

Lebanon troops
fire on Israeli
warplanes

AP, Beirut

Lebanese troops opened fire yesterday on Israeli warplanes flying low over southern Lebanon but no hits were reported, Lebanese officials said.

Israeli warplanes frequently fly over Lebanese airspace in what Israel says are reconnaissance missions, but this was the first time the army has on the aircraft since an Aug. 14, 2006 cease-fire ended a monthlong war between Israeli and Hezbollah guerrillas.

Lebanese soldiers opened up with machine guns and light anti-aircraft weapons mounted on armored vehicles at two planes that flew by just east of Marjayoun town near the border at midmorning, a Lebanese security official said. A total of 150 rounds were fired, he added.

US slaps sanctions on Iran military, banks

AFP, Washington

The United States yesterday slapped tough sanctions on Iran's military and three state-owned banks, ratcheting up tensions over its nuclear drive and seeking to choke off funds to Tehran.

"These actions will help to protect the international financial system from the illicit activities of the Iranian government," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters.

"They will provide a powerful deterrent to every international bank and company that thinks of doing business with the Iranian government."

The sanctions target Iran's elite Quds Force, accused by the US of being a supporter of terrorism, as well as the country's Revolutionary Guards, said to be a proliferator of weapons of mass destruction.

Some 22 Iranian government agencies, three state-owned banks and individuals are also being blacklisted as the United States steps up a drive to squeeze Iran out of the international banking system.

The move is the latest by the US administration to step up pressure on Iran, which it accuses of fomenting global terrorism, supporting insurgents in Iraq and working to develop an atomic bomb.

Rice, who on Wednesday said that Iran and its suspect nuclear programme posed the single greatest challenge to US security, reiterated the United States was committed to resolving the crisis through diplomatic means.

She warned: "If they choose to continue down a path of confrontation, the US will act with the international community to resist these threats of the Iranian regime."

There was no immediate reaction from the Iranian foreign ministry, but a leading Iranian MP immediately dismissed the new sanctions as a "strategic mistake."

"If all goes well, hopefully, we will meet in Annapolis," he said. "But Annapolis is not made to be the event for the declaration of peace."

Olmert dampens expectations of Abbas meeting

AP, Jerusalem

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Thursday played down expectations for an upcoming US-sponsored peace summit, saying the gathering would not produce a binding peace agreement with the Palestinians and might not even take place.

Speaking to a group of Jewish fundraisers, Olmert said he is committed to making the conference a success and said he would meet Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Friday to review preparations. The summit is expected to take place later this year in Annapolis, Md.

"If all goes well, hopefully, we will meet in Annapolis," he said. "But Annapolis is not made to be the event for the declaration of peace."



Over 755,000 on US terrorist watch list

AFP, Washington

The US terrorist watch list includes more than 755,000 names and continues to grow, the US Government Accountability Office said Wednesday.

The list exploded from fewer than 20 entries before the September 11, 2001 attacks to more than 150,000 just a few months later, after the Terrorist Screening Centre (TSC) was created in December 2003 to keep tabs on terrorist suspects, according to the GAO, the non-partisan investigative arm of Congress.

Including known pseudonyms of suspects, the list's 755,000 names as of May 2007 represents, in fact, around 300,000 people, according to TSC estimates.

Tsked with gathering data on individuals "known or appropriately suspected to be or have been engaged in conduct constituting, in preparation for, in aid of or related to terrorism," the TSC gets its information from Federal Bureau of Investigation intelligence and passes it on chiefly to immigration authorities.

Since 2003, the list has been used around 53,000 times to single out individuals for possible arrest or to prevent them from entering the country, the GAO said.

A US forest firefighter cools a burning modular home to protect a nearby structure in Deerhorn Valley as the Harris Fire continues on Wednesday near Jamul, California.

PHOTO: AFP
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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

We are a large, well-reputed healthcare company working in Bangladesh for the last thirty-two years. We would like to recruit the following professionals for our Health Providers' Training Program.

PROGRAM EXECUTIVE

Based station of this position is Dhaka/Khulna/Comilla/Bogra. The incumbent will work as a team leader of our training team. He will be responsible for coordinating and implementing field level health providers' training program leading to sustainable over the counter quality of information and counseling service among the health service providers, with a view to increase better informed end users of our products and services thereby increasing sales.

Qualification and Experience:

- Medical Graduate (MBBS)
- Minimum one-year experience in community oriented training program related to population and health is preferred
- Good communication skills in English and Bangla (both written and verbal)
- The position requires extensive travel throughout Bangladesh. The incumbent has to stay more than 20 days per month in different districts and thana level
- Knowledge in MS Word, Excel and Power Point is required
- Preferred age is below 35 years

PROGRAM OFFICER

Based station of this position is Comilla. The incumbent will be responsible to accomplish health educational and motivational activities focused at all levels of health providers (pharmacist and non-graduate doctors).

Qualification and Experience:

- Masters degree in Biological or Social Science
- Minimum one-year experience in field level community activity related to public health or teaching is preferred
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Good communication skills in Bangla (both written and verbal)
- The position requires extensive travel throughout Bangladesh. The incumbent has to stay more than 20 days per month in different districts and thana level so ability to stay under hard conditions for long time is needed
- Knowledge in MS Word and Excel is required
- Preferred age group is 26 - 35 years

Attractive compensation package will be offered to the really deserving candidate.

Prospective candidates may apply in strict confidence with detailed CV and two copies of recent passport size color photographs by November 9, 2007 to the "The Advertiser" c/o, The Daily Star, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka, Box No. A-152.

