

Indian parliament adopts tough anti-terror laws

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

More than three weeks after the terror attacks in Mumbai, the Indian government has got the stamp of approval from the Lok Sabha to its two parliamentary bills to toughen anti-terror laws including one to set up a federal investigation agency to probe terror-related crimes.

The bills, passed by the Lok Sabha by a voice vote, is expected to arm investigators and prosecution with more teeth to deal with terror.

The bills relating to amendment of the Unlawful Activities Act and setting up of a National Investigation Agency was passed by Lok Sabha on Wednesday night with Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram saying the new laws would give "confidence to people that criminals will be punished and to law enforcing agencies to tackle the menace."

Chidambaram, however, acknowledged that the new laws are unlikely to be

"deterrent" to "jihadi" activities, particularly when jihadis are prepared to die.

The new law empowers the federal government to freeze, seize or attach funds and other financial assets of entities involved in terror activities.

The National Investigation Agency will deal with offences of terrorism, violation of Saarc conventions like human trafficking, narcotics and other organised crime, plane hijacking and violations of Atomic Energy Act and weapons of mass destruction among others.

Replying to the debate on the two bills, Chidambaram rejected the criticism, mainly by Left parties, that the government has travelled half way on the road to repeal the controversial Prevention of Terrorism Act, which was enacted by the previous BJP-led government in 2002 and scrapped by the present Congress-led dispensation when it came to power in 2004. "Nothing could be further from truth", he added.

He said there was no question of any person being victimised in the fight against terrorism or discriminated against on the grounds of caste, creed or religion.

Chidambaram said the definition of terrorism was redefined and, in accordance with a global consensus, those trying to fund terror activities and organising terror camps, were brought under the purview of the new law.

The new law also bars bail to a foreigner who has entered India illegally and is accused of committing terror offence here.

Chidambaram said India has over the past several years suffered largescale terrorism sponsored from across the border.

He said the government in enacting the new anti-terror legislations has done "more than adequate balance of requirements of investigating and prosecuting agency and the demands of human rights.

Thousands rally against US, Nato in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

Thousands of protesters rallied in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar yesterday, demanding that Islamabad end its logistical support for US and Nato troops in Afghanistan.

The crowd of about 5,000 demonstrators chanted "Allahu Akbar" (God is greater), "Crush America" and "No to Nato supplies" as they marched through Peshawar, an AFP correspondent witnessed.

The rally came amid a recent spike in attacks by Taliban militants on Nato and US supply depots on Peshawar's outskirts, close to Pakistan's lawless tribal areas -- a hotbed of Taliban and al-Qaeda activity.



Pakistani lawyers and political party activists shout slogans during a demonstration in Lahore yesterday demanding the restoration of the Pakistani judiciary and protesting against recent airspace violations by Indian Air Force aircraft.



PHOTO: AFP

This undated photograph released by Tamil Tiger guerrillas yesterday shows Tamil Tiger guerrillas defending their political capital of Kilinochchi during heavy fighting in the northern Wanni region of the island. Tiger rebels claimed killing 170 government troops in two days of fighting outside their main political base of Kilinochchi in the north of the country while the military said they killed over 120 rebels and wounded another 250.

Lanka claims capture of rebel fortifications

AP, Colombo

Sri Lankan forces captured critical Tamil Tiger fortifications protecting the rebels' de facto capital amid days of heavy clashes in the north, the government said yesterday.

The seizure of the northwestern section of a 17-kilometer-long earth berm and ditch barrier around Kilinochchi could help clear the way for a final assault on the town and force the rebels to seek refuge in the rapidly shrinking area under their control in the northeast.

Other sections of the lengthy fortification remain in rebel hands.

The military has claimed for weeks that Kilinochchi's fall was "imminent," yet heavy rains and fierce resistance from the rebels has kept government forces from taking the town.

A coordinated offensive against the town Tuesday sparked hours of fierce fighting, with the rebels claiming to have killed 170 soldiers, while the government said 120 rebels and 25 soldiers were killed. Both sides routinely exaggerate enemy casualties and underreport their own.

Independent observers are barred from the war zone, making it impossible to verify battlefield reports released by either side.

Fighting continued to rage across the front lines Wednesday, with troops in the Kilinochchi district launching a series of attacks, the government said. Forces in the areas recovered the bodies of four dead rebel fighters on Wednesday, the military said in a statement. The two sides also fought in the Mullaitivu district, where soldiers recovered the body of one rebel fighter, the military said.

