

Pakistan sacked 'some people' to keep N-programme safe

PTI, Islamabad
Pakistani authorities sacked some people having "negative tendencies" working with the country's sensitive nuclear programme to keep it safe, according to a report.
"We filtered out people having negative tendencies that could have affected national security," said Brig (ret.) Tahir Raza Naqvi, who works for strategic plans division, the administering body for the nuclear programme.
Those sacked were the "incorrigible" ones, he said, and quickly added: "Our checks are very solid."
The sacked nuclear workers could not clear the personnel reliability programme that was started in mid-2003/04 to screen the employees working on the sensitive programme, Naqvi was quoted as saying by the Dawn.
He was addressing a seminar on Wednesday on 'Future security outlook of South Asia: Trends and challenges' organised by an Islamabad-based thinktank, Centre for International Strategic Studies, and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung of Germany.
Naqvi said all employees of the nuclear programme are periodically checked for family background, education, political affiliation and religious inclinations.
He would not say how many were sacked over the years or why they failed to clear the screening.
At least 12 people linked to disgraced nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan were removed when the proliferation scandal surfaced in 2003. But those firings took place before personnel reliability programme was instituted.

Govt still

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Probashi Kalyan Bhaban in the capital.
At the programme, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain asked the Bangladeshi expatriates in Libya not to cross the "danger zones" in the country.
On March 6, an unknown militant group kidnapped the two Bangladeshis along with seven other foreigners from al-Ghani oil field, which is south of Sirte.
All the kidnap victims worked for an Austrian oil services company, VAOS.
Meanwhile, the Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli submitted a note verbale to the Libyan foreign ministry yesterday, formally requesting the latter to assist in rescuing the Bangladeshis, said Counsellor (labour wing) ASM Ashraful Islam.
The embassy has recently sought assistance from the Red Crescent to expedite efforts to rescue the Bangladeshi nationals.

Becoming

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baddies", the People's Daily Online reported.
He even begged his father: "I may die soon, but I am not afraid. Help me realise my dream."
So father Liu Xiaodong decided to make the youngster's dream come true, and began to spread word of his son's plight through WeChat -- the Chinese WhatsApp.
The story touched the hearts of many in Jiin City, where the family live, and then with thousands across the country.
A total of 12,000 yuan (about £1,307) was donated by well-wishers, and Zixi even got a visit from China's National Women's Speed Skating team members.
But then the tale reached the ears of Jilin Public Security Bureau Commander Fu Zhangkun.
"We are all very moved by his dream of becoming a police officer," he said. "It has become a responsibility for us to realise for him."
So the officers and Zixi's 38-year-old father worked together to surprise the little boy -- and make his dream a reality.
On Monday, Zixi was visited by a policewoman in his room in the Paediatric Hematology Department of the Number 1 Hospital.
She then unveiled a uniform, which had been specially made for Zixi, who was about to become the youngest police officer in Jiin.
Zixi was then awarded the title of "honorary police officer" in a simple ceremony -- before Commander Fu sent him off to fulfil his duties "protecting the harmony of the hospital".
The entire experience has left Zixi delighted.
"I am very happy, I didn't know what I had to do but I have realised my dream," he said, vowing, "When I have recovered I will catch thieves."

Act fast on MRP

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deadline set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to eliminate the use of non-MRPs and replace those with MRPs.
However, the IRIS has been very slow in its job. Around a million expatriates have so far been given the MRPs and the IRIS contributed to only 62,000 of them, according to ministry sources.
"The MRP is now a national issue for us. If we can't provide the MRPs for all our expatriates by November, they might become illegal [after the deadline]," Mosharraf told reporters after the meeting.
"From March 25 onwards at least 5,000 expatriates will be enrolled every day in Saudi Arabia," he said, adding around 22 lakh Bangladeshis are yet to get the MRPs there. Approximately 26 lakh Bangladeshis are believed to be working in the Gulf country.
This way, some 12 lakh expatriates in Saudi Arabia will get the MRPs, he said.
Asked what would happen to the other 10 lakh, the minister did not say anything clearly.
However, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Abul Kalam Azad, who attended the meeting, said the government would try to issue

