



PHOTO: AFP

Handout picture shows Pakistani former premier Nawaz Sharif (C) greeting Law Minister Farooq Niaz (R) and his ruling coalition partner Asif Ali Zardari (L), co-chairman of the ruling Pakistan People's Party, upon his arrival for a meeting in Islamabad yesterday. Pakistan faced fresh political turmoil on Thursday after officials said the ruling coalition had agreed to impeach President Pervez Musharraf, a vital US ally in the "war on terror."

Musharraf is 'irrelevant' to Pakistan

Gilani tells US

PTI, Islamabad

President Pervez Musharraf is "irrelevant" to Pakistan and its people did not appreciate the US' support for the country's military dictators, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has said.

Gilani said he had taken up these issues during his recent visit to Washington and the administration of President George W Bush had shown its willingness to work closely with him as the head of the new politically elected government.

In an interview with The News daily, Gilani refuted suggestions that his US visit had unsuccessful claiming it had helped Pakistan to "change the aggressive tone of Americans" as they are now talking of working closely with Islamabad to deal with the unrest in its tribal areas instead of "invading" the

region. On being asked by the US leadership about the "effectiveness" of Musharraf, Gilani said he had told them the President was only a "ceremonial" head of state as the real power to run the government is with the Prime Minister.

Gilani also said he had told the Americans that Musharraf is "irrelevant" to Pakistan as there is a parliamentary system where the Prime Minister is the "real boss".

He also told the US leaders that the people of Pakistan did not appreciate them because they had been supporting the country's military dictators.

Gilani defended his decision to visit the US within three months of assuming office, saying it was wrong to assume that he had undertaken the trip at a wrong time.

Fierce Pak battle kills 10 troops, 25 militants

AFP, Khar

Hundreds of Taliban militants attacked a checkpoint in a Pakistani tribal area bordering Afghanistan, sparking fierce clashes in which 10 soldiers and 25 rebels were killed, officials said yesterday.

Helicopter gunships pounded insurgent positions during the fighting, which erupted when paramilitary forces reoccupied a security post in the Bajaur tribal zone, which they had abandoned several months earlier.

Bajaur is a known haven for Taliban and al-Qaeda militants, against whom Washington has urged Pakistan's fledgling government to crack down.

"The fighting is intense and ongoing," a top security official told AFP. "Up to 25 militants were killed and at least 10 Frontier Corps soldiers have also been martyred. Some are critically wounded."

Officials said that a contingent of troops moved into the Loisam area, around 15 kilometres (nine miles) from Khar, the main town in

Bajaur, late Wednesday to control militant movements between several districts.

An officer from the paramilitary Frontier Corps said 300-400 militants, backed by local sympathisers, participated in the attack. They were mostly armed with AK-47 assault rifles, rocket launchers and grenades, he said.

"The firing continued the whole night, this morning reinforcements were sent. One vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device on its way to the post and the convoy was then attacked by Taliban militants," the official said.

One soldier was killed in the bomb blast and the rest were killed in the fighting, he said.

The Frontier Corps official would only confirm the deaths of five soldiers but said that many were critically wounded and had been taken to hospital outside his area.

A Taliban spokesman, Maulvi Omar, said militants killed 18 soldiers while only two Taliban fighters died and claimed that

fighters from the headline movement had surrounded the post.

"The fighting will continue until the troops are withdrawn from Loisam. We will respond with full might," Omar said in a telephone call to local reporters from an unknown location.

Helicopters pounded suspected militant positions on Thursday and fresh shelling resumed in the morning, security officials said. Markets and offices were closed in Khar and traffic was thin.

Loisam lies on the strategically important road leading towards the main northwestern city of Peshawar.

Taliban militants had exercised complete control over Loisam since the withdrawal of troops earlier this year, using it as their main base for operations in the area, residents said.

A few weeks ago Taliban militants seized several government schools and converted them into Islamic seminaries, people living in the area said.

Key US lawmaker threatens to hold up Indian nuke deal

AFP, Washington

A key US lawmaker threatened Wednesday to hold up a landmark US-India nuclear agreement unless nuclear supplier states adopt a provision terminating the deal if India conducted a nuclear test explosion.

Howard Berman, chairman of the House of Representatives foreign affairs committee, said if the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) did not impose such a condition, the deal could not be approved before President George W. Bush leaves office in January 2009.

