



French soldiers from 43rd Infantry marine battalion (BIMA) evacuate a boy from the Sofitel hotel in Abidjan yesterday. European nations led by France were 11 November evacuating their nationals from Ivory Coast, where an explosion of anti-French violence has made even longtime residents rush to pack their bags.

Foreigners fleeing Ivory Coast chaos

UN postpones sanctions vote

AP, AFP, REUTERS, Abidjan

Western nations launched one of the largest evacuations of Africa's post-independence era Wednesday as foreigners fled chaos in this former French colony. Peacekeeping soldiers in boats plucked trapped expatriates from the banks of lagoons.

France commandeered commercial airliners and other nations scrambled military jets to fly out thousands of foreigners after attacks on civilians and peacekeepers. Violence erupted after government forces renewed attacks on rebels, ending a more than one-year ceasefire in the country's civil war.

Some 843 French nationals were flown to Paris from Abidjan, the main city in the world's top cocoa grower, after supporters of President Laurent Gbagbo chased the expatriates from their homes.

"I don't have a job any more or a house... They took the bath, the furniture and electrical wires, everything," said Bruno Regis, at the

airport with his wife and three children.

More than 2,200 French and other foreign nationals have been sheltering in French and UN bases in Abidjan after crowd violence exploded on Saturday.

Angry mobs went on the rampage after the French army wiped out most of the West African nation's small fleet of military aircraft in retaliation for the bombing of a French base.

Sixty-four people were killed and more than 1,000 wounded in several days of anti-French mob violence that swept through the main Ivory Coast city Abidjan, an adviser to the president said Wednesday.

"This toll, which is not definitive, represents the sum of the information collected from emergency organisations," Alain Toussaint told AFP.

The UN Security Council put off a vote on possible sanctions against Ivory Coast until Monday, after African nations asked to give mediators more time to resolve the coun-

try's political crisis.

The council had been set to adopt a resolution Wednesday giving the divided nation's government and rebels 30 days to implement a stalled peace accord or face an arms embargo and other measures.

Nine French peacekeepers and an American civilian died in a government air attack late last week, prompting the French to destroy Ivory Coast's tiny air force.

The retaliation sparked violence by loyalist youths, who took to the streets waving machetes, iron bars and clubs and attacking white expatriates.

On Wednesday, the US Embassy and others sent escorts into the city, rescuing Americans, Canadians, Spaniards and others. Spain, Belgium and Italy sent military cargo planes to aid in the evacuations. French officials said three jets with space for about 250 people each would run shuttles to Paris and to Dakar, Senegal, likely for days.

US lowers terror threat level for financial centres

REUTERS, Washington

The US government has lowered the terror threat level for the financial services sector in New York City, northern New Jersey and Washington, the Department of Homeland Security said on Wednesday.

Homeland Security Deputy Secretary James Loy denied that the lowering of the threat level after about three months was politically related as the elections are over. "We don't do politics here at the department," he told reporters.

Asked why the threat level had not been lowered earlier, Loy replied, "The answer there is just prudence."

The color-coded barometer was lowered to yellow, the mid-point on the five-level scale, which signifies an "elevated" risk of attack. It had been raised on Aug. 1 to orange, which represents a "high" risk of attack, for the financial services sector in those three locations.

The increase was prompted by intelligence that al-Qaeda had targeted and conducted surveillance at specific buildings, including the International Monetary Fund and World Bank in Washington, Prudential Financial in

northern New Jersey and the Citigroup buildings and the New York Stock Exchange.

It was the first time the threat level had been raised for a specific region and sector. The rest of the country remained at yellow.

Officials said a key factor in lowering the threat level was that property owners as well as state and local officials strengthened security. They tightened security at the affected buildings, improved screening, increased perimeter protection and introduced security buffer zones, they said.

Loy said there was no evidence that al-Qaeda had gone beyond conducting surveillance to actually try to carry out an attack.

Officials have been warning since May about the possibility of a major al-Qaeda attack, especially one to try to disrupt or influence the presidential election. No such attack has materialised.

However, Loy urged continued vigilance, at least through President Bush's inauguration in January. He said there is a still a threat that al-Qaeda might attempt a large-scale attack in the United States. "We are as concerned today as we were a month ago," he said.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

A national leading NGO in the field of HIV/AIDS seeks application from suitable candidates for the following positions for its "Provision of HIV/AIDS Orientation, Training and Services to Adolescents via Life Skills Education and Youth Friendly Health Services". This is a 16 (sixteen) months project of Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) aims to prevent HIV/AIDS among Youths and Adolescents in Bangladesh.