Probe into top cops after Mumbai attacks

AFP, Mumbai

Two senior police officers are to be investigated for their role in dealing with the Mumbai attacks, the state government here said, amid calls for their removal from office.

Ashok Chavan, chief minister of Maharashtra state, of which Mumbai is the main city, said state police chief AN Roy and his city police counterpart Hassan Gafoor would be probed for any shortcomings in their response.

"A high-level inquiry will be conducted and the responsibility will be fixed on the officers if they were found guilty of any lapses," Chavan told a meeting of the state legislature Wednesday, according to media reports.

But he said the investigation would only begin once police questioning of the lone gunman captured alive in last month's attacks was complete.

No proof attackers were from Pakistan Says Zardari

PTI, London

In a U-turn, President Asif Ali Zardari has said there is still no "real evidence" that the terrorists who attacked Mumbai came from Pakistan nor had it been established that the lone arrested attacker Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab hailed from the country's Punjab province.

"Have you seen any evidence to that effect. I have definitely not seen any real evidence to that effect," Zardari told BBC in an interview.

Zardari, who earlier acknowledged that the perpetrators of the Mumbai carnage

of November 26 could be 'non-state' actors from Pakistan, made these remarks while responding to a question on assertions from India, US, Britain and other countries that the 10 terrorists who struck at Mumbai came from Pakistan.

On being told that the British Prime Minister Gordon Brown as well as Indian and Western intelligence agencies had stated that the Mumbai attack had originated from Pakistan, Zardari said: "Investigation is an evolving process. It has not been long enough for anybody to... Even the foreign minister of India has said they are still investigating."

Masood Azhar not in Pak custody Says Islamabad

PTI, Islamabad

Contradicting himself and his own cabinet colleague, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi has said that the Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Maulana Masood Azhar, one of India's most wanted criminals, has not been arrested and is "still at large".

"Maulana Masood Azhar is wanted by the government of Pakistan, but he is not in our custody and he is at large," Qureshi told state-run APP news agency Wednesday.

He said Pakistan has taken "enough steps" to arrest culprits involved in terrorist activities.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

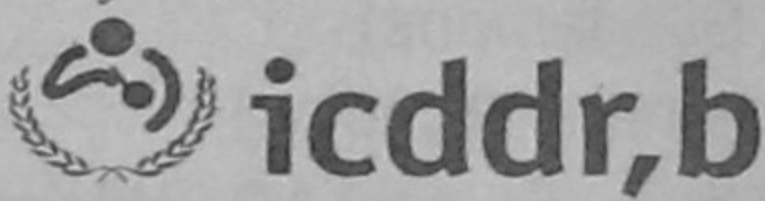
ICDDR,B invites applications from suitable candidates for the position of **Physician, Staff Clinic** with the Matlab Health Research Centre under the Public Health Sciences Division in Matlab, Chandpur District. The appointment will be made on a fixed-term basis for 2 years, which is renewable depending on performance.

Salary -Annual - Tk.660,060/- inclusive of house rent and conveyance allowances with other admissible benefits.

Benefits/facilities -14.8% retirement fund contribution by ICDDR,B, children allowance @Tk.1,420/- per child per month, medical facilities for dependent spouse and children, free group life insurance, and subsidized transport, canteen, day care facilities.

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 31 December 2008**.

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



KNOWLEDGE FOR GLOBAL LIFESAVING SOLUTIONS

Dawood financed Mumbai attack Says Russian intelligence

NDTV, Moscow

Russia believes that underworld don Dawood Ibrahim was directly involved in the Mumbai terror attacks and his network was used by the terrorists to carry out the multiple attacks.

Moscow, which has been sharing intelligence with New Delhi, further believes that Dawood's drug network, which runs through Afghanistan, was used to finance the terror attack.

Russia has gone public with its intelligence inputs, which point to the involvement of Dawood Ibrahim in the Mumbai terror attacks. Dawood is believed to be operating his vast network

from Karachi.

Russia's federal anti narcotics service director said "The gathered inputs testify that regional drug baron Dawood Ibrahim had provided his logistics network for preparing and carrying out the Mumbai terror attacks," said Russia's federal anti narcotics service director.

He had further said that the Mumbai attacks were a "burning example" of how the illegal drug trafficking network was used for carrying out terror activities.