"Given the lateness in the Congressional session, it would be better to review these complex matters in the next Congress when they can receive a full and serious examination," the Democratic legislator said in a letter Wednesday to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The US House and Senate will

adjourn in late September ahead of the presidential and congressional elections two months later.

Bush and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh agreed to the nuclear deal in 2005, under which the United States will provide energy-starved India civilian nuclear fuel and technology.

The United States and other key developed states suspended nuclear trade with India after New Delhi fired its first nuclear weapons test in 1974, and the new deal was part of a strategic partnership between the world's two biggest democracies.

The Indian parliament endorsed the deal last month after a tense debate following which the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the UN's nuclear watchdog agency, approved key safeguards for the agreement to be implemented.

The Bush administration later this month apparently intends to seek an

exemption for India on nuclear commerce guidelines from the NSG with "few or none of the conditions" contained in a special US law governing the deal, Berman said.

A key condition under the law -- the Henry J. Hyde United States-India Peaceful Atomic Energy Cooperation Act of 2006 -- "is the immediate termination of all nuclear commerce by NSG member states if India detonates a nuclear explosive device," he said.

Any exemption of this provision for India "would be inconsistent with US law, place American firms at a severe competitive disadvantage, and undermine critical US nonproliferation objectives," he said.

"It would also jeopardize congressional support for nuclear cooperation with India, this year and in the future," he warned.

Daryl Kimball, executive director of the US Arms Control Association, said Berman's letter was "very useful and significant."

Maldives clears way for multi-party polls

New constitution adopted

AP, Colombo

Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom signed and adopted a new constitution yesterday that allows multiparty elections and a number of other key democratic reforms after decades of authoritarian rule.

The new constitution also embodies for the first time independent bodies for human rights, judiciary, police, defence, election and corruption investigation, government spokesman Mohammed Shareef said.

Accordingly, the first multiparty presidential election will be held before Oct. 10. The specific date will be announced after an election commissioner is appointed within 30 days as stipulated in the constitution, he said.

"This is an important milestone for us, many many things will

change from this point onwards," Shareef said.

Gayoom has ruled the Islamic nation with tight controls for the past 30 years, and he promised in 2004 to enact a new constitution amid widespread protests demanding reform.

During his rule, the nation made up of 1,190 coral islands and a population of 300,000 emerged as one of the most attractive tourist destinations and by far the most prosperous country in South Asia.

The opposition praised the move.

"For the first time the people are getting to choose a president and we have ended the autocratic powers of the president," said Ahmed Shaeed, a former foreign minister under Gayoom and currently a member of opposition New Maldives party.



PHOTO: AFP

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Members of Parliament Ashok Argal (L) and Faggan Singh Kulaste (R) pose for photographers as they arrive to appear before the Parliamentary Committee examining the 'cash-for-vote' scam at the Parliament House in New Delhi yesterday. The seven member Parliamentary Committee examining the 'cash-for-vote' scam recorded evidence of BJP MPs by viewing audio and video tapes of the sting operation about the scandal.

Serious security lapse at Saarc summit: India

AFP, Colombo

India said Wednesday there had been serious security lapses during a visit to Sri Lanka by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh despite the island nation's promise of "ultimate security."

The Sri Lankan bodyguard assigned to protect Singh did not turn up during a regional summit last weekend, while the motorcade for India's National Security Adviser MK Narayanan failed to appear.

There was a "serious lapse in that some of the arrangements discussed and agreed to in advance, did not get implemented on the ground," the Indian High Commission (embassy) here said in a statement.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

WETLAND & FOREST COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT

A new project entitled Integrated Protected Area Co-Management (IPAC), financed by USAID and implemented by International Resources Group, RDRS, CODEC, CIPD and other partners seeks to improve the productivity and biological diversity of our wetlands and forests through collaborative management. This project builds upon lessons learned from the Departments of Fisheries, Forest and Environment.

Applicants are requested for the following field posts, all located outside of Dhaka.