1. Team Leader (1 post)

Main Tasks and Responsibilities: The Team Leader will co-ordinate and supervise the project activities and His/Her tasks will include overall planning, implementing, reporting and providing technical support to the above mentioned project; rationalizing project structures and human resources depending on the assistance delivered; networking with and sensitizing government administration, NGOs, civil society associations and donors on the project purpose, on the role of HASAB and on the concept of life skills education and youth-friendly health services, social marketing strategy development for accessing condoms to youths and in its different components and actors; co-ordinating the staff, both external (permanent and consultant) and local; and writing technical reports.

Qualifications & experiences: Masters in any discipline preferably social science and public health. Degree in Medicine will be an added advantage. Sound experience in project management with Health and Development Sectors (at least ten years) including HIV/AIDS field, relevant supervisory skills and guidance capacities in the implementation and management of health and HIV/AIDS program, ability to manage culturally sensitive issues and work in pressure situation, good computer skill at least in the MS office, and excellent verbal and written skills in English.

Remuneration : A consolidated amount of Taka 50,000 per month and other facilities as per HASAB policies and procedures.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (1 post) :

Main Tasks and Responsibilities include defining Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project; facilitating project progress tracking and action; conducting needs assessment survey, evaluation study and action and operations research; undertaking process documentation of the project; and writing monitoring and other reports.

Qualifications & experiences: Masters in public health/statistics. Degree in medicine will be an added advantage. Five years experience in project monitoring and evaluation, especially in development sectors including HIV/AIDS. Skilled in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies; ability to manage culturally sensitive issues and work in pressure situation; computer skill specially in statistical software (SPSS, EPI-INFO); demonstrated skill in documentation; and excellent verbal and written skills in English.

3. Program and Technical Specialist (Condom promotion among young people)-1 post

Main Tasks and Responsibilities include assessing young people access to condoms through KAB survey; developing and implementing social marketing and pricing strategies for condom promotion among young people in collaboration with local NGOs and CBOs working with vulnerable groups; developing relevant messages and BCC materials for condom promotion specially targeted for young people; sensitizing parents, teachers, community leaders, local authorities and civil society associations on the project purpose; and writing project reports.

Qualifications & experiences: MBA or Masters in Marketing or MPH. Three years experience in social marketing, skilled in qualitative and quantitative research methodologies, ability to manage culturally sensitive issues and work in pressure situation, computer skill, excellent verbal and written skills in English, and demonstrated skill in documentation.

4. Program and Technical Specialist (Youth friendly Health Services)-1 post

Main Tasks and Responsibilities: Actively involved in the process of adopting and developing youth friendly health service modules. Responsible for timely implementation of all the activities which include planning and organizing national and divisional level meetings & workshops for health officials, religious and community leaders, professionals and parents to promote youth friendly health services, developing and printing material for and workshops along with preparing reports and media coverage of the activities.

Qualification & experiences : MBBS/Masters preferably with MPH degree, 3-5 years experiences in reproductive and sexual health and in organizing & facilitating national and divisional level workshops, advocacy skills, ability to manage culturally sensitive issues & work in pressure situation, good computer skill at least in the MS office, excellent verbal and written skills in English and report writing skills.

5. Program and Technical Specialist (Life Skills) - 1 post

Main Tasks and Responsibilities: In-charge of all activities belonging to the assignments of life skills training for youths and adolescents. Responsibilities include program planning, designing, organizing & implementing through monitoring & supervision; developing & revising Life Skills training manual, module, and curriculum, and assessment of training needs, organizing Life Skill training courses (basic & refreshers), & follow-up.

Qualification required: Masters in Social Science preferably with post graduation in related subjects, have training on training of trainers and life skills training; 3 years experiences in developing training modules, materials, and curriculum, and organizing training courses including life skills training, ability to manage culturally sensitive issues & work in pressure situation, good computer skill at least in the MS office, excellent verbal and written skills in English and report writing skills.

Remuneration for the position of Serial no. 2,3,4 & 5 : A consolidated amount of Taka 35,000 per month and other facilities as per HASAB policies and procedures.

6. Accounts & Administrative Officer (1- post)

Main Tasks and Responsibilities: The successful candidate will be responsible for grant management, day to day financial transaction and maintenance of financial books and records as well as provide administrative support to the project.

Qualification and experiences: Masters Degree in Commerce with CA Course completion. At least 3 years working knowledge of administrative and financial management. Familiarity with the use of computer including MS Office applications. Highly IT skilled personnel will be preferred.

Remuneration : A consolidated amount of Taka 15,000 per month and other facilities as per HASAB policies and procedures.

