



Police officers escort Falun Gong members as they march through Hong Kong yesterday. While mainland members of the sect were arrested for demonstrating in Beijing the same day, Falun Gong is legal in Hong Kong under the "one country, two systems" policy. — AFP photo

Position Vacancy Announcement

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID/Bangladesh) invites applications from Bangladeshis for the senior program manager position for the South Asian Regional Initiative/Energy (SARI/E) sector program. The work environment is challenging, results-oriented, and team-based. The selected individual will be involved in program strategy and project development and implementation for the regional energy sector program and, to a lesser extent, the bilateral energy sector program and will have representation responsibilities. The incumbent will be based in Dhaka and will work with the USAID mission energy team and SARI/E team members in the SA Region. S/he will assist in formulating mission strategies to analyze program needs, including goals, sub-goals, objectives and activities required to accomplish results to improve performance of the energy sector. This senior-level position requires strong management and leadership qualities, excellent interpersonal and communication skills, and proven ability to work with teams, NGOs, donor agencies and Bangladesh government officials.

Qualifications: The program manager must have a Masters or higher degree in any relevant energy-related discipline, management or social science fields with understanding of energy policy and programs, energy-related trade and environmental issues. Minimum of 8-10 years of work experience in institutions in the energy sector or related field is required. Must have proven track record of professional involvement and achievements in broad energy sector activities. Must have an excellent command of English and be able to communicate ideas well in writing and speaking. S/he must be able to conduct extensive field visits within and outside the country and work under difficult, varied, and complex situations. Solid computer literacy on word-processing, spreadsheet and data management software is required.

Length of Contract: The program manager will be hired initially for two years on a personal services contract, but may be extended depending on performance and the availability of funds for the regional energy sector program.

Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Only short-listed candidates will be called for interviews.

Interested applicants should submit a detailed resume including their work experience, education, skills, and persons who can be contacted for references to the Personnel Officer, GPO Box No. 2593, Ramna, Dhaka-1000 no later than May 29, 2000.

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Fighting near Jaffna leaves 104 dead

COLOMBO, May 11: Sri Lankan air force jets pounded Tamil rebel positions near the town of Jaffna after ferocious overnight battles left 104 combatants dead, the government said today, reports AFP.

Israeli-built Kfir jets were bombing bunkers of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) at Ariyalai, Thanankilappu and Pooneryn from dawn today, the government said in a statement.

The pilots confirm that the terrorists' bunker line at Ariyalai was completely destroyed, the statement said. Ariyalai is located just five kilometres away from the strategically important town of Jaffna.

As heavy fighting raged in the north of the country, the Sri Lankan parliament debated new measures to raise taxes to pay for the additional weapons and ammunition required by the security forces.

Junior finance Minister G. L. Peiris told parliament the 5.5 per cent National Security Levy was being raised to 6.5 per cent and he hoped to raise an additional 2,500 million rupees (33 million dollars) from the measure.

The government was also raising money from the debt market by issuing 10,000 million rupees (135 million dollars) in treasury bills.

In the Jaffna peninsula, the government said the guerillas were making a "desperate attempt to advance further, but the troops were determined and all such attempts have been repulsed."

The government said two army officers and 31 soldiers were killed in two confrontations at Ariyalai and Thanankilappu and placed rebel losses at 71 Tigers killed in three separate clashes since Wednesday.

Security forces were preventing the LTTE from bringing reinforcements across the Jaffna lagoon and were engaging small groups of rebels who had infiltrated the peninsula, the statement said.

The government also denied claims by the LTTE they had captured a section of the Navatkuli bridge, just three kilometres away from Jaffna.

Troops in strength continue to hold the bridge at Navatkuli, the government said in a statement late Wednesday.

"So far troops have repulsed many attempts of the terrorists to get closer to the bridge."

Military sources said a curfew had been imposed in the region where Tamil Tiger rebels breached several army defence lines in heavy fighting which erupted early Wednesday.

Hundreds of soldiers had been deployed to beat back the groups of rebels who infiltrated the Ariyalai area, the government said.

India's population hits 1 billion

NEW DELHI, May 11: India today officially joined China in the one-billion-plus population club but experts said there was little cause for cheer, pointing to depleting natural resources and rampant poverty, illiteracy and unemployment, reports AFP.

