



A Pakistani man throws water on a burning passenger bus during riots in Quetta yesterday. Riots erupted in southwest Pakistan that left one policeman dead as public anger boiled following the murder of three Baluch nationalist politicians.

Policeman killed in Pakistan riots

AFP, Quetta

Riots erupted in southwest Pakistan that left one policeman dead and three injured Thursday, as public anger boiled over following the murder of three nationalist politicians, officials said.

The mutilated bodies of the dissident Baluchs, who supporters said were picked up by intelligence agents in Turbat on April 2, were found dumped in a remote location on the outskirts of the southwest town, a party official said.

The victims were identified as the head of the Baluchistan National Party (BNP), Ghulam Mohammad Baloch, his deputy Lala Munir Baloch and Sher Mohammad of the Baluchistan Republican Party, according to the official.

Swat peace deal collapses

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, AFP, Islamabad/Peshawar

A deal between the Pakistani government and the Taliban to restore peace in the Swat Valley yesterday collapsed with a radical cleric withdrawing from the pact he helped broker, reports said.

"Maulana Sufi Mohammad announced his withdrawal from Swat peace deal on Thursday," Geo TV reported.

The cleric had helped broker the deal between the North West Frontier Province government and the Taliban under which the militants had agreed to lay down their arms in return for the imposition of Sharia laws in the area.

Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, who had given the go-ahead for the deal, had said he would ratify it only if peace returned to the picturesque valley, once a popular tourist destination.

Zardari, however, has been under immense pressure to turn down the deal, particularly after the emergence last week

of a video depicting a 17-year-old girl being publicly flogged over an alleged illicit relationship. Though the incident was denied, it sparked universal outrage.

The deal with the Taliban had attracted international condemnation as it was seen to be bowing to the militants.

Meanwhile, the pro-Taliban cleric lashed out at Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari Thursday for not ratifying a deal imposing Islamic law in Swat valley, holding him accountable for any return to violence.

February's agreement between cleric Soofi Mohammad and Pakistan's government to implement sharia law in the northwest Swat valley triggered alarm around the world, raising fears it would embolden Taliban and al-Qaeda extremists.

Sharia courts were reported last month to have started work in Swat valley, but Zardari had not yet signed the agreement into law, as had been agreed in terms of the peace deal, Mohammad said.

"I am ending my peace camp in Swat

and if any bloodshed occurs, President Zardari and the federal government will be responsible," Mohammad told a news conference in Mingora, the main town in the former ski resort of Swat.

Thousands of Taliban followers spent nearly two years waging a terrifying campaign to enforce Sharia law in Swat -- beheading opponents, bombing girls' schools, outlawing entertainment and fighting government forces.

"The provincial government is sincere in implementing the Sharia-based justice system but President Zardari is not signing it so I am leaving my peace camp," said Mohammad.

He said that he was making the move "in protest" and charged that "without Sharia there cannot be any peace in Swat."

The cleric, who was jailed for six years in Pakistan after leading thousands of supporters into Afghanistan to fight US-led troops, had camped out at a preaching centre in Mingora since signing the Sharia deal in February.

'Fourth front' takes off from Mulayam land

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, SAEFAI, Uttar Pradesh

Three regional satraps raised their first polls battle cry yesterday when Mulayam Singh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) president Lalu Prasad and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) chief Ram Vilas Paswan declared that their alliance was here to stay.

"We are one and will continue to remain one," was the keyword at the joint rally of what is being called the "fourth front" and which drew fabulous, excited crowds that seemed to believe every word of what the three leaders were busy impressing upon them. However, each sought to reaffirm their faith in the return of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) to power after the April-May elections. The rally came barely a week after they announced their decision to contest the Lok Sabha polls together.

"Nothing can separate us now," declared Mulayam Singh. Lalu Prasad said, "We will also contest the state assembly elections together." Paswan said, "The united strength of the three states represented by us - Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh - will determine who will occupy the prime minister's chair."

The three leaders got together at Mulayam Singh's home village Saefai in Etawah district which he has almost transformed into a modern urban oasis in an otherwise backward belt.

'Cheap rice' holds the key in Indian polls

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Can rice, the staple food of most South Asian people, decide the fate of coming general elections in India? The answer appears "yes", if one goes by the competitive populism Indian parties have resorted to with their manifestos promising subsidised rice.