7. Programme Assistant (1)

Required qualification: Masters in English / MBA with relevant working experiences, familiarity with national and international donor regulations and reporting requirements, prior experiences working with NGOs, ability to initiate and implement activities with minimal supervision and to manage multiple tasks simultaneously, ability to meet deadlines where necessary and do work under pressure, ability to work in a team situation and to develop and maintain good working relationships among project staffs, proven critical thinking and analytical skills, knowledge of computer processing including MS Office (Win Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, outlook), Sensitivity to cultural differences and understanding of the political and ethical issues surrounding HIV/AIDS.

Remuneration : A consolidated amount of Taka 14,000 per month and other facilities as per HASAB policies and procedures.

The applicants are requested to submit their applications with full Curriculum Vitae (CV) mentioning the contact telephone number and a copy of recent passport size photo to - **Box. No. A-223, C/o, The Daily Star.** Only short listed candidates will be communicated immediately for test/interview.

Qualified women and people with HIV are especially encouraged to apply.

'N Korea rules out early return to nuke talks'

AFP, Tokyo

North Korea has ruled out another round six-nation talks on its nuclear program before the end of the year, Japan's top government spokesman said.

North Korean officials made the comment during talks in Pyongyang with their Japanese counterparts, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said.

The North Koreans, led by Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-Gwan, said "the environment is not conducive for an early resumption of the six-nation consultations", Hosoda said.

North Korea reneged on an agreement to show up at six-nation negotiations scheduled for September, following three inconclusive earlier rounds. It was widely seen to be waiting for the outcome

of the US presidential election.

The latest message was conveyed as Japan and North Korea held talks in Pyongyang over the North's nuclear program and Japanese nationals kidnapped by agents from Pyongyang during the Cold War years.

The comment was in response to a request from Japan's chief delegate Mitoji Yabunaka for North Korea to agree to a new round of six-nation talks by the end of the year.

North Korean officials did not offer a reason for snubbing the multilateral forum, which also includes the two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the United States, he said.

The officials however acknowledged the six-way conference was committed to a "peaceful solution" of the nuclear stand-off, Hosoda said.

'Other Fallujahs may be in making around Iraq'

AFP, Near Fallujah

Arab fighters led by al-Qaeda frontman in Iraq Abu Musab al-Zarqawi may be already regrouping for other Fallujahs, even as the US war machine unleashes its might on the rebel city, strategists warn.

Both US and Iraqi commanders have expressed astonishment at the weak level of resistance they have encountered in Fallujah, which analysts say proves that many fighters have bolted out already to lick their wounds and fight another day, leaving the defense of the city to home-grown rebels.

"Some of the fighters may have swam across the river and melted away into the hinterlands," says Major General Abdul Qader Mohan, Iraqi commander for Operation Dawn in Fallujah. "They saw this (assault) coming."

But the commander, speaking in a military planning room on the

fringes of Fallujah, was quick to add that some Arab fighters were arrested in the assault on the rebel city, west of Baghdad, and that figures would be provided at a later stage.

As Prime Minister Iyad Allawi gave the go-ahead for the operation on Monday he spoke about four Arabs including two Moroccans -- natives of Marrakech -- who were caught during a raid on the city's main hospital that day.

General Mohan said troops entered homes in the northern sector of Fallujah, which is now under the control of US and Iraqi forces, that were being used by "Arab immigrants."

He said they found stacks of weapons, meticulous records of hostages captured and later beheaded by Zarqawi's group and others, names of fighters killed in US air strikes on the city and outfits and props used by kidnappers to prepare video footage aired on Arab channels.



PHOTO: AFP

Indonesian cleric, Abu Bakar Bashir, being charged with leading the al-Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiyah network, waves to journalist as he leaves the court in Jakarta yesterday. An Indonesian court rejected to grant bail for hardline Muslim cleric Abu Bakar to celebrate the Muslim holiday Eid-ul-Fitr outside his prison cell.

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SERVICE ENGINEER (AC & REF)

The ideal candidate should be a graduate in Mechanical engineering with at least 3 years experience or diploma engineer with at least 7 years experience in installation, repairing and maintenance works of all kinds of window/ split air-conditioner and refrigerator and household appliances. The age should not be over 30. The selected candidate should be ready to be posted at Chittagong, Khulna and Bogra and must be ready for extensive tour to all over the country.

SERVICE TECHNICIAN (AC & REF)

SSC/ HSC, Trade course or equivalent and should have at least 5 years practical experience in repairing of Refrigerator, air-conditioner and installation of window and split air-conditioner independently.

SERVICE TECHNICIAN (AV)

SSC/ HSC, Trade course or equivalent and should have at least 5 years practical experience in repairing of CTV, CD, VCD, DVD, etc. independently.

The candidate should write down on the envelope "the name of the post" applied for, clearly. Interested persons may send applications (hand written) along with CV. Recently taken passport size photo 2 (two) nos. & copies of educational certificates on or before **22 November 2004 to:**

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