

Eight militants killed in India's northeast

AFP, Guwahati

At least eight suspected separatists have been killed in shoot-outs with security forces in India's restive northeastern state of Manipur, police said Friday.

Five of the militants belonged to the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), a rebel group fighting for an independent homeland for the majority Meitei community in Manipur, which borders Myanmar, a police spokesman said.

The KCP had claimed responsibility for a powerful explosion on Tuesday in the state capital Imphal in which 17 people were killed and more than 30 wounded.

Police did not reveal the identities of the other suspected militants killed on Thursday.

More than 19 militant groups are active in Manipur, a state of 2.4 million people in India's remote northeast region.

Nearly 10,000 people have died in insurgency-related violence in the state in the past two decades.

Imran Khan warns against US 'surge' in Afghanistan

AFP, London

Pakistan ex-cricketer star turned politician Imran Khan warned against any Iraq-style surge to tackle violent militancy in Afghanistan, telling AFP the two situations were "completely different".

While stressing his support for US Democratic White House hopefuls Barack Obama and Joe Biden, he said in an interview Thursday that any move to increase the US military presence would be a bad move.

Obama wants to pull US troops from Iraq and send them to Afghanistan, pledging to "take out" top al-Qaeda figures thought to be hiding in the mountainous Pakistan-Afghanistan border region.

Khan also said any international bail-out to help Pakistan overcome its current economic crisis would be "like treating cancer with disprin", adding the problem could only be addressed long-term by reforms to halt corruption.

"Most American politicians haven't a clue," the chair of the Pakistan Movement for Justice said during a visit to London.

"So it's very easy, they say, you know a surge, but do they understand that this (the violence) has morphed into Pashtun nationalism now... they have huge men and guns to draw from."

"It's a spread-out area, they don't understand that this (the violence) has morphed into Pashtun nationalism now... they have huge men and guns to draw from."

There are thought to be about 50 million ethnic Pashtuns living in both Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Khan said Biden had a good grasp of the area's politics, adding: "It looks as if they might understand the situation better than (Republican candidate John) McCain, who's basically owning all (US President George W.) Bush's policies."

He was scathing about the Pakistani government's attempts to tackle its balance of payments crisis and said any international bail-out would have a minimal effect without structural reforms to tackle corruption.

The violence-plagued country, a key ally of the US in the "war on terror", must find up to 4.5 billion dollars in foreign exchange in the next 30 days.

"It's like treating cancer with disprin (pain relief tablets)," Khan said of a possible bail-out deal with the International Monetary Fund, which has held discussions with Pakistan.

"There are fundamental flaws within Pakistan. The problem is not the aid - (ex president Pervez) Musharraf had something like, after 9/11, 65 to 70 billion dollars of fiscal space available because of loans writeoff, loans rescheduling..."

"But what happened? There was still an economic meltdown. So there are fundamental structural flaws in the economy. They need to get the governance system right."

The former Pakistan cricket captain also said that Pakistan's government would become more subservient to the United States if it had to borrow more money from it.

"Yes, it's going to be more difficult for Pakistan government because when you beg and borrow money, you have no ability to take a stand," Khan said.

The 55-year-old is not currently a lawmaker - his party boycotted elections this year in protest at the lack of an independent judiciary.

India, Pakistan discuss Kabul embassy blast

AFP, New Delhi

India and Pakistan officials discussed yesterday the July bombing of India's embassy in Kabul that had threatened peace moves between the South Asian rivals, a foreign ministry statement said.

"Information on issues of mutual concern including the bombing of the Indian embassy in Kabul was exchanged" during the meeting of the Joint Anti-Terrorism Mechanism set up in 2006, the statement said.

No further details were immediately available.

Indo-Pakistan ties were seriously strained after New Delhi accused Pakistan's military intelligence agency of involvement in the July 7 bombing of its Kabul mission.

Four Indians, including two diplomats, were among scores killed in the attack.

The joint anti-terrorism group was set up after train bombings in India's financial capital Mumbai in July, 2006. India claimed Pakistan had a hand in the blasts, which killed 186 people.

New Delhi also accuses Islamabad-backed Islamic militants of waging an insurgency in the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir and of triggering attacks in other parts of the country.

Pakistan strongly denies it arms or trains the militants.

The South Asian rivals have been engaged in slow moving peace talks to normalise ties since January 2004, but there has been scant headway on Kashmir, the trigger for two of their three wars since 1947.

Meanwhile, shops, schools and offices in the Kashmir valley closed Friday in line with a one-day strike called by separatist groups as a rebuke to the United Nations.

The strike, which coincided with UN Day, was "to remind the United Nations of its commitments towards the resolution of the Kashmir dispute," a statement by separatist groups said.

A string of decades-old UN Security Council resolutions call for a referendum to allow the Kashmiri people to choose between India and Pakistan, but have never been implemented.

