

US-LED WAR ON TERROR 'Pakistan should reconsider support'

REUTERS, Lahore

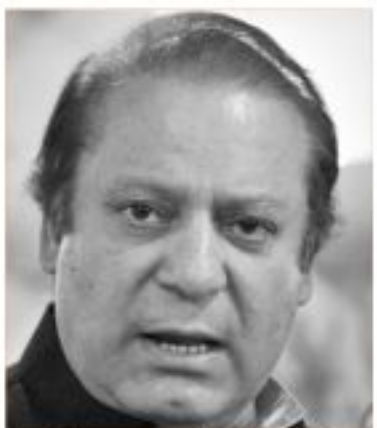
Nawaz Sharif, seen as the front-runner in Pakistan's election race, said the country should reconsider its support for the US war on Islamist militancy and suggested that he was in favour of negotiations with the Taliban.

Pakistan backed American efforts to stamp out global militancy after the September 11, 2001, attacks on the United States and was rewarded with billions of dollars in US aid.

But many Pakistanis have grown resentful, saying thousands of Pakistani soldiers have died fighting "America's war".

Sharif, a religious conservative who is hoping to become prime minister for a third time after next Saturday's election, said the Pakistani military's US-backed campaign against the Taliban was not the best way to defeat the insurgency.

"I think guns and bullets are always not



Nawaz Sharif

the answer to such problems," he told Reuters in an interview in his black armoured car on Saturday. "I think other options need to be explored at the same time and see what is workable. And I think we're going to pursue all these other options."

Army offensives have weakened the Pakistani Taliban, which is close to al-Qaeda, but they have failed to break the movement's back.

Sharif wants a review of the backing provided for the US war on militancy under the previous government's approach.

"Someone will have to take this problem seriously," said Sharif, as he headed to an election campaign rally. "All stakeholders will have to sit down together and understand the concerns of all parties and then take a decision, which is in the best interest of Pakistan and the international community."

Worker safety and beyond

FROM PAGE 20

been burned, suffocated and crushed to death in recent years as the country's garment industry has boomed, with Western clothing brands and retailers making a big shift to Bangladesh from China, where labour costs are rising. These deaths have focused attention on regulations in Bangladesh as well as the responsibility of Western companies that buy clothes from suppliers there.

At least one big brand, Disney, has said that its branded merchandise will no longer be made in Bangladesh. But a mass exodus of Western companies from Bangladesh is not the answer. What is needed is direct action by international companies to improve working conditions for the more than 3.5 million Bangladeshi workers -- 80 percent of them women -- who toil in clothing factories.

The garment industry serves as one of the few ladders out of poverty in Bangladesh. While the pay is meagre -- the minimum wage is just \$37 a month -- that is still far higher than wages of farmers or maids. Increased employment opportunities for women have had positive effects. One study found that the presence of garment factories was strongly correlated with higher numbers of girls going to school and

delaying marriage and childbirth.

Historically, textile production has been a steppingstone in economic development. In Japan, Korea and China, garment work allowed labourers to move from agriculture into semi-skilled manufacturing, and then eventually to advanced manufacturing and the services sector. This development path is not easy, but it need not be deadly.

Big garment buyers like Walmart, H&M and Gap have tremendous power to improve conditions in that market. Industry officials and labour groups have been discussing a legally binding agreement requiring Western brands and retailers to conduct independent factory inspections and to help pay for factory renovations, like adding external fire exits and smoke alarms. Some labour groups estimate it would cost \$3 billion over five years to bring Bangladesh's roughly 4,500 factories into compliance with building and fire standards. That is a small price to pay given the country's \$18 billion in annual clothing exports, or \$90 billion over five years. Two companies -- PVH, the parent of Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilfiger, and the German retailer Tchibo -- have signed on to such an

agreement. Other companies must get on board, and the industry should, eventually, extend it to other developing countries.

The Obama administration and the European Union also have a big role to play. They should push the government of Bangladesh, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, to enforce the country's labour laws and building and fire codes. The Bangladeshi government has been reluctant because that would drive up the cost of products and encourage Western companies to move to other countries with cheap labour. This is why it is important to get textile buyers to first commit to stay in the country and to help bring factories up to code. American and European officials also have leverage over Bangladesh because they grant special tariff and quota benefits to the country.

A century ago, it was not uncommon for American seamstresses to lose their lives in sweatshops. Lawmakers began improving industrial safety in earnest after the 1911 fire at New York's Triangle Shirtwaist factory, which killed 146 workers and horrified the country. The collapse of Rana Plaza should play a similarly galvanising role now.



Indian Sikhs shouts anti-government slogans as they stand on police barricades during a demonstration against the acquittal of Congress politician Sajjan Kumar, in New Delhi yesterday. A court in New Delhi on April 30 acquitted a ruling party politician of murder in a trial linked to the massacre of Sikhs following the 1984 assassination of then Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi.

PHOTO: AFP

EU warns, again

FROM PAGE 20

the wages of workers every year but the hikes are not the same at all the factories across the country.

"Through a wage board, the annual pay rise can be

implemented nationally," he told The Daily Star.

The prime minister backed the proposal and urged the BGMEA leaders to develop an institutional mechanism to hike the salaries of garment

workers every year to help them maintain a decent life, according to PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

The country's garment workers, mostly women from rural villages, are some of the lowest paid in the world, with monthly minimum wages of a mere Tk3,000.

Their last increase in wage came in November 2010. Workers' bodies and some international buyers have recently called for another review as their living standards came under pressure due to stubbornly high inflation.

Meanwhile, Europe's top trade official has warned that the EU would consider suspending Bangladesh's duty-free access to its market if the country does not take immediate steps to improve its labour standards and factory conditions.