Panicked expats

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only until January 31 this year.
"I did not take any risks and decided to come home and get my digital passport [MRP]," said Mohiuddin who flew to Dhaka in November and applied for MRP in the first week of December.
Although he faced many hurdles in getting his MRP on January 29, he was happy having it in his hand. "It is a huge relief for me. My job is now secured," said Mohiuddin as he flew back to Malaysia the very next day.
Mohiuddin is not alone. As many as five lakh Bangladeshis in all over Malaysia are facing this dilemma over MRP.
Even in the plastic factory where Mohiuddin works, there were many Bangladeshis still with old passports that needed to be converted into MRP.
"Scared of losing their jobs, a few more are also planning to come home to get the MRP while the rest have left their fate to an uncertain future," Mohiuddin said.
He appealed to the government to take the MRP matter seriously so that all expatriates get the new passports before the ICAO deadline expires on November 24.
Over the last few months, many others like Mohiuddin came home, spent their hard-earned money paying for airfare and went back to Malaysia with MRPs.
Shajahan works for a construction firm in Penang, 300km away from Kuala Lumpur.
"There was assurance of getting MRP from Penang or Kuala Lumpur as many workers were enrolled but only a few got the new passports. Hundreds other are yet to be enrolled for MRP," he told The Daily Star over phone on January 20.
The uncertainty forced him to come home as he needed the MRP before

"more than 5,000 MRPs a day". These additional passports will be given to the rest.
Mosharraf said the IRIS has agreed to speed up its activities and the Bangladesh missions would do the same in this regard.
"The IRIS and our foreign missions will identify the barriers and work together to remove them to ensure enrolment for issuing the MRPs," he added.
Currently, the IRIS has eight application centres and 10 mobile teams for the enrolment process in Saudi Arabia.
To accelerate the enrolment activities, it was decided in the meeting that the number of application centres will be increased to 20 and mobile teams to 30.
In Malaysia, three more centres will be set up in addition to the existing six to expedite the process.
Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Khandker Md Iftekhar Haider, Director General of the Department of Immigration and Passport NM Zeaul Alam and other high-ups of the government offices concerned attended the meeting.

Modi's Republican buddy quits after fraud charges

TNN
A young Republican lawmaker who defied the US government's ban on Narendra Modi and reached out to the then Gujarat chief minister before going on to become the Prime Minister's best buddy in Washington has had to quit Congress following tax fraud allegations.
Aaron Schock (33) resigned from Congress on Tuesday after ethics questions about billing the government tens of thousands of dollars in mileage reimbursements he received for his personal vehicle. Media probe had revealed that he and his campaign had billed government for 170,000 miles on his personal car from January 2010 through July 2014. But when he sold the vehicle in July 2014, it only had 80,000 miles on the odometer.
Schock reimbursed the government after the expose but resigned without explaining the discrepancy, bringing to an abrupt end an energetic Washington stint, the highlight of which was his bold outreach to Modi when the latter was a virtual pariah in Washington.
Despite advice from the State Department regarding the visa ban on Modi, Schock reached out and met him in Gujarat in 2013 after consulting with Condoleezza Rice and determining the ban was not in US interest.

MITHAPUKUR ARSON 2 Jamaat men arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur
Police yesterday arrested two Jamaat men who are the main accused in a case filed in connection with Mithapukur arson attack that left six people dead in January.
They are Joynal Miah, 50, president of Kafrikhal union unit of Jamaat-e-Islami, and his younger brother Masum Amin, 44, an activist of the party.
Acting on a tip-off, police raided a house at Pirojpur village around 2:00pm and held the two, said Humayun Kabir, officer-in-charge of Mithapukur Police Station.
The police official claimed Joynal is the mastermind behind the arson.
The Jamaat men were taken to the police station for interrogation.
On January 14, a petrol bomb was hurled at a bus allegedly by blockaders in Jaigirhat area of Mithapukur, leaving six people, including a child, dead.
Joynal stands accused in eight cases that include attacking police and setting fire to Mithapukur upazila Awami League office after the war crimes verdict on Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayeede, according to police.
Joynal is also the husband of Jamaat-backed Mithapukur upazila female Vice-chairman Morsheda Akter.

Japan, China in security talks after 4-year break

AFP, Tokyo
Japan and China held security talks Thursday after a four-year hiatus because of simmering territorial tensions, in a meeting expected to touch on the flashpoint issue of maritime crisis management, officials and reports said.
The first such dialogue between the two Asian rivals since January 2011 was held at Japan's foreign ministry in Tokyo, a government official said, in the latest sign of a hastening thaw in once-frozen relations.
The talks involved top officials from each country's foreign and defence ministries, including Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama and Liu Jianchao, China's assistant foreign minister.
Tokyo and Beijing are at loggerheads over the sovereignty of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea, which Japan administers as the Senkakus, but which China claims as