Please mark the position applied for on the top of the envelope.

* We are an equal opportunity employer.

DAI, a global international development consulting firm with experience in 150 countries, is implementing a USAID-funded governance program in Dhaka. DAI invites qualified candidates to apply for the following four positions:

(1) PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ADVISOR

Responsibilities:

- Work with Comptroller and Auditor General, the Bangladesh Election Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission and other public institutions to improve organizational structures and systems to improve transparency in financial management systems and audits
- Build capacity within public institutions in areas of policy formulation and implementation, and public communications
- Develop and conduct specialized training courses for local leaders to strengthen oversight of administrative practices.

Required Qualifications:

- University degree required, advanced degree preferred in finance or public administration
- At least 10 years' experience working on government audit and control mechanisms and financial management experience and proven
- Experience working with Ministry and local government officials
- Experience training
- Proficiency in English and Bangla required
- Experience working for donor-funded projects required; USAID experience strongly preferred.

(2) PARLIAMENTARY ADVISOR

Responsibilities:

- Support the establishment of a Parliamentary Budget Analysis Unit;
- Develop and conduct a specialized budget training courses for members and staff of parliament;
- Provide specialized budget analysis support to Parliamentary Committees; and
- Strengthen knowledge of and relationships between Parliament and other oversight institutions;

Required Qualifications:

- University degree required, Advanced degree preferred in political science, business or finance;
- At least 3 years experience working with the Government of Bangladesh budget;
- 8 years of experience with fiscal analysis and auditing is preferred;
- Experience developing and conducting training courses;
- Proven experience working with senior officials; and
- Experience working for donor-funded projects required; USAID experience strongly preferred.

(3) GRANTS PROGRAM SPECIALISTS (2 POSITIONS)

Responsibilities:

- Support Grants Manager in preparation of grant calls for proposals
- Participate in the proposal review process
- Draft grant agreements
- Monitor grants progress, including financial reviews

Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in business, social science, or a related field
- 5 years experience in grants management with USAID or other international organizations
- Fluency in English and Bengali

(4) MONITORING AND EVALUATION SPECIALIST

Responsibilities:

- Develop a list of indicators that will help measure the overall project progress
- Analyze baseline and monitoring data to determine where further assessments may be needed
- Design and coordinate data collection, analyze the results, and draft reports of findings
- Oversee data collection and manage system to store and analyze data.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in business, social sciences or a related field
- At least 5 years experience working for donor-funded projects required; USAID experience strongly preferred
- Significant experience in the collection, analysis and presentation of data
- Fluency in English and Bengali.

Applications:

Interested and qualified candidates should submit a cover letter, CV and three references to prograjobs@dai.com by November 9, 2007. All candidates will be reviewed but only finalists will be notified. No phone calls or in-person applications will be accepted. Please reference the job title in the subject line. Salary will be based on USAID requirements.

Turkish planes pound Iraqi Kurd rebel bases

Iraqi delegation to visit Turkey

AP, Cizre

Turkey is running out of patience and will not tolerate the use of Iraqi soil for the purpose of launching terrorist activities, the Turkish president said yesterday ahead of a visit from a high-level Iraqi delegation.

Turkey has threatened to stage an incursion into northern Iraq if Iraqi Kurds and US-led coalition forces do not crack down on Kurdish rebels.

"We are totally determined to take all the necessary steps to end this threat," President Abdullah Gul said in a speech opening the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organisation foreign ministers' meeting in Ankara.

The high-level Iraqi delegation was expected to visit Ankara on Thursday after Turkey's top leadership recommended the government take economic measures to force Iraqi cooperation against Kurdish rebels and Turkey considered a possible military cross-border.

On Wednesday, Turkish warplanes reportedly pounded rebel positions along the border. An AP Television News cameraman

Auction Tender Notice

The Canadian High Commission, Dhaka will be holding a surplus assets sale on November 3rd, 2007 at our premises located at House 16/A, Road 48, Gulshan 2. Items for sale will include household and office furniture, electronics and appliances.

- all sales are on a cash only basis
- all items will be sold through sealed tender on an "as is" basis.
- a refundable security deposit of Tk 10,000 is required from all bidders
- Successful bidders must take & pay for their items if not the security deposit is forfeited.
- tender forms will be available from 10:00 to 12:00 am on November 3
- bidding closes promptly at 12:00 am and successful bidders will be notified by 1:00 pm on the same day

The High Commission reserves the right to accept/reject any tender offer(s).

Experts Needed for Co-Management of Forest and Wetland Protected Areas

International Resources Group (IRG) (www.irgltd.com) is a professional services firm that helps governments, the private sector, communities and households manage critical resources to build a cleaner, safer and more prosperous world.

IRG now seeks to build a team of professionals for an expected new activity in the area of forest and wetland co-management.

Professionals are sought with the following skills and training: social mobilization to improve natural resource management; applied resource/environmental economics; alternative income generation; value chain identification and improvement; policy or legal instrument development; monitoring and evaluation; grants management; capacity building and training; and, communications.

An advanced degree and five years of professional experience in a relevant technical area is required. All positions require the ability to speak and write effectively in English. USAID or donor experience is preferred.

In cover letter to each CV, the following should be clearly stated: (1) professional degree of applicant; (2) skill areas for which candidate is qualified; (3) previous employers. CVs and cover letters can be sent to the Daily Star Box No. C-32 or electronically to irg2@irgbd.com within November 5, 2007. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

IRG