"The government of Bangladesh must change

something. Otherwise, I am ready to launch an investigation, which may lead to the suspension of Bangladesh's trade status with the EU," said European Union Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht.

This is the first time the EU has threatened to take action against Bangladesh within the context of the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP), which allows 48 of the world's poorest nations unlimited exports of anything but arms.

"I have been very clear. They must deal with this and do so in a very clear and immediate timetable," De Gucht told the Belgian media outlets RTBF and Le Soir yesterday.

The EU official's comments came as Bangladesh still struggles to clear debris from the collapse of a nine-storey unauthorised building in Savar and pull out

Foreign convoy attack kills 11 in Somalia

AFP, Mogadishu

Around 11 people were killed in Somalia's capital yesterday when a suicide attacker rammed a car laden with explosives into a government convoy carrying officials from Qatar, police said.

Four government officials visiting from Qatar were travelling in armoured vehicles belonging to the interior ministry when the convoy was attacked, but were unharmed.

"The convoy was escorting a delegation from Qatar, the police escorted them to a safe area after they survived the attack," General Garad Nur, a senior police commander, told reporters.

people still believed to be trapped.

The disaster, the worst of its kind in the country's history, killed more than 600 people, exposing the high-risk environment and lack of safety regulations in the sector.

"Now we see that...these people are, well, we can't say underpaid, they are virtually unpaid and above all, they have to work in sanitary and security conditions that are totally unacceptable: it's some kind of modern slavery," De Gucht said.

"These people have the right to work in acceptable conditions, and we have a duty to push for that."

The EU is Bangladesh's top trading partner, accounting for about 60 percent of its exports.

University Grants Commission of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director
Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project
Dhaka Trade Centre (8th Floor)
99, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
Web: www.heqep-ugc.gov.bd Fax: 02-8189021
No. UGC/HEQEP/Procurement/S-14.2/2013-350

Date: May 02, 2013

Request for Application (RFA) for AIF Management Specialist (Package: S-14.2)

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has undertaken the Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP) with the support of the International Development Association (IDA). The University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh is the implementing agency of the Project. A part of the IDA fund will be utilized for payments of AIF Management Specialist who will provide technical support for subproject implementation.
- The Request for Application (RFA) document is available in the office of the undersigned. The Terms of Reference (ToR) and evaluation criteria are mentioned in the document. The ToR and RFA is also available in the website www.heqep-ugc.gov.bd. Interested applicants may collect the document from the office of the undersigned during office hours on or before May 21, 2013.
- Consultant will be selected using the selection of individual consultant method in accordance with Public Procurement Act, 2006 and Public Procurement Rules, 2008.
- Qualifications and Experience of AIF Management Specialist:
The AIF Management Specialist will preferably be holding a post-graduate degree with experience in teaching and research, and education project management. S/he will be required to possess the following:
 - A post-graduate degree from a recognized higher education institution of the country or abroad with at least 15 years experience of teaching in graduate and post-graduate level in a higher education institution, or at least 15 years experience in the management/administration/development projects in govt/non-govt service.
 - Extensive knowledge of GoB's national development objectives, including that of higher education sector policies and strategies and their implementation procedure.
 - Extensive knowledge of the rules and regulations including experience in the application of such rules and procedures for implementation and management of GoB's development projects including implementation of donor assisted projects.
 - Competencies in the formulation of funding mechanism for academic innovation projects and drafting of its operations manual;
 - Organizational and planning skills with the ability to work in a team environment and also independently and under pressure.
 - Demonstrated proficiency in writing and speaking English and Bengali.
 - Report writing skills and ability to deliver them within a timeline.
 - Good command on computer operations including MS Word, Excel, Internet etc.
- The expected duration of the assignment will be 30 person months starting from June, 2013 and continue up to November, 2015. However, this assignment may be increased or reduced according to the requirement of the project.
- Expression of Interest shall have to be submitted in the prescribed document (RFA) on or before 12:00 noon May 22, 2013 in sealed envelope to the Project Director, HEQEP, and be clearly marked "Expressions of Interest for AIF Management Specialist". Applications should be submitted directly or sent via post at the address of the undersigned and should reach the undersigned before the stipulated time.
- The applicants shall submit supporting documents (i.e. certificates, references) in favour of their experience and qualifications along with the EOI. HEQEP may verify these documents if deemed necessary.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject all applications.

Kaniz Fatema, ndc

Project Director

(Additional Secretary)

Tel: 02-8189020

e-mail: pd.heqep1@gmail.com

লাশবাহী ফ্রিজার ভ্যান

হটলাইন
০১১৯০১১১৯৫৫৫

জাপান বাংলাদেশ ফ্রেজারি হাসপিটাল

৫৫ সাতমসজিদ রোড, ধানমন্ডি-০৩
খিগাতলা বাসস্ট্যান্ড, ঢাকা- ১২০৯, বাংলাদেশ
ফোন: ৯৬৭২২৭৭, ৯৬৬৪০২৮-৯, ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮০-২-৯৬৭৫৬৭৪
E-mail: jbfh24@yahoo.com | Web: www.jbfh.org

Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215
Web: www.dgdp.gov.bd
Email: info@dgdp.gov.bd

Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers (for enlisted firm only) for supplying following items for Bangladesh Army.

Ser No.	Nomenclature	Date of selling		Date of opening	Currency	Tender No.
		From	To			
a	1. Cloth Rexin Green, Qty-3000 Metre	05-05-13	18-05-13	19-05-13	Local	219. 013.12

2. Tendered schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (non-refundable) during office hour between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. Tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and will be opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Misc/2013/3560
GD-1761

Major
For Director General