

Violence spreads along Pak-Afghan border

10 killed in bus bombing

AP, AFP, Peshawar

Suspected militants bombed a bus carrying prisoners in northwest Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 10 people, as fighting between security forces and extremists flared across the country's tribal belt.

The powerful blast left a massive crater in the middle of a bridge in Bannu and left the burnt-out vehicle completely mangled.

The fresh violence comes days after ex-president Pervez Musharraf, a longtime US ally, resigned as president, triggering a scramble for power that caused the country's ruling coalition to col-

lapse.

The party long led by slain former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is now in a position to dominate the government and it is toughening its stance against Islamist extremists.

The Pakistani Taliban, meanwhile, are becoming increasingly bold, claiming responsibility for a wave of suicide bombings and gun attacks.

There was no immediate claim for Thursday's attack, though police said militants were the likely culprits. It happened as a van carrying prisoners crossed a bridge in the North West Frontier Province, said Waqas Ahmad, an

area police chief.

The dead included police officers and prisoners, said Jilil Khan, another police official. But he could not provide an exact breakdown.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack Thursday, though police said militants were the likely culprit. It happened as a bus carrying prisoners crossed a bridge in Bannu, a town in the North West Frontier Province, said Waqas Ahmad, an area police chief.

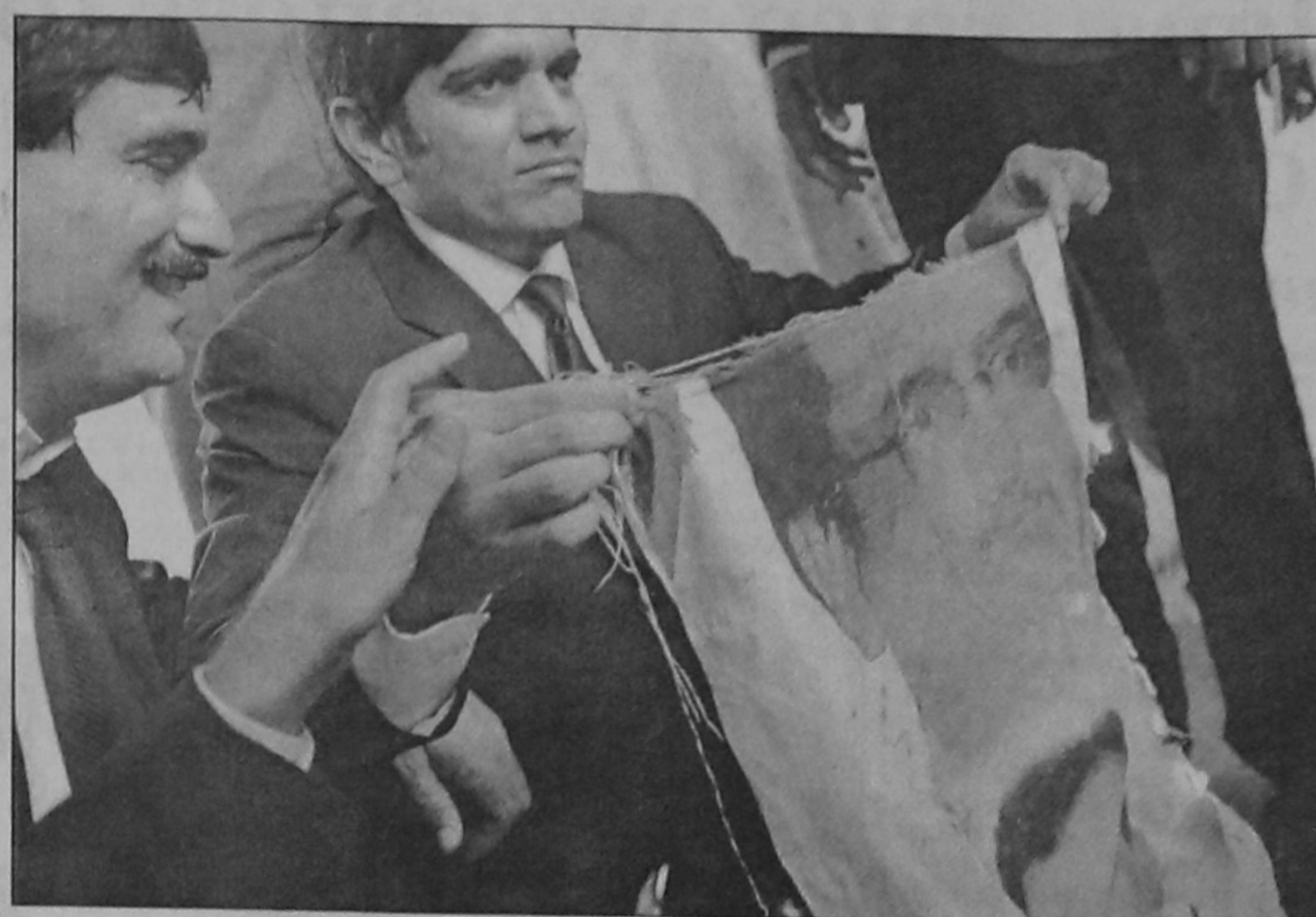
Hours earlier, security forces drove off a Taliban attack on a fort and pounded another band of militants holed up in a health