The strike crippled life in the Kashmiri summer capital Srinagar, where Indian police clashed with Muslim protesters on Thursday after two senior separatists were arrested.

Residents and police said the strike was being observed in other towns in the Muslim-majority Kashmir valley.

In August, tens of thousands of Muslims took to Srinagar's street to demand that the UN recognise the Himalayan region's right to self-determination.

In the past few months, Indian Kashmir has witnessed the biggest pro-independence demonstrations since a separatist insurgency erupted in 1989.



PHOTO: AFP
Pakistan delegation head Additional Secretary for South Asia Aizaz Ahmad Choudhry (R) shares a light moment with Indian Special Secretary of International Organization Vivek Katju prior to a special session of a Joint Anti-Terror Mechanism (JATM) meeting with Pakistan in New Delhi yesterday.

Lankan troops push into Tiger territory

AFP, Colombo

Security forces pushed deeper into territory held by Tamil Tiger rebels in northern Sri Lanka and captured several strongholds of the guerrillas, the defence ministry said yesterday.

Government forces are engaged in a major offensive to capture the town of Kilinochchi, which has served as the political headquarters of the Tamil Tigers for over 10 years.

"Troops made further headway towards LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) hiding areas in the south and the south-western areas of the Kilinochchi district," the ministry said in a statement.

It gave no details of casualties and said the authorities had decided not to release figures of those killed and wounded in the latest round of fighting.

"This is in consideration of the continuing advance of the security forces there (in Kilinochchi district) and the need for operational security, whereby such reportage (of casualties) may impede the successful accomplishment of the mission," the ministry said.

Government forces captured several bunkers from Tamil Tiger rebels as heavy fighting raged

despite torrential monsoon rains in northern Sri Lanka, the defence ministry said Thursday.

Security forces battling to capture the rebels' political capital of Kilinochchi overcame resistance from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) near the village of Akkarakulam, the ministry said.

"The counter terrorist offensive continues with the military battling through stiff LTTE resistance and inter monsoon rains," the ministry said in a statement.

Earlier this week, the military reported that security forces lost 36 soldiers killed and another 48 wounded in the worst single loss for security forces in the past six months.

The ministry did not say how many Tigers had been killed in the latest fighting. The guerrillas also gave no details of the fighting.

Defence ministry maps show that troops are about 10 to 15 kilometres (six to 10 miles) south-west of Kilinochchi.

Tens of thousands of people have died on both sides since 1972, when the LTTE launched its campaign to carve out an independent state in the Sinhalese-majority island of 20 million people.