Petrol bomb takes

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attacks, since the BNP-led alliance called a nationwide indefinite blockade on January 5.
The truck was going to Khulna after loading goods from Chittagong, said our Chandpur Correspondent, quoting Abdul Qayyum, officer-in-charge of Chandpur Sadar Police Station.
Three others -- Sharif, 35, the owner of the vehicle, Khorshed, 30, a cattle trader, and Rubel, 35, the helper -- received severe burn injuries during the attack, the OC said. All of them hail from Sharsha upazila of Jessore.
The injured were whisked off to Chandpur Government General Hospital. Later, they were transferred to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).
Doctors at the burn unit of the DMCH said Sharif suffered burns around 88 percent of his body while Khorshed received 35 percent and Rubel 25 percent.
In another incident, a truck driver and his helper were injured as they jumped off the running vehicle after it came under a firebomb attack in Raghunathpur area of the upazila.
Injured driver Amanat Khan, 40, and helper Kalu Bepari, 22, are undergoing treatment at the Sadar Hospital.
Apart from the arson attacks, stray incidents of violence were reported from several districts in the country on the fifth day of the BNP-led alliance's hartal yesterday.
In Chuadanga, criminals hurled petrol bombs inside the storeroom of a local Awami League leader's house at Kotali village in Sadar upazila early yesterday, reports our Kushtia correspondent.
A storeroom adjacent to the house of Selim Uddin, organising secretary of Begumpur union unit of AL, was burnt after criminals threw the bombs inside it around 1:30am, police said.
On information, police rushed there and recovered two more unexploded petrol bombs from the spot, said Monir Hossain, sub-inspector of Begumpur Police Camp.
In Rajshahi, a mob caught red-

handed an alleged BNP activist and beat him up after he exploded two crude bombs inside the GPO office in the city around 12:30pm, reports our Rajshahi correspondent.
Rabiul Islam, 38, the alleged BNP activist, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with bruises all over his body, said Mehedi Hasan, officer-in-charge of Rajpara Police Station.
The explosions shattered the glass windows of a room at the northern entrance of the GPO, said the OC. No one was hurt, he added.
A case was filed against Rabiul under the explosives act with Rajpara Police Station.
In Manikganj, court activities were suspended from 11:00am yesterday following a bomb threat on the court premises in the town.
Bidhan Tripura, superintendent of police in Manikganj, said he received a text message in his mobile phone around 11:00am from an unknown number. The message stated that someone had kept a time bomb on the court premises.
"I informed it to the District and Sessions Judge AKM Mostofa Dewan who ordered to stop the court work," the SP said.
Police searched the court premises but did not find any bomb, he added.
In Bhola, a lower division assistant cum computer operator of the District Council was arrested from his office premises in Sadar upazila for allegedly carrying out subversive activities.
In Chittagong, police in a drive yesterday arrested an alleged activist of Jamaat-e-Islami in Lohagara upazila and recovered a homemade gun and two bullets from his possession.
The arrestee Mohammed Babul, 30, was an accused in over 10 cases filed in connection with subversive activities, said Abu Bakkar, a sub-inspector of Lohagara Police Station.
On information, police arrested Babul from his locality around 6:00pm with the gun and two bullets, he said, adding that filing of a case was underway.

AL backs Nasir for Ctg mayor

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corporations.
Although there has been a rumor that AL might change its support for the two, yesterday's meeting dismissed any such possibility.
However, if Sayeed Khokon is disqualified to contest the Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) polls for defaulting bank loans, the party would back another candidate.
The meeting decided to form "election coordination committees" in the capital to run election campaigns for the party favourites.
REMOVE POLLS MATERIALS: EC
The Election Commission yesterday directed the returning officers for Dhaka and Chittagong city corporation polls to take necessary measures to remove electoral billboards and posters from the cities by early tomorrow.
The directive was contained in separate letters to the three returning officers. The commission also wrote to law enforcement agencies seeking their cooperation in this regard.
The EC made the move after its call for clearing those campaign materials received a lukewarm response from the mayor and councillor hopefuls.
Under electoral code of conduct, no candidate can run an electoral campaign until 21 days from the poll-

ing day. Also, use of billboards for electioneering is completely prohibited.
In the letters, the EC asked the returning officers to take legal action against the aspiring candidates for failure to remove the electoral materials from the cities.
While announcing the polls schedule on Wednesday, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad asked the prospective candidates to remove their electoral billboards from the cities within 48 hours.
However, supporters of some mayor and councillor hopefuls were seen removing campaign materials from streets in the capital yesterday.
Many aspiring candidates visited the offices of the returning officers in the capital to collect information on polls.
"People wanted to know about electoral laws and filing of nomination papers," Mihir Sarwar Morshed, returning officer for DSCC polls, told The Daily Star.
Some councillor hopefuls met voters in their wards to drum up support for their election campaigns.
SM Anamul Haque Abir, councillor aspirant in ward-21 of DSCC, said: "I've passed a busy day today [yesterday]. I talked to people and sought their cooperation for addressing local problems."

