



Pakistani security officials inspect a destroyed police station building after a suicide attack in Mingora, the main city in Swat yesterday. A suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden vehicle into the police station in Pakistan's restive Swat Valley killing three security forces and one policeman.

PHOTO: AFP

Lanka steps up airstrikes on Tamil rebels

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's military yesterday stepped up attacks against suspected Tamil Tiger positions in the island's north and accused the rebels of blocking a UN-escorted food convoy.

The UN's World Food Programme was escorting a convoy of trucks taking essentials for hundreds of thousands of people in rebel-held areas on Thursday when it fell victim to a roadside bomb attack, the defence ministry said.

"Reports state the LTTE has also launched an artillery attack at these unarmed lorries," the ministry said, referring to the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

No one was hurt and the convoy returned to the government-held town of Vavuniya, the ministry said.

Earlier Thursday, the rebels accused the military of bombing bridges in rebel-held areas in a bid to block food reaching civilians.

Most international aid agencies have quit the troubled region after a government order, leaving only the International Committee of the Red Cross. The WFP's action was a one-off, and they no longer have a presence in the area.

Meanwhile, the military said it had used jets to bomb an arms store and an LTTE command centre in the north, the ministry said.

It gave no details of any new casualties.

The latest air strikes by government forces came as ground troops were battling to capture the rebel political capital of Kilinochchi, 330 kilometres (210 miles) north of the capital Colombo.

Security forces say they are on the outskirts of the town.

Troops have killed 7,553 rebels since Sri Lanka pulled out of a Norwegian-backed truce in January, according to the ministry. During the same period, 748 soldiers have been killed in combat.

The figures cannot be independently verified.

US consular officials meet American held in Pakistan

AFP, Washington

US consular officials have met with an American who is being held by the Pakistani authorities in a remote tribal region near the Afghan border, the State Department said Wednesday.

Pakistani police in the Mohmand district on Monday arrested a young, bearded American who was dressed as a local and was travelling without any travel documents, police said.

State Department officials confirmed that a US citizen was arrested Monday in the Mohmand District of Pakistan -- a region known to be a hub of al-Qaeda and Taliban militants -- and he continued to be held there on Wednesday.

"We have visited this individual. Consular officers from Islamabad have travelled to the place where he is being held. They have spoken with him," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters.

"And we're doing everything that we can do and normally do for American citizens who are being held by foreign governments," he said.

China promises to help cash-strapped Pakistan

AFP, Beijing

China vowed yesterday to do what it could to help cash-strapped Pakistan avert financial disaster as Islamabad's leader continued an official visit aimed at rustling up crucial Chinese investments.

The promise came as Premier Wen Jiabao met Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, who is on his first official visit abroad after being elected in September.

"As a long friend of Pakistan, China understands it is facing some financial difficulties," foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang told reporters.

"We're ready to support and help Pakistan within our capability."

Zardari met Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao on Wednesday in a meeting in which the two sides pledged to strengthen decades-old ties and signed 11 bilateral agreements, one on unspecified economic co-operation.

The Financial Times newspaper has reported, without citing sources, that Zardari would seek a soft loan of between 500 million and 1.5 billion dollars from China to help Pakistan avoid looming bankruptcy.

However, Qin offered no specifics on the form that Beijing's financial help would take.

Pakistan's ambassador to China, Masood Khan, said earlier this week in an interview with Pakistan television station Geo an agreement on a civilian nuclear pact with China could be reached during the trip.

But Qin declined to give any details on the agreements made so far.

"I'm not aware of the specifics of the deals signed," he said.

China's foreign ministry had earlier confirmed the nuclear issue would be discussed but gave no specifics.

Zardari inherited nearly empty government coffers and huge security problems from Islamic extremists.

The global financial crisis has pushed Pakistan closer to the brink and reports, denied by Islamabad, have said the country faced bankruptcy as soon as February.

If a nuclear agreement were signed, it would come after the United States last week agreed with India, Pakistan's rival, to allow sales of civilian nuclear technology to New Delhi for the first time in three decades.