The Indian side, however, is keeping a tight lid on the involvement of Dawood Ibrahim, who is one of the criminals that India wants extradited from Pakistan.

Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS) Hospital
Health Care Development Project (HCDDP)
 An Enterprise of Diabetic Association of Bangladesh
 Under Bangladesh - Netherlands joint cooperation
 125/1 Darus Salam, Mirpur-1, Dhaka-1216; Ph: 8035502-03; E-mail: lina@hcdp-bd.org

Health Care Development Project (HCDDP) - a recent initiative of the Diabetic Association and a sister Project of BIRDEM under Dutch collaboration - is the largest comprehensive health care network so far attempted in Bangladesh. For its high tech Apex Hospital (the Bangladesh Institute of Health Sciences (BIHS) Hospital) the Project invites application from qualified persons for the following post:

Designation	Qualification, Experience & Salary range
Senior Physiotherapist	Minimum 4 years Professional Bachelor degree (total 16 years of education) in Physiotherapy from any recognized university with minimum 5 years clinical experiences & professional membership; Salary Range: Tk 15,000/- to Tk 35,000/-
Physiotherapist	Minimum 4 years Professional Bachelor degree (total 16 years of education) in Physiotherapy from any recognized university with minimum 2 years clinical experiences and professional membership; Salary Range: Tk 13,000/- to Tk 20,000/-
Medical Technologist	HSC in Science or Diploma Course Certificate recognized by State Medical Faculty with 8 years experience (in case of HSC) or 5 years experience (in case of Diploma) in the relevant field; Salary Range: Tk 8500/- to Tk 18000/-
Jr Medical Technologist	HSC in Science or Diploma Course Certificate recognized by State Medical Faculty with 3 years experience (in case of HSC) or 1 year experience (in case of Diploma) in the relevant field; Salary Range: Tk 7500/- to Tk 12000/-
Driver	SSC with Light Vehicle Driving License with 3 years driving experience; Salary Range: Tk 6000/- to Tk 9000/-

Interested Candidates are requested to send their application and CV together with certified copies of all relevant documents and a recent passport size photograph mentioning the contact telephone number and name of two non relative referees. Please mark clearly the position on the envelope and send to the above address. Application through e-mail will be accepted. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview. Application Deadline: 05 January 2009.

আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট

ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

২০০৮-২০০৯ শিক্ষাবর্ষে আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউটে ১ম বর্ষ ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং (বিএসসি ইন নার্সিং) কোর্সে ভর্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধনী

১। ২০০৮-২০০৯ শিক্ষাবর্ষে আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউটে ১ম বর্ষ ব্যাচেলর অব সায়েন্স ইন নার্সিং (বিএসসি ইন নার্সিং) ০৪ (চার) বৎসর মেয়াদী কোর্সে ছাত্রী ভর্তি করা হইবে। উক্ত ভর্তির লিখিত পরীক্ষা ২০ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮ তারিখের পরিবর্তে ০৯ জানুয়ারি ২০০৯ইং তারিখ সকাল ০৯০০ ঘটিকায় আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট (এএফএমআই), ঢাকা সেনানিবাসে অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে।

২। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীগণের ডাক্তারী পরীক্ষা ২৮ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮ তারিখের পরিবর্তে আগামী ১১ জানুয়ারি ২০০৯ইং তারিখ সকাল ০৮০০ ঘটিকা হইতে আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট (এএফএমআই), ঢাকা সেনানিবাসে শুরু হইবে এবং একই দিনে ডাক্তারী পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের মৌখিক পরীক্ষার জন্য নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষার সম্মুখে উপস্থিত হইতে হইবে।

৩। ভর্তির আবেদনপত্র আগামী ০৬ জানুয়ারি ২০০৯ পর্যন্ত প্রতিদিন সকাল ০৯০০ ঘটিকা হইতে ১৪০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে এবং আবেদনপত্র স্বহস্তে পূরণ করতঃ ০৭ জানুয়ারি ২০০৯ তারিখের মধ্যে আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট, ঢাকা সেনানিবাসে বরাবরে পৌছাইতে হইবে। কোন অবস্থাতেই ০৭ জানুয়ারি ২০০৯ইং তারিখের পর আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণযোগ্য হইবে না।