Ruling Congress party has promised that if voted back to power its government would sell rice at Rs 3 per kg for people who live below the poverty line while main opposition BJP went a shade better by promising per kg of rice at Rs 2.

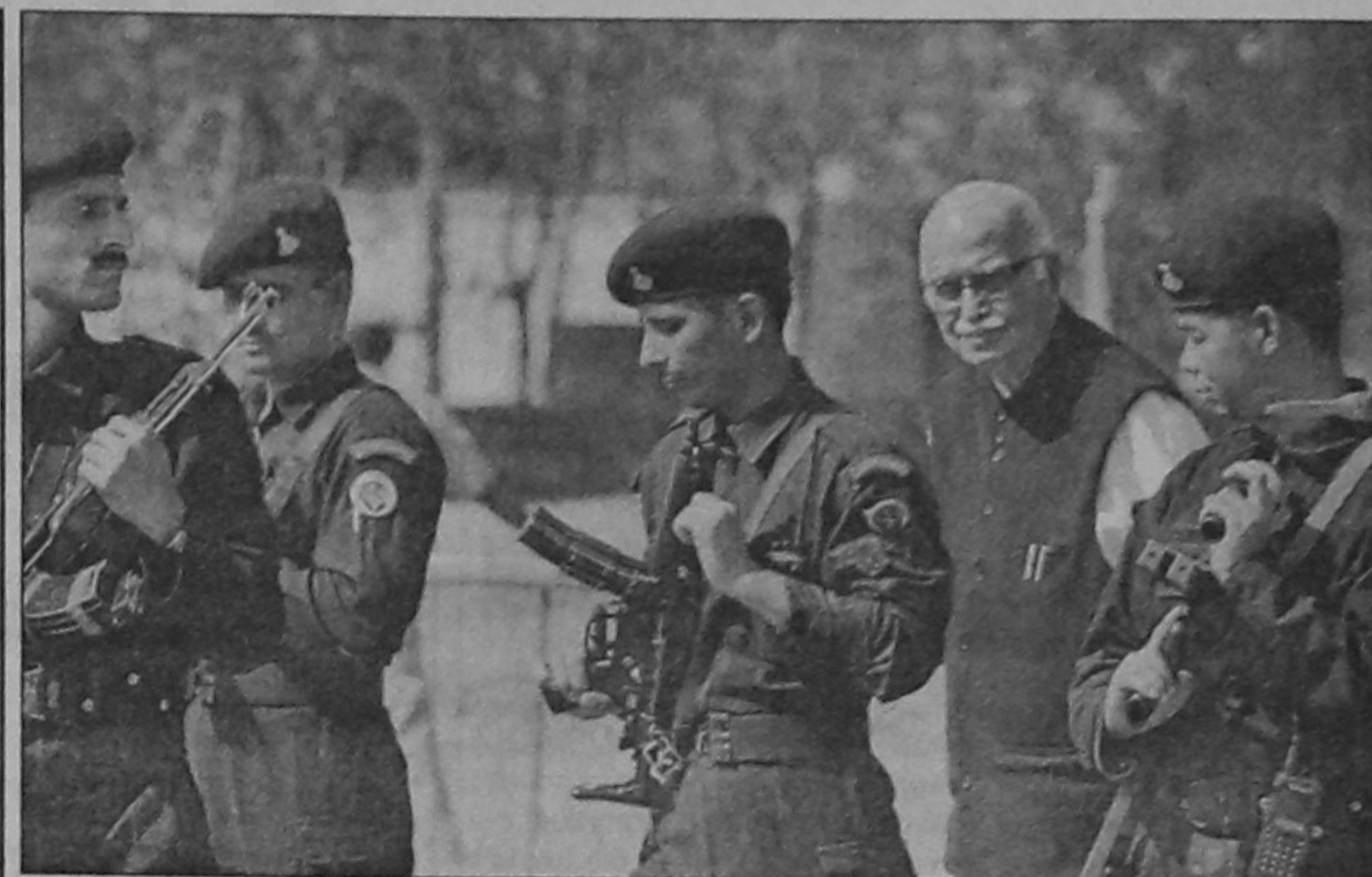
Regional parties too have doled out promises of cheap rice. Chief Minister of Orissa Naveen Patnaik, whose party Biju Janata Dal (BJD) is seeking to retain power in state legislative polls, started distribution of rice at Rs 2 per

kg earlier this year. It paid handsome dividend for the party in recent elections to civic bodies.