AP, AFP, Peshawar/Mingora

Suspected US missile strikes killed five people in a Pakistani tribal area considered a haven for the Taliban and al-Qaeda, while a suicide bombing left four security personnel dead, officials said.

In another sign of how violence and economic problems are shaking confidence in the nuclear-armed country, Pakistan's currency slumped to an all-time low against the United States dollar.

The suspected US spy drone fired two missiles on Thursday into a Pakistani tribal area that is a known al-Qaeda and Taliban hub,

killing at least five people, security officials said.

The missile strike hit a house in the South Waziristan region of Pakistan's wild border belt, considered a likely hiding place for al-Qaeda leaders Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri and a stronghold of Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud.

"Two missiles were fired, completely destroying the house. First reports confirm five dead," a security official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The exact target of the attack was unclear, he added.

There was no immediate confirmation of the strike from the

Pakistani military or from the US-led coalition in Afghanistan.

A local resident said two spy drones were still circling over the scene and people feared further missile strikes.

Meanwhile, a suicide bomber rammed a vehicle packed with explosives into a police station in Pakistan's restive Swat valley on Thursday, killing four people and destroying the building, police said.

The attack was the latest in a string of bombings on security forces in troubled northwestern Pakistan, where the government is waging a military campaign against militants with links to al-

Qaeda and the Taliban.

"It was a huge blast. Three security force personnel and one policeman were killed. The police station was destroyed," Mingora city police chief Dilwar Khan Bangash told AFP.

He said the coordinated attack had begun soon after midnight, with militants and security forces trading fierce gunfire before the suicide bomber drove a 14-seat bus into the back of the police station's grounds.

The vehicle exploded as it came under fire, damaging scores of shops, a hotel, a school and many houses in Mingora, the main town in the Swat valley.



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari (L) shakes hands with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao at the Zhongnanhai compound in Beijing yesterday. Pak president arrived in China on October 15 to seek help for his country's embattled economy and the expansion of its nuclear energy industry.

Indian parliament session likely to witness 'fireworks'

PTI, New Delhi

Skipping the monsoon session because of a confidence vote and meeting now with "erstwhile friends" in opposition benches, Parliament begins a new session on Friday that is likely to be stormy on a number of issues like communal violence, terror attacks and price rise.

In between the special two-day sitting in July when the government secured a vote of confidence with the shifting of sides by Samajwadi Party and the session beginning tomorrow, the government successfully went through the process of clinching the nuclear deal through IAEA, NSG and the US Congress.

With the deal in its bag, an upbeat Congress is gearing up to take on the combined opposition which is likely to corner the government on issues like spiralling prices and incidents of terror attack in some parts of the country.

Main opposition BJP has been accusing the government of going soft on terror besides being critical of its handling of the internal security and failing to check inflation.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

gtz

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations. GTZ in Bangladesh is active in improving people's living conditions and prospects on a sustainable basis. In Bangladesh, health sector is one of the priority areas where GTZ provides technical assistance through its Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HNPS) to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) in the areas of monitoring and evaluation; health financing; quality assurance; and gender-equity-voice.

GTZ invites applications from suitable candidates for the position of "Adviser (Monitoring & Evaluation)" to support the "Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)" to improve its monitoring and evaluation functions. The duty station will be in Dhaka with contract duration of one year with provision to extensions.

A. Tasks

The Advisor for M&E will report to and assist the Technical Team Leader (TTL) of GTZ in its capacity development support to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in the area of M&E functions of HNPS in particular and the health sector in general.