৪। অন্যান্য নির্দেশাবলী অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।

কমান্ড্যান্ট

আর্মড ফোর্সেস মেডিক্যাল ইনস্টিটিউট

তারিখ: ০৯/১২/০৮

ঢাকা সেনানিবাস

WORLD BANK VACANCY

Position: Procurement Analyst

The Regional Procurement Manager (RPM), South Asia Region of The World Bank, Washington DC, USA is seeking applications from qualified candidates for the position of a **Procurement Analyst** for its Procurement Team in World Bank Office Dhaka (WBOD). This is an entry level position as professional in procurement stream of the Bank. The person will report to the RPM, and will discharge day to day responsibility under overall supervision of the Country Focal Person (CFP) of WBOD. This is a three-year term position that may be continued subject to business need of the institution and satisfactory performance of the candidate.

WBOD procurement team with 10 members comprising specialists, consultants, and support staff provides fiduciary, service, and knowledge support to the operational work of the Bank for its entire portfolio in Bangladesh covering various sectors (infrastructure, transport, power, health, education, agriculture, water resources, social, etc.). In addition, it is deeply engaged in strengthening the country procurement system and its capacity development.

Duties & Responsibilities:

1. Provide high quality supports for analytical and advisory activities (AAA) and independently perform analytical tasks relating to procurement status reports, studies, surveys, sector works.
2. Manage and monitor budgetary resources, schedule forecasts, milestones for projects and AAAs; monitor procurement and resource planning actions through the Bank's procurement database; and provide statistical inputs to the preparation of quarterly procurement report.
3. Assist Task Team Leaders / Technical Specialists in the implementation of procurement activities by conducting preliminary procurement reviews of documents as required by the legal Agreement; this involves review of bidding documents, request for proposals, evaluation reports, and recommendations for contract awards.
4. Evaluate the procurement implications of project design, typically for simple projects and/or in consultation with senior procurement staff for more complex projects; explain to Task Team Leaders/ Technical Specialists/ clients on suitability of different procurement methods for the procurement of goods, works and consultant services.
5. Carry out post reviews for selected projects and prepare post review reports; maintain/ update: complaint database for Bangladesh Portfolio, procurement notices published in the dgMarket/United Nations Development Business (UNDB), and procurement training records.
6. Carry out procurement capacity assessment of agencies and its associated risks, prepare initial drafts of procurement sections for a variety of project lending documents taking into account the economy and efficiency of procurement and acceleration of appropriate disbursements.
7. Participate in missions for preparation as well as supervision of projects; participate in meetings with client's and donor officials; explain Bank procurement guidelines and procedures and available options, and preparation of procurement plan, implementation schedule, supervision plan, the development of procurement monitoring systems.
8. Contribute to all activities relating to strengthening the country procurement system, capacity development, and procurement reforms in Bangladesh.
9. Advise staff on procedural aspects for the selection of consultants using Bank Budget and/or Trust Funds executed by the Bank.
10. Develop skills and experience to perform as junior level professional in procurement stream.

General Qualification & Experience:

- Bachelors in engineering or Masters in a relevant discipline (e.g. engineering, business administration, procurement, commerce, law or related subjects).
- Three years of experience in the field of procurement or supply chain management.
- Excellent IT/ computer skills with knowledge of MS Windows, MS Office, MS Excel, MS Access, emails and essential applications.
- Outstanding English language skills (written and spoken).

Professional Skills & Competencies:

- Knowledge and understanding of good procurement practices with specific reference to the multi-lateral development banks procedures; understanding of the World Bank's procurement policies, processes and practices as applied to diverse types of Bank Group procurement.
- Basic knowledge and understanding of public procurement systems of the Bank's clients; general knowledge of Bank Group operations and, in particular, of critical linkages and relationships between procurement processes and business operations and objectives.
- Diverse experience in the non-technical (e.g. commercial, procedural) aspects of procurement processing and analysis at all stages of the project cycle.
- Proven analytical and evaluative skills, including the ability to independently provide well researched analyses of various procurement related documents/ issues.
- Ability to function effectively in a multi-disciplinary team within a matrix management environment, and to promote collaboration in providing a range of procurement services.
- Self-motivation with ability to deliver high quality outputs in a timely manner under heavy work pressure.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills with ability to prepare, present and discuss findings in written and oral form.

Women are encouraged to apply. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Detail job description of the post is available at www.worldbank.org/jobs. Qualified candidates should apply on-line referring to job # 082500 by January 15, 2009.