centre, officials said Wednesday as fighting spread to new areas in the tribal belt along the Afghan border.

Pakistani troops Thursday killed five militants in attacks on Taliban hideouts in a northwestern region near the Afghan border, security officials said.

Troops fired mortar and artillery shells on several villages in Bajaur district in which five rebels died and seven were wounded, a security official said.

On Wednesday troops killed up to 50 militants in the area, including some important Taliban commanders and foreign fighters, military officials said.



Pakistani lawyers set fire to a poster of Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of slain ex-premier Benazir Bhutto and a leading presidential candidate to succeed former president Pervez Musharraf, during a protest in Islamabad yesterday. Pakistani lawyers staged protests in several cities to press for the reinstatement of all judges sacked by the country's former president Pervez Musharraf.

Pak lawyers stage protests over judges' reinstatement

AFP, Islamabad

Hundreds of Pakistani lawyers protested yesterday to demand the reinstatement of judges sacked by former president Pervez Musharraf, an issue at the heart of political instability here.

Several cities saw the black-suited lawyers joined by political party workers and other supporters carrying black flags as they blocked key roads for two hours in Islamabad, shouting slogans against the government.

"Reinstate judges" they chanted, saying that "War will continue" until the judiciary's independence is restored.

Musharraf, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999, deposed dozens of judges under a state of emergency last November when it appeared they would challenge his re-election as president the previous month.



Indian nuns walk through the entrance to the Sacred Heart Cathedral in New Delhi yesterday, where placards are on display during a protest prayer meeting against ongoing violence in the eastern Indian state of Orissa. Christians were specifically targeted in the state following the killing of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Swami Lakshmanananda Saraswati.

More churches, homes burnt in Orissa

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Bhubaneswar

Communal violence spread in Orissa on Thursday with fresh incidents of mobs burning churches and homes, adding to the tensions in the state that has seen at least 11 people being killed in revenge for the murder of a Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader last week.

The situation was so volatile that Minister of State for Home Sri Prakash Jaiswal and other Congress leaders, who arrived in Bhubaneswar to visit riot-hit areas, were told by the state government that they could not do so and returned to New Delhi.

Though the volatile Kandhamal district continued to be the worst hit with mobs defying curfew, blocking roads and attacking churches even

after shoot-at-sight orders, there were reports of churches and homes being attacked from other parts of the state too.

Police said trouble had spread to new areas, including the western district of Bolangir and the coastal district of Kendrapada.

No details were available but officials said curfew had been clamped in Kendrapada town and security intensified in Bolangir.

"There have been stray incidents of violence in Kandhamal. We have also received reports of people burning a church in the district of Bolangir," said Director General of Police Gopal Chandra Nanda, adding that more than 3,000 policemen had been deployed. "We are hopeful normalcy would return in a week," Nanda told IANS while describing the situation as "under control".

100 militants killed in Afghanistan

AP, AFP, Kabul

The US-led coalition says its forces have killed more than 100 militants in four days of fighting in southern Afghanistan.

The coalition says militants using gunfire, rocket propelled grenades and mortars attacked a joint patrol of Afghan and coalition troops several times beginning on Monday and continuing through Thursday.

The patrols, which were moving through the southern province of Helmand, returned fire and called in fighter aircraft for support.

A coalition spokesman said Thursday that the engagements were continuing and he couldn't provide any more details.

The coalition statement said no Afghan, coalition or civilian casualties had been reported.

Earlier four Afghan police and 30 Taliban rebels have been killed in a

wave of violence in insurgency-hit Afghanistan in recent days, officials said Wednesday.

The policemen died Tuesday when their vehicle was blown up while on patrol in central Ghazni province, an official said.

"We believe it was the work of the Taliban. Four policemen were martyred," Ismail Jahangir, a spokesman for the local government, told AFP.