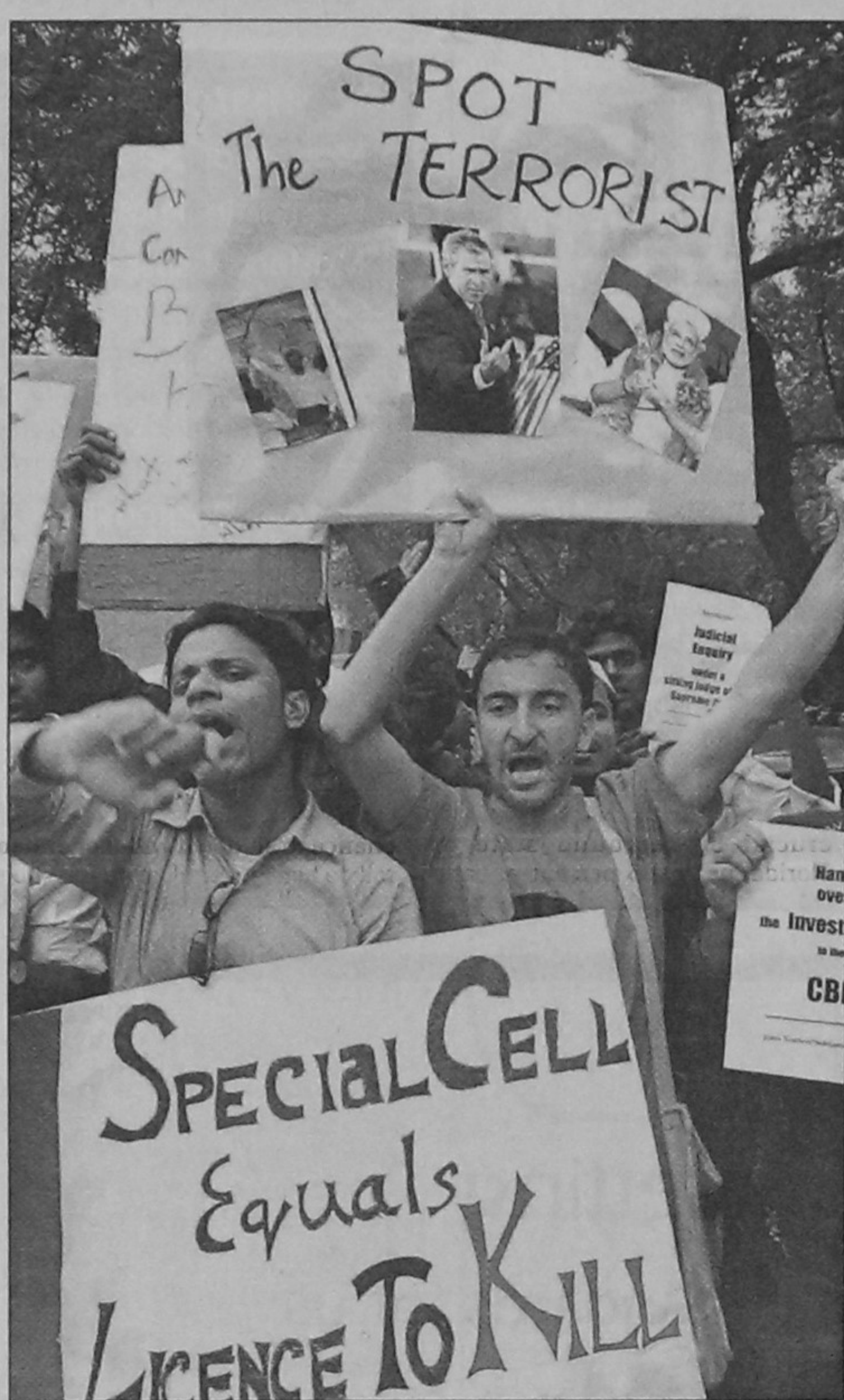


PHOTO: AFP
Indian students of Jamia Millia University hold placards featuring images of US President George Bush (C) Gujarat Chief Minister and BJP leader Narendra Modi and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena leader Raj Thackeray (L) as they shout anti-government and anti-BJP slogans during a rally in New Delhi yesterday.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
Website: <http://www.pksf-bd.org>

Appointment of Human Resource Development (HRD) Consultant

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is an organization set up by the Government of Bangladesh in 1990, for poverty alleviation through the provision of microcredit through its Partner Organizations.

PKSF intends to appoint a consultant to review its current "compensation package" and "organizational structure and manpower strength" and to recommend: a) a compensation package that will attract and retain quality manpower; and b) an organizational structure/organogram that will support the implementation of the current programme and execution of the programme to be expanded in future.

The total duration of the consultancy will be 3 (three) months.

The consultant should have:

- Advanced degree in Social Science/Management/Finance/Accounting/Business Administration/Human Resources/Organization Development;
- Sufficient knowledge in organization management, personnel management and HRD activities of different types of organizations;
- Sufficient experience in similar work inside Bangladesh. Relevant experience outside Bangladesh will be given due importance;
- Fluency both in Bangla and English.

Preference will be given to the individual who has at least 10 years' practical experience in HRD and worked in and for government organizations, reputed private organizations, reputed NGOs and universities.

Remuneration: Attractive remuneration will be provided to the selected person.

Interested persons are requested to send their applications along with a copy of Bio-data to the undersigned to reach PKSF by November 10, 2008. Detailed terms of reference (TOR) may be had from PKSF office on week days between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Assistant General Manager (Administration)

Bangladesh Oil, Gas & Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla)

IFB No. BAPX/UDC/INT/TEN-408/2008, Date of Issuance: 14.09.2008

CORRIGENDUM

The Time of selling and submission for the IFB No. BAPX/UDC/INT/TEN-408/2008 dated 14.09.2008 for procurement of Instrument, Software, Hardware, Accessories and Related Services for "Upgradation Data Center of BAPX" Project is hereby extended up to 19.11.2008 and 20.11.2008 respectively due to unavoidable reason. All other terms & conditions of tender document will remain unchanged.

Project Director

GD-4805

"Upgradation of Data Center of BAPX" Project

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি এফপিএবি

বাংলাদেশ পরিবার পরিকল্পনা সমিতি (এফপিএবি) পক্ষ হতে যাদাসা প্রকল্পের জন্য চারটি আইটেম/সেটের প্রকল্প কণ এক সুদূর পর্যায় কার্য সম্পাদনের জন্য বিসিসি/রিপোর্ট সেটের প্রকল্পকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান/এজিও/এক্সপার্ট/অন্য যেকোনো প্রতিষ্ঠানের কাছ হতে সীনোহেরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আইটেম/সেটের বিবরণ নিম্নরূপ:

1. Toolkit/module for Interactive Learning
2. Health information kit/books for parents on gender violence in the light of Islam
3. RHR information resource for moderate religious leaders and Teachers on gender rights and SRHR
4. Annual Report on Madrasah Project for the year 2008

