক সাপ্লাই কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (ডেসকো) এর কর্মকর্তাদের অফিসে যাতায়াতসহ দায়িত্ব কাজে সার্বক্ষণিক ব্যবহারের নিমিত্তে ২০০৫ বা তৎপরবর্তী মডেলের ০৭ (সাত) আসন বিশিষ্ট সিএনজি চালিত এয়ারকন্ডিশন মাইক্রোবাস ১৮ (আঠার) মাস (দেড় বছর) এর জন্য নিম্নোক্ত লট অনুযায়ী ভাড়াই গ্রহণঃ লট-১৪ ০৬ (ষোল) টি। লট-২০ ০৫ (পাঁচ) টি। লট-৩৪ ০৪ (চার) টি।
৭।	দরপত্রের সময়সীমা	ঃ ৩০(ত্রিশ) দিন।
৮।	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	ঃ ১) হালদানাদা ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, TIN সনদপত্র এবং ভাট্টা নিবন্ধনের সনদপত্র। ২) সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের কমপক্ষে ০৩(তিন) বৎসর ভাড়াই গাড়ী সরবরাহের ব্যবসায় প্রয়োজিত থাকিতে হইবে এবং এর স্বপক্ষে প্রয়োজনীয় দলিলাদী দাখিল করিতে হইবে। ৩) দরপত্রে অর্থ গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিগত ০৩ (তিন) বৎসরের মধ্যে ভাড়াই লট-১ অথবা লট-২ এর জন্য কমপক্ষে ০৩ (তিন) টি এবং লট-৩ এর জন্য কমপক্ষে ০২(দুই) টি কার/মাইক্রোবাস সরবরাহের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকিতে হইবে। ৪) দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রতিটি লটে অথবা যে কোন একটি/দুটি লটে অংশগ্রহণ করিতে পারিবে।
৯।	দরপত্রের সিডিউলের মূল্য	ঃ প্রতিটি লটের জন্য ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাক্ট (অকেজতযোগ্য) সংযুক্ত করে উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (হিসাব) বরাবরে দাখিলকৃত আবেদনের ভিত্তিতে ডেসকো'র হিসাব বিভাগ হইতে সগ্রহ করা যাইবে।
১০।	জামানত প্রদানের বিবরণ	ঃ দরপত্র জামানতকালে দরপত্র জামানত হিসাবে লট প্রতি ১,৪০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ চতুর্দশ হাজার) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাক্ট/ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি দরপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করিতে হইবে।
১১।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের স্থান	ঃ ডেসকো'র সদর দপ্তর অর্থ ও হিসাব বিভাগ।
১২।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের স্থান	ঃ গ্রনিকিউরমেট, ইন্সপেকশন এন্ড টেস্টিং বিভাগ, সদর দপ্তর, ডেসকো। প্লট নং- ২২/বি, ফারুক সরণী, নিকুঞ্জ- ২, ঢাকা-১২২৯।
১৩।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের শুরু তারিখ	ঃ ৩০/০৪/২০১৩ ইং, সকাল ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে।
১৪।	দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	ঃ ১৯/০৫/২০১৩ ইং, বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। উল্লেখিত তারিখের পর কোন দরপত্র তফসীল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না।
১৫।	দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ২০/০৪/২০১৩ ইং তারিখ, দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।
১৬।	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	ঃ ২০/০৪/২০১৩ ইং তারিখ, দুপুর ১২:০০ ঘটিকা।
১৭।	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	ঃ গ্রনিকিউরমেট, ইন্সপেকশন এন্ড টেস্টিং বিভাগ, সদর দপ্তর, ডেসকো। প্লট নং- ২২/বি, ফারুক সরণী, নিকুঞ্জ- ২, ঢাকা-১২২৯।
১৮।	বিশেষ নির্দেশনা	ঃ দরপত্র গ্রহণের যে কোন পর্যায়ে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা আংশিক গ্রহণ অথবা যে কোন দরপত্র বাতিল বা আংশিক বাতিল বা সমুদয় বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা ডেসকো কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত।
প্রকৌঃ মোঃ শরিফুল ইসলাম উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক (পি এন্ড আই টি), ডেসকো।		

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go beyond

Bangladesh Milk Producer's Co-Operative Union Ltd				
Head Office: Dugdha Bhaban, 139-140, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208				
Invitation for International Tender (IFT)				
Procuring entity name		Bangladesh Milk Producer's Co-Operative Union Ltd.		
Procurement method		Open tendering method (One stage two envelope).		
Source of funds		Own fund.		
Invitation for tenders No.		PD/Bull/LC-04/2013/81 date: 25.04.2013.		
Tenders name & brief description				
Sl No.	Tender package No.	Item name	Cost of schedule (non-refundable)	Tender security (BDT/US\$/Euro)
01.	PD/Bull/LC-04/2013/01	Breeding Bull	Tk 1,000.00	BDT 450,000/\$5,800/ €4,500
Validity of tender offer		120 days from the date of submission of tender.		
Validity of tender security		148 days from the date of submission of tender.		
Name & address of the office for selling the tender documents		(a) Accounts Division, Head Office, 139-140, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka. (b) Accounts Section, Dhaka Dairy Plant, Mirpur Sec-7, Dhaka & (c) Divisional Commissioner Office, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.		
Name & address of the office for receiving of the tender documents		(a) Purchase Division, Head Office, 139-140, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka. (b) Security Section, Dhaka Dairy Plant, Mirpur Sec-7, Dhaka & (c) Divisional Commissioner Office, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.		
Starting date for selling tender documents		28.04.2013 during office hour.		
Tender last selling date		10.06.2013 during office hour.		
Tender closing place, date & time		(a) Purchase Division, Head Office (b) Security Section, Dhaka Dairy Plant (c) Divisional Commissioner Office	11.06.2013 at 12:30pm	
Tender opening place, date and time		Head Office, 139-140, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208.	11.06.2013 at 2:30pm	
Other instruction		All other terms & conditions are mentioned in the tender schedule.		
Procuring entity details				
Name of the official inviting tender		Mrs Shamima Begum.		
Designation of the official inviting tender		Dy General Manager (Plan, Dev & Purchase).		
Address of the official inviting tender		Bangladesh Milk Producer's Co-Operative Union Ltd. 139-140, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208.		
Contact details of the official inviting tender		Tel: (PABX) 8870444, 8870445, Ext- 108, 140 Fax: 880-2-8870433, E-mail: milkcoop@bangla.net		
Other Information				
Special instructions		i) Tenders must be submitted in two envelopes and clearly marked as "Technical Offer" and "Financial Offer." Financial offer will contain tender submission letter (form PG3-1), price schedule for goods (PG3-3A) & price schedule for related services (form PG3-3B). All other documents including tender security (earnest money) will be in the technical offer. If any financial (price related) document found in the technical offer tender will be outright rejected. ii) In case, the tender cannot be received on the day mentioned for reasons beyond control of BMPCUL (Milk Vita), the same will be received on the next working day at the same time & venue. iii) The authority also reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.		
This tender will be conducted as per Public Procurement Rules-2008 of Bangladesh.				
Mrs. Shamima Begum Dy General Manager (Plan, Dev & Purchase)				
D-385				