The same day, a dozen rebels including two militant commanders were captured in an operation by Afghan security forces and international troops elsewhere in Ghazni, Jahangir said.

In southern Helmand province, coalition and Afghan troops killed 18 rebels and wounded several others in an operation Tuesday, provincial police chief Mohammad Hussein Andia said.

"We killed 18 Taliban. They left the dead bodies behind," he said.

On Monday a dozen other suspected Taliban militants were killed in operations by Afghan and US-led forces in Sangin district of Helmand, a hotbed of Taliban militancy, the coalition reported Wednesday.

There was no independent verification of the toll.

Separately, a suicide bomber blew himself up late Tuesday near a convoy of international forces also in Helmand, killing no one but himself, Andia said, adding that three local passers-by were slightly injured.

The Taliban, ousted from power in a US-led invasion in late 2001, are trying to topple the US-backed Afghan government in an insurgency, which has intensified in the past two years.

There are about 70,000 international forces deployed under Nato and a separate US-led coalition in Afghanistan in an effort to help local forces repel the Islamic rebels.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ICDDR,B invites applications from suitable candidates for the position of **Research Investigator** with the Health Systems and Economics Unit under the Health Systems and Infectious Diseases Division. The appointment will be made on a Contractual Service Agreement (CSA) basis for 6 months, which may be renewable depending on performance and availability of funds.

Salary – Tk.49,112/-(consolidated) per month inclusive of house rent and conveyance allowances. No other benefit is admissible.

For detailed job profile and requirements, please visit our website: www.icddr.org. Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should submit an **online application** by 4 September, 2008.

Only short-listed candidates shall be invited for the interview.



icddr,b

KNOWLEDGE FOR GLOBAL LIFESAVING SOLUTIONS



House No. 12, Road No. 7, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh www.who.org
Tel.: (880-2) 861 4653-5, 861 6097-98 Fax: (880-2) 8613247 E-Mail: registryban@searo.who.int

Vacancy Notice No: SO-13 (SCC)/SSA **Date of Issue:** 18 August 2008
Deadline for application: 07 September 2008 **Title:** Secretary (Five positions)
Contract type: SSA; **Level:** 4; **Duration of contract:** 31 December 2008

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Description of duties: Under the general guidance and supervision of the WHO Administrative Officer, the incumbent performs the following functions: 1. Screens incoming correspondence, documents and routes to the supervisor with full background material; ensures its distribution and follows up on deadlines. 2. Drafts/ prepares general correspondence, briefing notes, background material, etc. on brief instructions or own initiative; types statements, reports, studies including statistical tables, etc., from manuscripts using word processing equipment. Takes notes at meetings and prepares minutes. 3. Maintains, in close collaboration with colleagues, the work area's filing system, and to maintain files for the project, obtaining relevant information as required; 4. Screens and receives visitors and telephone calls with tact, discretion, making appointments, answering queries and/or redirecting visitors and callers with diplomacy and courtesy, obtaining background information on the purpose of appointments; 5. Maintains updates and monitors information on project activities in the Plan of Action and generates reports using Activity Monitoring System as required. 6. Provides secretarial support to organize meetings, workshops and training courses, including preparation of related folders. 7. Makes travel arrangements for the supervisor, prepares briefing materials for his/her use on official trips or special meetings and in his/her absence, briefs or notes on matters for which the program is responsible; 8. Performs other related duties as required or instructed, including provision of support to other areas of work and teams or the project, as required.

Education: Completion of Secondary School supplemented by training in general official work. Special secretarial and/or administrative training is an asset.

Skills: • Ability to use microcomputer and required software (i.e. word processor, spreadsheet and database, etc.); • Good knowledge of modern office procedures and practices. Ability to work in an organized and methodical manner; • Typing speed of 45 wpm is desirable.

Experience: At least 3 years of progressively responsible clerical or administrative work preferably in an international organization.

Languages: Excellent knowledge of written, spoken English and working knowledge of local language(s)

Annual salary: (Net of tax) Taka 288,660/=

Note: For details of the above vacancy announcement, please visit our Web site at: www.who.org or collect information sheet from the Reception Desk of the World Health Organization, House No. 12, Road No. 7, Dhanmondi, R/A, Dhaka-1205.

WHO has a smoke-free environment and does not recruit smokers or other tobacco users.

