



Handout photo shows Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani (3R), Chairman of Senate Farooq Naek (L) and Speaker of the National Assembly Fahmida Mirza (R) as they walk with President Asif Ali Zardari (2L) on his arrival to address the joint session of the parliament in Islamabad on Saturday.

PHOTO: AFP

Taliban militants abduct 12 Pak policemen

AFP, PTI, Peshawar

Taliban militants abducted 12 police officers in a pre-dawn attack yesterday in a tribal region where a suicide attack on a mosque this week killed around 50 worshippers, officials said.

The insurgents surrounded a tribal police check post 35 kilometres southeast of Peshawar city in the lawless Khyber region before driving the captured officers away, local government official Rahat Gulsaid.

In a separate incident, six persons were abducted by the militants from another area of Bara, officials said. Security forces cordoned off the area and launched a search operation but were unable to find traces of any of the kidnapped persons.

Troops have been conducting operations against militants in Khyber agency for the past eight days and have

destroyed many rebel bases. Earlier on Friday, a bloody suicide bombing of a mosque packed with worshippers in Jamrud area of Khyber agency left 70 people dead, including members of Khasadar militia.

The blast was so powerful that the mosque caved in because of its impact.

No one has claimed responsibility, but another official blamed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) for the abduction.

The kidnapping came after Pakistani security forces on Saturday arrested four Taliban insurgents and destroyed two suspected compounds in the nearby town of Bara after Friday's bombing, one of the bloodiest recent attacks in Pakistan.

US officials say Pakistan's lawless tribal areas have become a safe haven for al-Qaeda and Taliban militants who fled the 2001 US-led invasion of Afghanistan and

have regrouped to launch attacks on foreign troops across the border.

Extremists opposed to the Pakistan government's decision to side with the United States in its "war on terror" have carried out a series of bombings and other attacks that have killed nearly 1,700 people in less than two years.

Much of the violence has been concentrated in north-west Pakistan, where the army has been bogged down fighting Taliban hardliners and al-Qaeda extremists.

US President Barack Obama in a new strategy unveiled on Friday put Pakistan at the centre of the fight against al-Qaeda.

Obama said al-Qaeda and its allies were "a cancer that risks killing Pakistan from within" and warned Pakistan must "demonstrate its commitment" to eliminating extremists on its soil.

Rebellion in NCP, Cong ranks over poll tickets

UPA constituents will reunite after polls, says Pawar

PTI, Mumbai/Pune

Trouble is brewing within ruling Congress-NCP with both parties facing infighting and rebellion in about six to seven constituencies in Maharashtra. Both parties face a gigantic task of pacifying disgruntled elements within their own ranks as many of their leaders have become rebellious.

NCP's sitting MPs from Beed, Kolhapur and Ahmednagar Jaisingrao Gaikwad, Sadashiv Mandlik and Tukaram Gadakh respectively have revolted against the party after being denied tickets. The NCP, however, is confident that the rebels will not be able to make a dent.

"Our present candidates are capable and have been nominated because of their good work in the constituencies," NCP spokesperson Madani Bafna told PTI. But the trouble for Congress seems to be much more than that for the NCP. The disenchantment in the party's state unit over the choice of candidates announced so far has made leaders from Ahmednagar, Govindrao Adik

AFP, AP, Washington/Kabul

US Defence Secretary Robert Gates urged Pakistan's powerful intelligence service to cut contacts with extremists in Afghanistan, which he called an "existential threat" to Pakistan itself.

Pakistan's Directorate for Inter-Services Intelligence has had links with extremists "for a long time, as a hedge against what might happen in Afghanistan if we were to walk away or whatever," he said on "Fox News Sunday."

"What we need to do is try and help the Pakistanis understand these groups are now an existential threat to them and we will be there as a steadfast ally for Pakistan," Gates said.

"They can count on us and they don't need that hedge," he said, citing the ISI's links specifically to the al-Qaeda-linked Haqqani militant network and to the forces of Afghan warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

The Pentagon chief's comments came after President Barack Obama Friday put Pakistan at the centre of the fight against al-Qaeda with a new strategy to commit thousands more troops and billions of dollars to the Afghan war.