ICC should prosecute ISIS

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The report said the Council had found "information that points to genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes", and that the Security Council should "consider referring the situation in Iraq to the International Criminal Court".
There was a "manifest pattern of attacks" by Islamic State on Yazidis as well as Christians and other minorities as it laid siege to towns and villages in Iraq.
The UN investigators also cited allegations that ISIS had used chlorine gas, a prohibited chemical weapon, against Iraqi soldiers in the western province of Anbar

in September.
Captured women and children were treated as "spoils of war", and often subjected to rape or sexual slavery, it said.
The report said that ISIS's Islamic sharia courts in Mosul had also meted out cruel punishments including stoning and amputation. "Thirteen teenage boys were sentenced to death for watching a football match," it said.
The UN investigators said it was "widely alleged" that Iraqi government forces had used barrel bombs, an indiscriminate weapon banned by international law, but this required further investigation.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

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বেসরকারি আইনজীবী প্যানেল নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সরকারি স্বার্থ রক্ষার্থে অর্থ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়ের পক্ষে ও বিপক্ষে বিজ্ঞ আর্টরি জেনারেল এর মাধ্যমে মহামান্য সূত্রিম কোর্টের আপিল ও হাইকোর্ট বিভাগে মামলা পরিচালনায় সহায়তা প্রদানের জন্য ০৩ (তিন) জন, দেওয়ানীসহ অধ্যক্ষন আদালতের মামলা পরিচালনার জন্য ০১ (এক) জন এবং প্রশাসনিক ট্রাইব্যুনালে ও প্রশাসনিক আপিল ট্রাইব্যুনালে ০১ (এক) জনসহ মোট ০৫ (পাঁচ) জনের একটি বেসরকারি আইনজীবী প্যানেল তালিকাভুক্ত করার লক্ষ্যে আশ্রয়ী আইনজীবীদের নিকট হতে নিম্নোক্ত শর্তে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

- ১। আবেদনকারী আইনজীবীকে ঢাকায় স্থায়ীভাবে বসবাসরত হতে হবে;
- ২। আবেদনকারীর নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, বয়স ইত্যাদি উল্লেখপূর্বক পূর্ণাঙ্গ জীবনবৃত্তান্ত দিতে হবে;
- ৩। আবেদনের সাথে সদ্য তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি দিতে হবে;
- ৪। আবেদনের সাথে জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র, বার কাউন্সিলের সনদপত্র, শিক্ষাপত্র যোগ্যতার সকল সনদপত্র এবং বার কাউন্সিল প্রদত্ত পেশাগত অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রসহ সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে;
- ৫। সূত্রিম কোর্ট ও প্রশাসনিক ট্রাইব্যুনালে মামলা পরিচালনার জন্য হাইকোর্ট বিভাগ ও আপিল বিভাগে আডভোকেট হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ১০ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;
- ৬। দেওয়ানী আদালতে মামলা পরিচালনার জন্য দেওয়ানী আদালতে আডভোকেট হিসেবে কমপক্ষে ৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;
- ৭। আবেদনের সাথে মামলার ধরণ অনুযায়ী পরিচালনা ব্যয়ের বিস্তারিত বিবরণ উল্লেখ করতে হবে। এক্ষেত্রে সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত হারে আইনজীবীগণকে ফি পরিশোধ করা হবে এবং সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধি-বিধান প্রযোজ্য হবে ও সরকারের সিদ্ধান্ত চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে;
- ৮। অন্য কোন প্রতিষ্ঠানে আইনজীবী হিসেবে নিয়োজিত থাকলে তা উল্লেখ করতে হবে;
- ৯। আবেদনকারীর বয়স ৬০ বছরের অধিক হতে পারবে না;
- ১০। অবসরপ্রাপ্ত জেলা জজ/বিচারকগণও আবেদন করতে পারবেন;
- ১১। আইনজীবী নিয়োগের মেয়াদ ২ বছর হবে;
- ১২। কোন আইনজীবীর অব্যাহতি গ্রহণ করতে চাইলে ৩০ দিন পূর্বে নোটিশ প্রদান করতে হবে এবং অর্থ বিভাগ ৩০ দিন পূর্বে নোটিশ প্রদানের মাধ্যমে প্যানেলভুক্ত কোন আইনজীবীকে অব্যাহতি প্রদান করতে পারবে।
- ১৩। বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ২১ দিনের মধ্যে উপ-সচিব (প্রশাসন), অর্থ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা (সদস্য সচিব, আইনজীবী প্যানেল নিয়োগ কমিটি) বরাবর আবেদনপত্র পৌঁছাতে হবে;
- ১৪। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন আবেদন অথবা সকল আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে। প্যানেল আইনজীবী তালিকাভুক্তির বিষয়ে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত বলে গণ্য হবে। এ ক্ষেত্রে কোন ধরনের তদবীর প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।

ড. মোঃ নজরুল ইসলাম
উপসচিব (প্রশাসন)
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সদস্য-সচিব
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জিডি-১০৫৯