Campaigning gathers pace ahead of Sept 6 polls

THE DAILY TIMES, Islamabad

Political campaigning has picked up pace in the NWFP ahead of the September 6 presidential election, and the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and the Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid (PML-Q) have stepped up efforts to muster support for their presidential candidates.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani called on former interior minister Aftab Sherpao the head of his own faction of the PPP at his residence on Wednesday, and asked him to support PPP Co-chairman Asif Zardari, the party's candidate for the presidential election. Anisa Zaib Tahirkheli and Sikandar Sherpao were also present.

Sherpao and Gilani told reporters after the meeting that Zardari had telephoned Sherpao but could not visit him because of security concerns.

Gilani said Sherpao was his "old friend" and the two had similar views on a host of issues.

Rescue workers rush to flood-hit India

AP, Patna

Indian officials rushed soldiers and air force helicopters to flood-ravaged parts of northern India to provide aid to the more than 1 million people stranded by a surging river, officials said Wednesday.

The death toll from this year's monsoon has already climbed past 800, and now some 1.2 million people have been marooned and about 2 million more affected in the impoverished state of Bihar, where the Kosi river has burst its banks, breached safety embankments and submerged all roads leading to the region.

Roughly 120 soldiers have joined government aid workers in the area and another 240 are preparing to help, said Prataya Amrit, a senior official at Bihar's disaster ministry.

Four Indian air force helicopters were dropping food and medicine to the stranded, he said.

The state government has set up 300 relief camps to house people evacuated from the flooded areas, Amrit said. He said the rescued people may need to stay in these camps for several months as new embankments are built and the devastated areas regain some semblance of normalcy.

act:onaid

End poverty. Together.

ActionAid is an international anti-poverty agency working in over 40 countries, taking sides with poor people to end poverty and injustice together.

Manager - Finance

The position is a senior member of Finance Team and reports to Head of Finance & Administration

Key responsibilities & Experience:

- Effective and strategic support to the Finance; contribute in preparation of country office annual financial plan, budget and financial reports.
- Donor grant management, donor budgeting and reporting.
- Budgetary control of themes/units/departments/projects.
- Ensure fund disbursement to the partners
- Preparation of Final Accounts for statutory and donor fund Audit.
- Capacity building of finance staff of the Partners and Country Office

Qualification:

Cost & Management Accountant (part/full qualified), Chartered Accountant (part/ full qualified) from a reputable firm. Minimum 5 years working experience in the senior position of finance in any international/multinational organization. Expertise on spreadsheet operations and any accounting software. Experience of using SUN accounting software and experience in NGO Affairs Bureau documentation will be given priority.

Manager-Partnership Development Unit

Key responsibilities & Experience:

- Explore new fundraising opportunities from various funding sources.
- Conduct donor research and share donor intelligence with relevant staff.
- Develop Project Proposal
- Develop Budget
- Produce project reports
- Maintain donor communication.
- Provide support to and build linkages with programmatic areas of AAB.
- Liaise with ActionAid International, AA funding affiliates and AA Asia Regional office to ensure coordinated international efforts.
- Must have excellent knowledge of budget preparation.
- Must be a good team player and able to work with a diversified team.

- Must have staff management experience.

Qualification:

Masters in social science, international development, development studies or a related subject. Minimum 5 years of work experience in the development sector, especially in resource mobilization or fundraising. Proven track-record in funding proposal development and submission. Capacity building and facilitation skills. Budget preparation and management. Narrative & financial report preparation. Excellent knowledge of written and verbal English is a must. Score of 6.5 in IELTS or equivalent test is mandatory.

Assistant officer-front desk

Key responsibilities & Experience:

- Receive & connect local and overseas phone calls
- Handle national/ international visitors
- Incoming and outgoing mail management
- Make appointments
- Assist Admin Unit in different administrative works, i.e. procurements, arranging Workshop/ Seminar, ticketing, transport support, etc
- Follow up the performance, provide guidance of Admin support staff

Qualification:

Graduate in any discipline with at least 3-5 years working experience in front desk management in any National/International/Multinational organization. Fluent in Bangla and English is must for this post. Computer knowledge for MS Office package is required.

Women are especially encouraged to apply

We will respond only to short listed candidates.

If you meet the above criteria, please apply with an updated CV along with a contact address of two referees on or before 8th September 2008 to:

The HR Department, ActionAid Bangladesh
PO Box # 6107, Gulshan Post Office, Dhaka 1212
Applicants having e-mail access could provide a soft copy of their CV to aab.jobs@actionaid.org
[Any personal persuasion/phone call will result in disqualification of the candidature]

Opportunity

ActionAid International Website: www.actionaid.org