"He clearly understands this is a very tough fight and that we're in it until we're successful, that al-Qaeda is no longer a threat to the United States and that we are in no danger of either Afghanistan or the western part of Pakistan being a base for al-Qaeda," Gates said.

Asked about a New York Times report that US military commanders had pressed Obama for even more troops, the defence secretary said: "The president has approved every single soldier that I have requested of him."

"Now, the reality is I've been at this a long time and I don't think I've ever in several decades run into a ground commander who thought he had enough troops. That's probably true in all of his-

tory. "But we have fulfilled all of the requirements that the general has put down for 2009, and my view is there's no need to ask for more troops," he said, referring to US commander General David McKiernan.

"And the reality is there already are a lot of troops there. This will bring us, when all is said and done, to 68,000 troops plus another 35,000 or so Europeans and other partners."

But the new strategy will be reviewed at the end of the year, Gates also stressed, and said the United States has not given up on extracting more troops from European nations as Obama heads to a Nato summit in France and Germany.

"In fact, I think some of our allies will send additional forces there to provide security before the August elections in Afghanistan," Gates said, adding that Washington also expected more civilian experts and police trainers.

Islamabad not happy with Obama strategy

THE DAWN, Islamabad

Pakistan has decided to convey its concerns through diplomatic channels over certain aspects of the new policy for the region announced by President Barack Obama on Friday.

"We will speak to them (the United States) on issues of concern in subsequent diplomatic negotiations," the President's spokesman Farhatullah Babar told Dawn on Saturday.

A similar impression was given by senior officials of the foreign office, who said the concerns would not go unnoticed and would be taken up at an "appropriate level."

President Obama had announced several incentives, including an increase in aid to Pakistan, passage of a legislation on the reconstruction opportunity zones and commitment to democracy in the country,

but at the same time he was quite ominous in his tone when he categorically said that there would be no "blank cheques" for Pakistan.

Babar said misgivings about Islamabad always existed in Washington's approach, but the positive elements were new and it was decided that they needed to be hailed.

He denied that the presidency's position contradicted the thinking in the foreign office, saying the foreign office was consulted while devising the response.

But sources in the foreign office insisted that the foreign office's reaction was mixed, "guarded and not effusive." There are pretty big problems in the policy about which our leadership is not speaking," a senior foreign office official said.

Another senior official said there were no consultations with the foreign office.

India test fires cruise missile

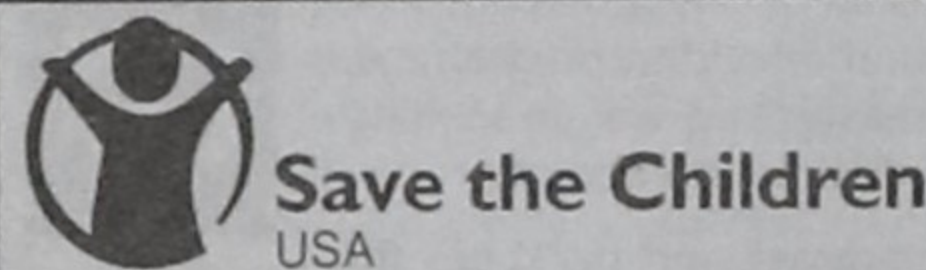
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

The Indian army yesterday successfully test fired the land-attack version of the supersonic BrahMos cruise missile at the Pokhran test range in Rajasthan. The missile took off successfully and hit the "bull's eye", an official statement said.

The missile, a joint venture of India and Russia, was fired at 1115 hrs IST Sunday. "Today (Sunday) land attack version of BrahMos block-II was tested from a mobile autonomous launcher at Pokhran test range by the Indian Army. The missile took off successfully and hit the desired target at bull's eye meeting all mission parameters," a statement issued by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said.

This is the second launch this month and third this year for the block-II version for the army.

In the first test, the missile failed to hit the target. The army kept the results of the second test under wraps even though DRDO termed it successful.