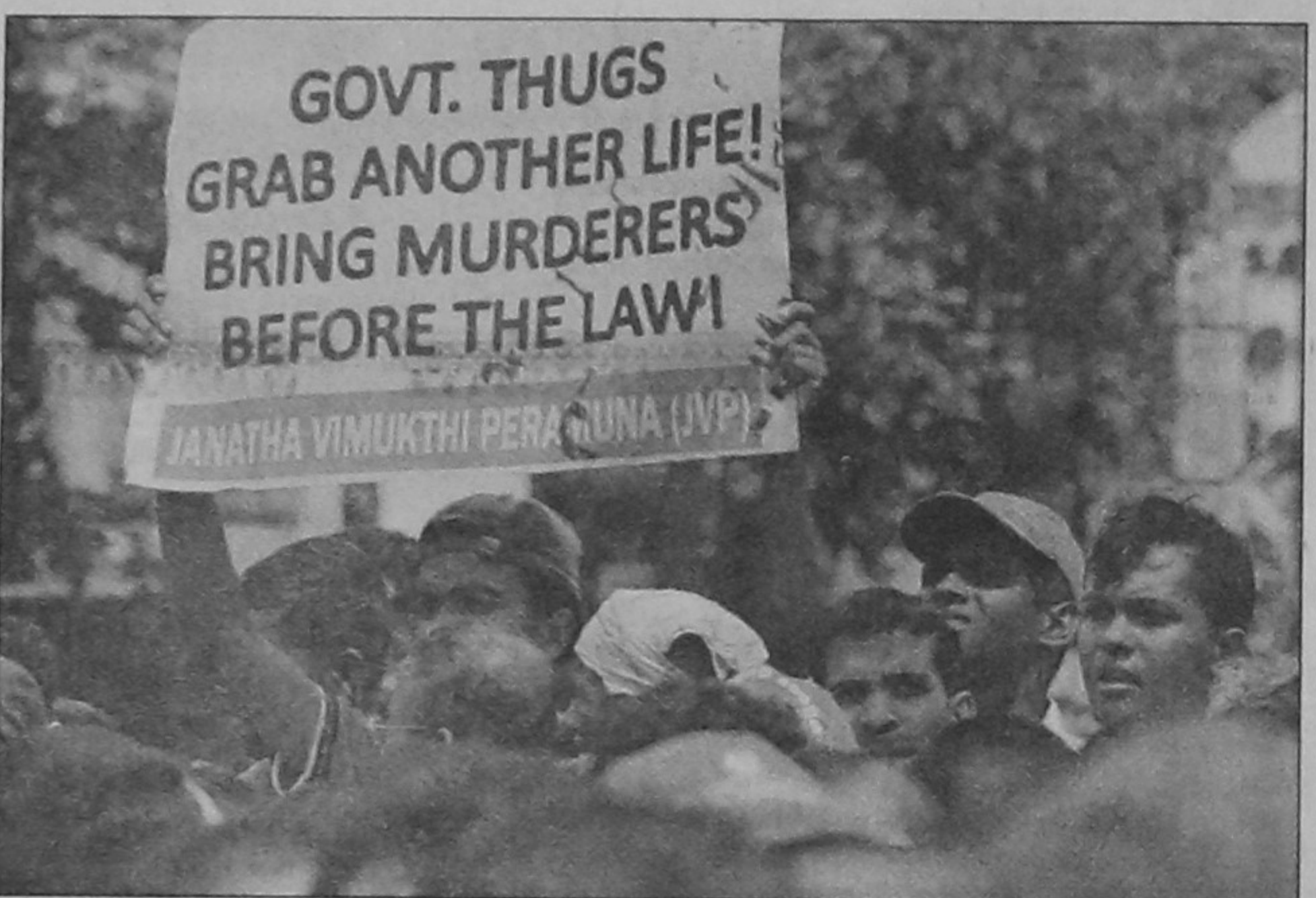
To outdo its opponent in Orissa, BJP state unit has offered rice at Rs 1 per kg, pulses at Rs five per kg and salt free of cost. The 11-year-old alliance between BJD and BJP collapsed last month.