Site Coordinator (9 positions): Set the agenda for co-management site activities, including preparation of quarterly work plans. S/he will be the primary point of dialogue with stakeholders at all levels. Site Coordinators are expected to be problem solvers, but will take direction and guidance from the Chief of Party in Dhaka. S/he will manage finances and budget at site level with support of an accountant, and will oversee one or more Site Facilitators. Qualifications: Relevant MSS/MSc + 8 yrs experience, including work in community mobilization. Able to read, analyze and write in English and Bangla. Internet, E-mail, PowerPoint, Word and Excel skills essential. Salary Range: 30k-38k

Site Facilitator (16 positions): Works under direct guidance of the Site Coordinator and in support of co-management organizations at wetlands and forests. Qualifications: MSS/MSc + 5 years experience, although highly qualified Bachelor's degree holders will be considered. Salary range: 20k-25k.

Communication, Outreach & Governance Facilitator (5 positions): Provide systematic support to communicate the existence of a national network of wetlands and forests managed by and for stakeholders. This Facilitator will have a key role at cluster level in ensuring that coordinated messages are communicated. S/he will also ensure that advocacy campaigns in support of governance and empowerment are integrated into communications activities. S/he will take direction and work plan guidance from the Dhaka-based Communications team. Qualifications: MSS/MSc + 6 years and experience in communication campaigns. Excellent English and Bangla oral and written communication skills, and experience with local dialects. Familiarity with behavioral change communications and/or marketing an asset. Salary range: 20k-25k.

Enterprise Support Facilitator (5 positions): Support the formation, organization and business planning of small- and medium-sized enterprises. S/he will assist enterprises to obtain financing, identify market outlets and inputs throughout targeted value chains. Qualifications: MSc + 4 years, although energetic and qualified BBA/BS/BA degrees with less experience may be considered. Enterprise experience preferred; experience in natural resources-based enterprises including nature tourism, fish or bamboo processing an asset. Salary range: 20k-25k

Project Cluster Offices are to be located in Srimongal, Modhupur, Mongla, Rangamati and Cox's Bazar, although Site offices may be at other field locations. Short-listed applicants will be given written and oral tests of skills and analytical ability. To apply, send cover letter indicating the desired post with CV to Box No. C-24 c/o The Daily Star, no later than August 22, 2008. Short-list interviews expected in early September, with work to start in October. Applications from women and members of ethnic minorities are encouraged.

Job Vacancy

INTERCOOPERATION (IC) invites applications from Bangladeshi nationals for the following positions of its Livelihoods Empowerment and Agroforestry (LEAF) and Sustainable Access to Knowledge Technology and Information (SAAKTI) projects. The goal of LEAF project is to make a substantial contribution to the long-term reduction of poverty through the more sustainable and intensified use of local resources, and that of SAAKTI project is to contribute to the long-term poverty reduction through creating a sustainable access to appropriate and up-to-date knowledge, techniques and technologies on agroforestry production, processing and marketing in partnerships and collaborations with government, non-government and private sector organisations.

1. **Associate Adviser-Social Development** for LEAF project will be responsible for managing the programme for the socio-organisational evolution and empowerment of the Community Based Organisations (CBOs), their Cluster Platforms (CPs) and networks at the regional level. S/he will also be responsible for developing the capacity of partner NGOs, CBOs and CPs to lead and manage development priorities with a particular focus on socio-economic development of poor, extreme poor and women at the regional level. S/he will be in-charge of developing, promoting and strengthening the initiatives for extreme poverty reduction and gender mainstreaming at regional level. S/he will also be responsible for monitoring and knowledge management in the above-mentioned relevant domains.

2. **Associate Adviser-MSE & Market** for LEAF project will be responsible for managing the programme for the market and MSE development activities implemented by the CBOs, CPs and their networks at the regional level. S/he will be in charge of developing the capacity of PNGOs, CBOs and CPs to lead and manage organisation of market assessment, identification of innovations and promotion of linkages between CBOs / CPs / networks and market actors/local service providers. S/he will be responsible for developing operational approaches and tools in her/his area. S/he will also be responsible for monitoring and knowledge management in the above-mentioned relevant field.

3. **Associate Adviser-Market Development and Service Provision** for SAAKTI project will be responsible for planning and implementing value chain activities and for the promotion of a system of private service provision at regional level. S/he will facilitate the process of identification, analysis and improvement of employment generation and income earning opportunities for the poor and extreme poor. S/he will be responsible for facilitating Regional Resources Pools (RRP) and for the capacity building of Local Service Providers (LSPs) and their associations. S/he will be maintaining a good relationship with KATALYST. S/he will also be responsible for implementing the activities in collaboration with PNGOs, line agencies, research organisations, and private sector organisations. S/he will also be responsible for monitoring and knowledge management in the above-mentioned relevant field.