Save the Children envisions a world in which every child is ensured the right to survival, protection, development and participation as set forth in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Save the Children USA is the leading independent organization that creates real and lasting change for children in need in the United States and around the world, invites application from qualified and experienced candidates for its different programs.

1. Deputy Program Manager – PLWHA, HIV/AIDS Program (1 position, based in Dhaka)

This position will support implementing partners in designing, planning and providing technical assistance for effective implementation of support and care for the People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) under High Risk Interventions of GFATM supported HIV/AIDS program. The incumbent has to develop/adopt different strategies/tools/materials/manuals, conduct training, workshops with NGOs and GOB at National, District and Upazila levels. This position requires extensive travel to field sites for monitoring, quality assurance and recording. **Minimum Requirements:** Masters degree in Social Science/Public Health, 7 year experiences out of which 3 years in the relevant area on planning and implementation of public health programs, understanding HIV/AIDS program and specially issues related to People Living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA) in Bangladesh in relation with care and support for the quantitative and qualitative deliverables of the interventions through partnership program, excellent facilitation skills, experience in developing training materials, proficiency in using common computer applications are essential.

2. Deputy Program Manager – SWI, HIV/AIDS Program (1 position, based in Dhaka)

This position will support implementing partners in designing, planning and providing technical assistance for effective implementation of Sex Workers' Interventions (SWI) under High Risk Interventions of GFATM supported HIV/AIDS program. The incumbent has to develop/adopt different strategies/tools/materials/manuals, conduct training, workshops with NGOs and GOB at National, District and Upazila levels. This position requires extensive travel to field sites for monitoring, quality assurance and recording. **Minimum Requirements:** Masters degree in Communication/Social Science/Public Health, 7 year experiences out of which 3 years in the relevant area on planning and implementation of public health programs, understanding HIV/AIDS programs and issues related with Sex Workers' Interventions in Bangladesh for both quantitative and qualitative deliverables of the interventions through partnership program, excellent facilitation skills, experience in developing training materials, proficiency in using common computer applications are essential.

3. Sr. Program Officer - Communication & Information, HIV/AIDS Program (1 Position, based in Dhaka)

This position will be working in the broader domain of internal and external communication, with a particular focus on the program information documentation and web resource management of HIV/AIDS program. **Minimum Requirements:** Masters degree in Communication/International Relation/Business Management or other relevant subject. Additional degree/diploma/training in Information Technology and Graphical software will be preferred. 5 years of total working experience out of which 3 years in managing web and information resources with Content Management System (preferably on Joomla), web content development, communication coordination, writing in newspapers and journals, proficiency in computer skills of MS-Office (with Publisher), Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator and Graphics and web related tools are essential.

4. Program Support Officer, HIV/AIDS Program (1 Position, based in Dhaka)

The position is responsible for providing effective communication, administrative and high quality office and secretarial support for the HIV/AIDS program. S/he also responsible for supporting in workshops/meetings, taking meeting minutes, assisting in preparation of presentations and publishing reports. **Minimum Requirements:** Masters degree in any discipline, 4 years relevant experience especially in development sector (Large and International NGOs), proven experience in providing support to senior management staff in office management, high level of computer skills on MS Office especially on PowerPoint, Excel, Word and Bangla software are essential.

5. Senior Program Officer – MCHN, Jibon-O-Jibika Program (01 position, based in Barisal)

This position will be responsible for ensuring program quality, assisting in planning and monitoring the MCHN activities at field level. This position is also responsible for supporting and guiding implementation of BCC activity as per program strategy on antenatal care, child health and nutrition interventions, identifying capacity building needs & assisting in building capacity and coordinating and liaising with GOB, NGOs and partners. **Minimum Requirements:** Masters in Public Health or Medical Graduate, 5 year experiences out of which at least 03 years in community based health and nutrition programming, experience in BCC related to antenatal care, child health and nutrition interventions, skills in identifying training needs, good writing skills, proficiency in MS-Word, Excel, Power point are some of the key essentials for the position.