B. Required Entry Qualifications and Competencies: Formal Education & Experience

- Post-graduate degree in Public Health, Health Policy and Management or Statistics /Management. Candidate with degree in public health should have working exposure to issues related to Monitoring and Evaluation and candidates with degree in Statistics/Management should have experience of working in the Bangladesh health and population sectors preferably in the fields of Monitoring and Evaluation.
- At least 6 - 8 years of professional experience in the relevant field with a minimum of 3 - 5 years experience on M&E and/or MIS
- Proven ability to work effectively with a broad group of stakeholders (Development Partners, NGOs etc.) but with a special focus on working with senior Government officials, particularly in the area of HNPS
- Ability to communicate/present both verbally and in writing before a diverse audience, as mentioned above.
- Must possess knowledge and understanding of the HNPS and should be conversant with current/upcoming issues and topics.
- Should be aware of, at least, the basic features and philosophy of Sector Wide Approach, MDGs and PRS.

Other Qualifications

- Computer literacy (with knowledge and skills of statistical package/soft ware)
- Ability to work independently in carrying out tasks with minimum/no secretarial support.
- Ability to work independently in team and under pressure.
- Excellent communication skills in English and Bangla.

Please send your complete and current CV along with a recent passport size photograph before **04 November 2008**, PO BOX 6091 Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212. Please write the position, applied for, on top of the envelope.

GTZ is an equal opportunity employer. Women and impaired persons are especially encouraged to apply and they will be selected in case of equal qualification with other candidates.

Employment Notice

Following personnel are needed for immediate appointment for a Gas Sector Project:

1. Project Engineer (Construction) : 01 post.

Should be capable to supervise construction of machinery foundation and ancillary works. Minimum 7 years on-site work experience with capability for overall site management. Civil engineers preferred.

2. Quality Control Officer: 01 post.

Responsible for ensuring site quality control and associated documentations for engineering construction project. Adequate background and work experience required.

3. Liaison Officer: 01 post.

Capable of interacting with expatriates of International Company, with adequate experience of energy and power related projects.

4. Health, Safety & Environment Supervisors: 02 posts.

Should have knowledge and ability to implement and ensure full safety procedures. Relevant experience in engineering project is required.

General Conditions: For all positions, preference will be given to engineers with experience of working with International Oil & Gas Company. Graduates with appropriate experience will also be considered. Verbal English language communication skill is a must. Computer literacy is needed.

Apply on or before 30th October 2008 enclosing a current passport size photograph and copies of all certificates to:

Human Resources Department

Spectra Group

House # 17, Road # 106, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় গণমাধ্যম ইনস্টিটিউট

১২৫/এ, দারুল সালাম, মিরপুর রোড

ঢাকা-১২১৬

সংখ্যা: জাগই/প্রশি:অনু: ০১/২০০৮/১০১৬

৩০ আশ্বিন ১৪১৫

১৫ অক্টোবর ২০০৮

প্রশিক্ষণ সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

"টেলিভিশন সেট ডিজাইন ও আলোর ব্যবহার"

শীর্ষক প্রশিক্ষণ পাঠ্যধারা

জাতীয় গণমাধ্যম ইনস্টিটিউটে আগামী ০৯ নভেম্বর ২০০৮ থেকে ০৪ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮ পর্যন্ত ০৪ (চার) সপ্তাহব্যাপী "টেলিভিশন সেট ডিজাইন ও আলোর ব্যবহার" শীর্ষক প্রশিক্ষণ পাঠ্যধারা শুরু হবে। এই প্রশিক্ষণ কর্মসূচিতে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আগ্রহী প্রার্থীদের কাছ থেকে নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

পাঠ্যধারায় টেলিভিশন সেট ডিজাইনের আধুনিক কলাকৌশল ও সেট নির্মাণে নান্দনিকতার প্রযুক্তিগত ধ্যান-ধারণার উপর গুরুত্বারোপ করা হবে।