The candidates should have a post graduate degree in the relevant subject with at least 5 years' practical experience in the relevant fields preferably in international development organisations. They should have excellent knowledge and skills on HID approaches, gender and human rights, social mobilisation, local governance and pro-poor growth. They should also have excellent knowledge and skills on development of micro and small enterprises, promotion of private service provision, marketing extension and sub sector development. They should have a clear understanding of adult education methodologies and good skills in developing training curriculum/modules.

The candidates should have excellent skills in facilitation, networking, communication, team building, partnership and report writing (in both Bangla and English). They should also have intermediate computer skills and be able to use common Microsoft programmes.

The positions will be based in Rajshahi, Bogra, Rangpur and Sunamganj regional offices with more than 70% of the time being spent making field visits in remote areas. The incumbents will work under the direct supervision of the Regional Coordinator of the respective region with close communication and consultation with the respective Adviser of the project support and management unit in Rajshahi.

Candidates fulfilling the above criteria should submit their applications with a CV (maximum 3 pages) and a recent passport size photograph. The applications and CV must be accompanied with a paragraph not exceeding 300 words on his/her ideas about "livelihood approaches as a way and mean of reducing extreme poverty".

Candidates should submit their applications to: Project Coordinator, LEAF and SAAKTI Projects, House 2F NE (D), Road 73 G, Gulshan-2, Dhaka 1212 (E-mail: sharmin.zaman@intercooperation-bd.org) by 18th August 2008.

Candidates must mention their expected salary in their application and the envelope should be marked with the position the candidates are applying for.

Female Candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. Only short-listed candidates will be called for an interview.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Food and Disaster Management
Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme
Disaster Management and Relief Bhaban
92-93, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212

Vacancy Announcement

Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) under Ministry of Food and Disaster Management seeks applications from Bangladeshi nationals for the position of Office Secretary.

Applications should be typewritten in English and include a curriculum vitae with a recently taken passport size photograph and a cover letter addressed to the Chief Technical Adviser, Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP), Disaster Management and Relief Bhaban, 92-93, Mohakhali C/A (6th Floor), Dhaka-1212. The application will be received until two weeks from the date of publication in the newspaper. Please mark title of the position on the envelop.

For details terms of reference please visit website: <http://www.cdmp.org.bd>

GD-3544

EAST WEST UNIVERSITY

FACULTY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

East West, a leading private University and an equal opportunity employer, invites applications for the following faculty positions.

Sl.No.	Discipline	Category	No. of Posts
1	Accounting	Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor/ Senior Lecturer/ Lecturer	1
2	Linguistics & ELT	Professor/ Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor/ Senior Lecturer/ Lecturer	2
3	Economics	Professor/ Associate Professor/ Assistant Professor/ Senior Lecturer/ Lecturer	2

Eligibility:
Professor: PhD in the relevant field from a reputed University and a minimum of ten (10) years active teaching experience at University level, four (04) years experience as an Associate Professor, minimum ten (10) articles in reputed journals (or equivalent) are required of which at least four (04) should be in international journals.

Associate Professor: PhD in the relevant field from a reputed University and a minimum of five (05) years active teaching experience at University level, four (04) years of teaching experience as an Associate Professor, minimum five (05) articles in reputed journals (or equivalent) are required of which at least two (02) should be in international journals.

Assistant Professor: PhD in the relevant field from a reputed University is a minimum requirement, teaching experience at University level will be a plus point, two (02) articles in refereed international conference proceeding are required. However, one article in any reputed journal will be preferred.

Senior Lecturer: An outstanding achievement in Master's Degree from a reputed University, two (02) years experience of teaching at the University level.

Lecturer: Masters Degree with minimum five years University education from a reputed University is a minimum requirement. The candidate must have excellent academic results.

Each position carries attractive compensation package. Please send your complete CV to the Chief of HR & Logistics, East West University, 43, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212, with two copies of recent passport size photographs, academic and experience certificates or apply through bdjobs.com

Application deadline: 17 August 2008