The national census commission's population clock, which runs on predictions from the 1991 census, clicked over one-billion at 12:32 pm (1302 BST).

United Nations experts say the milestone was actually reached months ago.

The Indian media reflected a national mood of mixed emotions.

"A moment of embarrassment seldom comes hand in hand with a moment of pride. It has happened and embarrassment has won," The Telegraph newspaper said.

Recalling India's nuclear tests staged on this day exactly

two years ago, it said Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's government "will find it difficult to celebrate the second anniversary of the blasts ... because of another explosion."

The Indian Express ran a front-page story headlined: "We're one billion, will somebody please congratulate us." The private Star television network said: "In this case being a billionaire is no cause for celebration."

The state-run telecom provider in New Delhi had been running a warning since early Thursday.

"Our population is now 100 crore (one billion). Let's have small families for a stronger India," the pre-recorded message said.

India's best-known demographer Ashish Bose said: "Crossing the one-billion mark is a non-event. It is a matter of demographic momentum, an inevitable consequence of population growth."

Bose said a new population policy failed to tackle burgeoning growth in four northern Indian states -- Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh -- collectively referred to by the acronym Bimaru, or Hindi for "ailing."

"Except for saying that a technology mission will be set up to deal with the worst-performing states, the new policy says little on the Bimaru states which form 40 per cent of the population and will soon reach 50 per cent," Bose said.

India's family welfare secretary A.R. Nanda echoed him. "It is time for reflection. The situation is grim but if we behave responsibly we can overcome. But if we delay, things can go beyond control," he said.

Anjali Nayar of the Population Council research group said the current literacy rate of about 64 per cent was going to pose an even more bigger problem in years to come.

16 Russian troops killed in Chechen attack

MOSCOW, May 11: The Kremlin confirmed 16 government troops had died in a rebel attack in the neighbouring Russian republic of Ingushetia today, Interfax reported, says AFP.

The attack -- the first fatalities in a rebel attack in Ingushetia -- took place around midday (1400 BST) near the villages of Alkhaist and Galashki, officials said.

Until now the rebels have limited their actions in Ingushetia to firing shots at Russian command posts which resulted in no victims.

The attack underlined the vulnerability of Russian forces to guerrilla strikes behind Russian lines.

Arms warehouse explodes in El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, May 11: A Salvadoran arms warehouse exploded in the north of the capital, setting several nearby houses on fire and spewing at least a thousand unexploded grenades into residential neighbourhoods. Dozens were injured, reports AP.

The explosion happened Wednesday night at an army weapons storage warehouse, Defence Ministry spokesman Colonel Roberto Alas said.

Rescue workers began evacuating 500 people from nearby neighbourhoods where Alas said at least 1,000 unexploded grenades had landed during the explosion.

At least 50 military explosives specialists were sent to the area to recover the grenades. Officials could not immediately identify the cause of the explosion, which destroyed vehicles, shattered windows and damaged several houses.

Philippine rebels flee with hostages

JOLO, Philippines, May 11: Muslim extremists today aborted a meeting with Philippine negotiators and fled with their 21 hostages, apparently fearing an attack by the army, a senior aide to President Joseph Estrada said, reports AFP.

The negotiators had been unable to re-establish contact with the Abu Sayyaf kidnappers following a redeployment of troops surrounding their hideout, presidential adviser Roberto Avenajado said.

"It's the wrong signal given by the army," he told reporters. The army "cannot play games with us," he said, referring to repeated warnings by negotiators that a stepped up military presence would interfere with efforts to free the hostages.

But Avenajado described the communication breakdown

as a "temporary setback" to efforts to win the freedom of ailing German teacher Renate Wallert and the 20 other mostly foreign captives.

The separatist rebels had pledged during their first meeting with the negotiators on this southern island on Wednesday that they would respond within 24 hours to a request to release 57-year-old Wallert who suffers from high blood pressure and requires urgent medical treatment.

The Abu Sayyaf rebels are also holding Wallert's husband and son, as well as nationals from France, Finland, South Africa, Lebanon, the Philippines and Malaysia. They were snatched from a Malaysian resort on April 23 and taken to Jolo island in the southern Philippines.