টেলিভিশন সেট নির্মাণ ও ডিজাইনে প্রশিক্ষণ গ্রহণে আগ্রহী স্নাতক ডিগ্রিধারী প্রার্থীগণ ২০/- (বিশ) টাকার বিনিময়ে জাতীয় গণমাধ্যম ইনস্টিটিউটের হিসাব শাখা থেকে আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে এক কপি ছবি, স্নাতক পাস সার্টিফিকেটের সত্যায়িত কপি এবং প্রথম শ্রেণীর সরকারি কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সন্দপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ৩০ অক্টোবর ২০০৮। সাক্ষাৎকার গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে প্রার্থী মনোনয়ন করা হবে। প্রার্থীদের সাক্ষাৎকারের জন্য ০৪ নভেম্বর ২০০৮ সকাল ১০-০০ টায় 'এ' ইনস্টিটিউটে রিপোর্ট করতে হবে। সাক্ষাৎকারের জন্য কোন স্বতন্ত্র পত্র দেয়া হবে না।

মনোনীত প্রার্থীদের কোর্স ফি বাদে টাকা ২,০০০/- (দুই হাজার) মাত্র "মহাপরিচালক, জাতীয় গণমাধ্যম ইনস্টিটিউট"-এর অনুকূলে ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার-এর মাধ্যমে জমা দিতে হবে।

প্রার্থী নির্বাচনের ব্যাপারে কর্তৃপক্ষের সিদ্ধান্তই চূড়ান্ত।

মুর্শিদা খানম শিরিন

পাঠ্যধারা পরিচালক

ফোনঃ ৯০০৭৪১০-৪

তারিখ: ১৫/১০/০৮

US to send N-mission to India

AFP, Washington

The United States said Wednesday it would send a mission to India in December to explore business opportunities following a landmark pact to open up sales of civilian nuclear technology to the country.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her Indian counterpart Pranab Mukherjee

signed the agreement last week that lifted a three-decade ban on US-Indian civilian nuclear trade imposed after India's first nuclear test in 1974.

"I'm pleased to announce that the Commerce Department has certified the US-India Business Council for a civil nuclear trade mission to India this coming December," US Commerce Secretary Carlos

Gutierrez said.

Council President Ron Somers has projected 150 billion dollars worth of business between US and Indian companies over the next 30 years following the deal, which offers India access to US technology and cheap atomic energy in return for allowing UN inspections of some of its civilian nuclear facilities.



Australian Government

AusAID

Vacancy for Senior Program Manager-Education, Bangladesh

The Australian Government, through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), is seeking to fill in the position of Senior Program Manager - Education (SPM), based at the Australian High Commission, Dhaka, Bangladesh. As a senior member of the AusAID Dhaka team the SPM will manage staff and development programs for education and scholarships. The SPM will report to the First Secretary (Development Cooperation).

The salary range for this position is Taka 100,000 to 125,000 per month, plus annual bonus and other benefits, depending on the qualifications and experience of the applicant.

ESSENTIAL SELECTION CRITERIA

- Six or more years of professional experience in the development field, and demonstrated ability to manage development projects, programs and staff;
- Demonstrated ability to work independently and exercise a high level of judgment, maturity, flexibility and initiative;
- Excellent research and analytical skills, and written and oral English communication skills;
- Proven representation skills and ability to develop effective stakeholder relationships;
- Demonstrated leadership and teamwork skills;
- Sound knowledge of Bangladesh's education sector;
- Experience working with MS word, excel and the internet.

DESIRABLE SELECTION CRITERIA

- Post Graduate qualifications in social science and / or education from a reputable University;
- Knowledge of Bangladesh's development, economic and political situation and Bangla language skills;
- Knowledge of the Australian Government's aid policy and programs.

APPLICATIONS

- Interested applicants should submit their CV and a statement, outlining their suitability for the position, by **9am on Sunday, 2 November 2008**. Statements should not exceed two pages AND MUST DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE 'ESSENTIAL SELECTION CRITERIA' ABOVE. Statements not addressing the selection criteria may not be considered.
- Please address applications to hr.ausaid@dfat.gov.au and clearly mention 'Senior Program Manager - Education' in the subject line.
- More information can be found on our website: <http://www.bangladesh.embassy.gov.au>
- All applications will be treated on merit and in strict confidence.
- We regret that, due to the high volume responses, only short listed candidates will be