উপরোক্ত পূর্ণ বিবরণী কাছ (1, 2, 3 ও 4) বাংলা একে সাহিত্য (4) ইংরেজিতে প্রকল্প করতে হবে। উল্লেখ্য, উপরোক্ত কার্যকারী ৩১ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮ এর মধ্যে সম্পন্ন করতে হবে। দরপত্রের সিডিউল আগামী ২৯শে অক্টোবর ২০০৮ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে এফপিএবির অর্থ বিভাগ হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। আগামী ৩০শে অক্টোবর ২০০৮ বেল ১০-০০টা হতে কো ১২-০০টা পর্যন্ত এফপিএবির টেন্ডারবক্সে দরপত্র জমা দেওয়া যাবে এক ঐদীন বেল ১২-০০ মিনিটে দরপত্র দাতাদের সম্মুখে দরপত্র খোলা হবে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন)। নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা যাবে না।

কোনো প্রকার কারণ দর্শনা ব্যতীতকৈ কর্তৃপক্ষ যেকোনো দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা যেকোনো দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র ব্যতীতকৈ সর্বময় ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

ডাঃ জবির উদ্দিন আহমেদ

ন্যায্যপালিক, ডাকগো

২ নম্বর পল্টন, ঢাকা-১০০০ ফোন: ৯০৪৪২৩০, ৯০৪৪২৩৮, ৮৩১৪৪৩০, ৮৩১৪৪৩৮ (দীর্ঘাঙ্ক)

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Miracle Industries Ltd. is a public Limited Company having joint venture with BCIC produces PP Woven bags, FIBC bags, Multi-layer kraft paper laminated sandwiched sack/bags for local and export market for bagging Fertilizer, Feeds, Food grain, Food Products, Textile, Cement etc. It also produces very high quality FIBC for export market. **We are looking for very dynamic and well-motivated personnel in the following leadership position.**

- 1. Asstt. General Manager (Marketing & Sales) :**
It is a field-oriented job. The incumbent should have MBA/M.com with major in marketing from a reputed university. A dynamic and aggressive marketing personnel with 10-15 years experience in similar position in marketing of a very competitive market is desirable. He should be familiar with computer knowledge. Excellent communication skill in oral and writing of both Bengali & English is required. Vision to attain sales growth is a must. He should have clear expertise on market and planning ability to boost up company's overall sales growth.
- 2. Asstt. General Manager (Production) :**
The incumbents should be B.Sc in Engineering (Mechanical / Electrical & Electronics) from any recognized University. Preference to be given to the candidate with practical experience of 5-7 years in similar position in a manufacturing industry.
- 3. Commercial Manager :**
Master/MBA with 8-10 years experience in any large manufacturing Company. He should have capability to handle commercial department of any industrial organization independently. Must be well conversant with export, import, Customs, vat related works individually. Academic qualification can be relaxed in case of highly experienced and potential candidate.
- 4. Office Secretary :**
BBA/MBA/M.A/M.Com from any recognized university. He/she should have knowledge to work as Office Secretary in a large commercial or industrial unit. He/she should be familiar with computer knowledge. Excellent communication skill in oral and writing of both Bengali & English is required.
- 5. Asstt. Manager (Marketing & Sales) :**
It is a field-oriented job. The incumbent should have BBA/MBA with major in marketing from a reputed university with 3-5 years experience in any PP Woven Bag Industry. Vision to attain sales growth is a must.
- 6. Sr. Officer (Cost, Budget & MIS) :**
M.Com/B.Com with CA Course /CMA level II completed. The candidate should have 3-4 years experience in costing and budgeting in any manufacturing organization. The candidate with in-depth analytical skill with various management accounting tools and technique is must.
- 7. Internal Auditor :**
M.Com preferable CA Intermediate at least 5 years experience in any large Company. The candidate with in-depth knowledge on Audit & Accounting works.
- 8. Store In-charge :**
Graduate / Master in any discipline with 5-7 years experience in any big manufacturing company and should have well conversant with all VAT related formalities.
- 9. Asstt. Officer (Cash) :**
The incumbents should be Commerce graduate with 3-5 years experience in depth knowledge on Accounting & cash handling in a bank/company.
- 10. Security Officer/ Supervisor :**
The candidate should be a retired non-commissioned Arm Force and should be courageous and possesses good health. The incumbent with 3-4 years experience in any manufacturing organization will be given preference.

The company will provide attractive compensation packages for the deserving candidates. Interested person /persons may apply with complete C.V. along with 2 copy recent PP size photo, name and address of two reference and contact telephone number mentioning position applied for on the envelope to the following address by 05.11.2008. Only short listed candidates will be contacted. **Miracle Industries Ltd. Dhaka Trade Center (10th Floor), 99, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215.**