US forest fires force 11,000 to flee

LOS ANGELES, May 11: Days of raging forest fires at Los Alamos, New Mexico, have forced 11,000 people to flee their homes and hundreds of firefighters are evacuating the Los Alamos nuclear laboratory, the Fire Department said, reports AFP.

"Houses and buildings at the extreme west of the town are starting to go on fire," Los Alamos Fire Department spokesman Jim Danneskiold said late Wednesday.

"The situation is definitely getting worse because of high winds and dry air," he said, adding that the Los Alamos National Laboratory, which was evacuated Monday, was not at risk.

"Explosives (at the facility)

are about three to four miles from the fire," Danneskiold said.

"Nuclear materials are stored in concrete bunkers at the plutonium facility. They have been built to withstand all kind of potential destruction, including a plane crash, bombings and, of course, a fire," he added.

The fires have destroyed more than 1,600 hectares of woodland in the northern part of the state, the spokesman said.

Some 700 firefighters on the ground, helicopters and special aeroplanes were battling the blazes that since Friday have been spreading, fuelled by a local drought and 60 kilometre-per-hour winds.



Sierra Leoneans head toward the capital city on Wednesday. Thousands of civilians try to reach Freetown, fearing an attack by the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) in the rural areas. The United Nations said that it was preparing for "pitched battle" to defend the capital of Freetown. — AFP photo

UN prepares for rebel attack in Sierra Leone

FREETOWN, May 11: The United Nations said it was preparing for a "pitched battle" to defend Freetown Wednesday as more civilians thronged into Sierra Leone's capital from rural areas in fear of rebel attacks, reports AFP.

For the third day running, people fearing a return to civil war fled to the capital, the fortunate among them piled into vehicles, the rest on foot.

The spokesman for UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Fred Eckhard, said in New York there were reports that the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) was "on the move" and that UN agencies were carrying out "an emergency mission" to assess the numbers of civilians fleeing towards Freetown.

"We hope it does not come to a pitched battle but in effect we are preparing for one," he said.

Diplomats in New York said that for the first time since the crisis began 10 days ago, they discussed the possibility of hardening the mandate of the UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) from peacekeeping to peace enforcement.

UNAMSIL is in deep trouble, having lost up to 500 men or the equivalent of an entire battalion as hostages to the RUF.

Nevertheless, Annan told reporters, "if the RUF is indeed moving towards Freetown, they will be checked."

Meanwhile UNAMSIL said the British evacuation force, which has evacuated around 300 foreigners since Monday, is

set to change its role in Sierra Leone.

"British troops will be providing logistical support in the Freetown area," said UNAMSIL spokesman Tony Cramp, adding: "You can't confine yourself to manning the barricades."

The international force's state of readiness in the face of brewing conflict was confirmed by Bernard Miyet, the UN head of peace-keeping operations, at the end of his 48-hour visit to Freetown.

"I didn't come here to close down this mission. I came here to see how we can preserve the peace for the sake of this population," he declared.



WORLD BANK VACANCY

(Women are particularly encouraged to apply)

Position: Receptionist

Background: World Bank Office, Dhaka is seeking applications from qualified, bright and young candidates for the position of a Receptionist.

Responsibilities:

- Attending visitors and directing them to the appropriate staff
- Attending external queries and receiving correspondence, documents at the reception desk and delivering/forwarding them to the appropriate staff members, mailroom or other destination
- Maintaining visitor's log book
- Maintaining up-to-date database of Emergency Contact numbers
- Telephone Switch Board operations
- Assisting staff to place outside calls (including overseas)

Minimum Requirements:

- High school diploma (HSC, GCE or 'O' level)
- Minimum two to four years of relevant experience in an international organisation
- Proficiency in Bangla and English is compulsory
- Good interpersonal and communication skills

Attractive remuneration will be offered to the deserving candidate. Interested may apply to the Human Resources Officer, World Bank Office, 3A, Paribagh, Dhaka-1000, by May 25, 2000, with a copy of their detailed resume.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview.

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BAF SHAHEEN ENGLISH MEDIUM SCHOOL

Tejgaon, Dhaka - 1206.