SC-USA offers very attractive and competitive salary and benefit packages. Candidates meeting the above requirements should send their Bio-Data mentioning two names of professional references along with a cover letter to The Director - HRD&M, Save the Children USA, House No. 1A(2), Road No. 91, Gulshan-2, Dhaka - 1212 by April 08, 2009. Applicants are requested to go through and understand the Save the Children Child Safety policy before applying. For details of the policy please visit www.vacancy.somee.com. Only short listed candidates will be invited for an interview. Please write the position applied for at the top of the envelope. **Women are especially encouraged to apply.**



Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO)

House No. 03, Road No. 24, Block-K, Banani, Dhaka.

Advertisement for recruitment

Dhaka Electric Supply Company Ltd. (DESCO) invites potential candidates for following posts for its Finance & Accounts Department.

1.0. Assistant Manager (Finance/Accounts/Budget) - 05 posts.

1.1 Assistant Manager (Finance/Accounts/Audit) is an entry-level post of the company in the functional area of Finance & Accounts Department. He/She is responsible for the analysis, control, verifying auditing and timely booking of accounting transactions in compliance with rules and regulations. He/She has to participate in the preparation of periodic closings and annual financial statements. He/She will work under the direct supervision of DGM (Finance & Accounts Department) of DESCO.

1.2 Required qualification:

Candidate must be M.Com with CA (Course Complete). He/She should be self-organized, team oriented and with excellent communicational and interpersonal skills. He/She must be fluent in spoken and written Bangla and English languages, conversant in operating software packages and should be capable of working in stressful situations.

1.3 Age:

Age should not be more than 32 years as on 16.04.2009. Age may be relaxed in case of exceptionally qualified and deserving candidates.

1.4 Compensation Package:

- Basic Salary: Tk. 18,000.00 per month
- House rent: @ 50% of basic
- Medical Allowance: At actual, limit to Tk. 30,000.00 (Thirty thousand) per year. Medical Allowance is entitled only for self, spouse and childred.
- Transport Allowance: As per Company Policy.
- Other Fringe Benefits: As per Company Policy. Income Tax shall have to be paid by the employee. This compensation package is subject to adjustment in the pay structure of the Company.

2.0 Junior Accountant (Finance & Accounts) - 05 posts.

2.1 Junior Accountant is responsible for checking all payments/adjustments, receipt voucher, petty cash etc. ensuring compliance of various tax and other statutory authorities. He/She will work under the direct supervision of the head of DGM (Finance & Accounts Department) of DESCO.

2.2 Required qualification:

Candidate must be B.Com with at least 2 years job experience in Finance & Accounts Department of limited company. He/She should have good knowledge in MS-Word, MS-Excel and Accounting Package and should be dedicated to work. He/She should be capable of working in stressful situations.

2.3 Age:

Age should not be more than 30 years as on 16.04.2009. Age may be relaxed in case of exceptionally qualified and deserving candidates.

2.4 Compensation Package:

- Basic Salary: Tk. 9,500.00 per month
- House rent: @ 50% of basic
- Medical Allowance: Tk. 1,000.00 per month.
- Transport Facilities: @ 10% of basic
- Other Fringe Benefits: As per Company Policy. Income Tax shall have to be paid by the employee. This compensation package is subject to adjustment in the pay structure of the Company.

Conditions:

- Interested Bangladeshi citizens fulfilling the above criteria may send their application along with updated resume, 2 recent passport size photographs, attested copies of all Educational Qualifications, Experience Certificates and National ID/Nationality Certificates to reach the undersigned by April 16, 2009.
- The position applied for must be mentioned in the application.
- Candidates must have at least one 1st Division. Candidates having 3rd Class or CGPA below 2.50 in any examination need not apply. Candidates employed in Government/Semi-Government/Autonomous Bodies must apply through proper channel.
- Candidates who already applied against our previous advertisement Memo No. DESCO/Admin-22(A)/2008/7093 dated 15.12.2008 need not apply a fresh.
- Only short-listed candidates based on qualification and experience will be called for interview. The company reserves the right to accept/reject any application without any reason whatsoever.
- Any effort to unduly influence the recruitment will be a reason for disqualification.

Date: March 29, 2009
Memo no. DESCO/Admin-22(A)/2009/ 1469

S.M. Habibur Rahman
DGM (Administration)