(BAF Shaheen College Complex)

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Applications are invited from Bangladeshi Nationals for recruitment to the following posts:

1. Asstt. Teacher (English - 01) (Full-time):

Hons & Masters Degree in English. Teaching experience in English Medium Schools and fluency in English is a must. Salary Tk. 10,000.00 approx (Incl all)

2. Physical Education Teacher:

Bachelor Degree in Physical Education with teaching experience preferably in English Medium Schools. Salary Tk. 6,250.00 approx (Incl all).

3. Office Super:

BA/B.Com. with 2nd division / class in all exams and experience in handling official works. Salary Tk. 4,230.00 approx (Incl all).

Higher salary may be offered to the experienced candidates.

4. Candidates should submit their applications addressed to the Secretary of BAF Shaheen English Medium School by 20 May 2000 along with complete Bio-data, two passport size photographs, attested copies of all certificates, Bank draft / pay order of Tk. 100.00 (non refundable) from a branch of Agrani Bank in favour of the school.

5. Candidates are to report at 0930 hrs on 27 May 2000 for written test. No TA/DA will be admissible for the selection purpose.

SYEDA NASRIN AKHTER

PRINCIPAL

ADMISSION

Darul Ihsan University

(Govt. Approved: 1993)

ABODE OF EXCELLENCE

INSTITUTE OF BUSINESS STUDIES

Applications are invited from candidates for admission to the following programs:

PROGRAM	DURATION	ELIGIBILITY	TOTAL FEES
B.Sc.(Eng.) in Computer Science and Engineering	48 months	At least 2nd Division at S.S.C. & H.S.C levels or equivalent exams (with Physics and Mathematics)	Tk.2,28,500/-
B.B.A.	48 months	At least 2nd Division at S.S.C. & H.S.C levels or equivalent exams.	Tk.1,96,500/-
M.B.A.	16-36 months (Depending upon the student's background)	Bachelor / Master degree (having seven points) in any discipline	Tk.75,600/- to Tk.1,64,000/-

Unique Features:

- Credit Transfer Option and other academic collaborations with Tennessee State University of U.S.A.
- Taught by reputed faculty from home and abroad.
- Modernized computer Lab, Rich Library and all other support services.
- M.B.A. Class hours suitable for working persons.
- Free medical service for all students.

Last date for application:

B.Sc. (Eng.): May 30, 2000.

B.B.A. & M.B.A.: June 06, 2000.

Admission Test:

B.Sc. (Eng.): June 02, 2000, at 10 A.M.

B.B.A. & M.B.A.: July 07, 2000, at 10 A.M.

Institute of Business Studies
House No.: 9/B, Road No.: 2, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205.
Tel: 9668853, Fax: 880-2-8114746, E-mail: ibs@ibsdmail.net.

2 computer students wrote

'Love Bug' program?

MANILA, May 11: Two computer students whose programmes may have created the "Love Bug" virus were close friends, with one acknowledging the other in his thesis, a school official said today as investigators scrambled to find the origins of the global e-mail menace, reports AP.

Investigators say they want to question the pair, Onel A. De Guzman and Michael Buen, who have been missing since their computer programmes became a focus of the search for the origin of the "ILOVEYOU" virus.

Buen, who graduated May 5 from AMA Computer College in metropolitan Manila, completed his studies with a thesis that acknowledged De Guzman. De Guzman's thesis project, designed to steal passwords from other computer users, was rejected as a form of high-tech theft, so he did not graduate.

A copy of Buen's thesis was obtained Thursday by The Associated Press from a school official.

The virus broke out one day before the college held its graduation ceremony, snarling e-mail traffic in major government and corporate computer systems in more than 20 countries.

The students, both age 23, are members of GRAMMERSoft, an underground computer group that wrote and sold thesis projects to other students. The name GRAMMERSoft reportedly appears in the computer code in the Love Bug virus.

As agents for the Philippine National Bureau of Investigation and the US FBI scoured seized computer files for clues about the virus, the speaker of the Philippine House of Representatives called the case an example of misguided genius.

Manuel Villar Jr. said the authors of the virus should have worked equally hard on a legitimate programme so they could "get rich and bring recognition to our country." The Philippine Star reported.