Congress, which rules Andhra Pradesh, the southern state which too has elections to state legislature along with national parliamentary polls, also promised to hike the quantity of rice doled out at Rs two per kg from 4kg to six kg per month.

The offer of subsidised rice had paid off handsomely for BJP in retaining power in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh in November last year defeating its principal challenger Congress.



Leader of the Indian parliamentary opposition and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) premier candidate LK Advani (2R) walks with security personnel as he arrives to address an election campaign rally in Jaunpur yesterday. India will hold a general election in five phases from April 16 to May 13.



Activists of Sri Lanka's main Marxist party JVP, demonstrate in Colombo on Wednesday against the killing of one of their members. The Marxists left the government recently, but a faction remained with the ruling alliance, which is facing a mid-term test later in April through a local election.

al-Qaeda aiming to make Pakistan a 'failed state': US expert

ANI, Berlin

A key adviser to US President Barack Obama, Bruce Riedel, has said that al-Qaeda's main motive is to render Pakistan a failed state as it is trying to paralyse the government and destabilise the country.

Riedel urged the international community to safeguard Pakistan's nuclear armaments from the reach of the Taliban, which is dangerously expanding its control over different regions in the country.

Highlighting the root cause of the ever increasing numbers of extremists, Riedel said most of the Taliban operatives took to violent means because of poverty and if this issue is tackled efficiently, the problem could be dwarfed.

"A considerable number of the Taliban are not hard-core committed Jihadis. They are in it for the money. If their momentum is broken, we will start to see a change in the cohesion of the Taliban by the end of the year," The News quoted Riedel, as saying. Meanwhile, expanding its activities in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) of Pakistan, armed militants have reportedly entered new areas of Bagram and Kalabatt in Buner.

They have taken Kalabatt village Bagram police post and a government school under their control, and people have started fleeing from the region in search of safer places, the Dawn reported.

BSP has done nothing for UP development, says Rahul

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Varanasi

Congress general secretary and Amethi MP Rahul Gandhi yesterday accused Uttar Pradesh's ruling Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) of not having done much for the development of the state and failing to utilise the funds provided by the central government.

"The state used to be the best in the country two decades ago but the BJP, BSP and Samajwadi Party have done nothing for the development of the state in the past 20 years," Rahul Gandhi said at a poll rally in Chandauli district.

LTTE denies Sonia on its hitlist

CNN-IBN, New Delhi

A day after Government alerted various states to be on guard for a possible LTTE attack on Congress President Sonia Gandhi during the election campaign, an LTTE spokesman denied the report.

In a letter to CNN-IBN, political head of the LTTE, Nadesan, wrote, "All these are part of the malicious propaganda intended to divert the plight of the sufferings of the Tamil civilians and their quest for self determination. Forces that are determined to dent the affinity between Eelam Tamils and the great people of India continuously labour to break that bond by in putting out these kind of baseless fictions. There is absolutely no threat whatsoever from us to neither Ms. Sonia Gandhi nor her children." On Wednesday, the Home Ministry, acting on "specific intelligence inputs", wrote to the police chiefs of all states, asking them to tighten security at Sonia Gandhi's rallies.

Chidambaram also wrote to 40 senior politicians, asking them to be careful about their security during campaigning.

In an exclusive interview to CNN-IBN on Wednesday, he said the road shows of some leaders may even have to be cancelled.

Kuwait-based NGO director deported

FROM PAGE 1
Special Branch (SB) of police say they called him in at their Uttara office on Tuesday and asked him to leave the country immediately.

A senior SB official confirmed that Bao left the country soon after that meeting.

"He is one of the listed people who are prohibited to stay in or enter the country," the official added.

There are allegations that RIHS used to provide funds to the militants of Ahab, JMB and other organisations, investigators had said earlier.

Contacted, ABM Zakir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Uttara police, said he saw Bao to go to the SB office, which is located in the same

building of the police station.

The NGO Affairs Bureau cancelled RIHS's registration in May 2007 following a government decision made over intelligence recommendations. Ahab, Hadith Andolan, Bangladesh (Ahab) chief Asadullah Al Galib helped RIHS get registered in November 1996.

RIHS Deputy Director General Bao was serving as the NGO's country director. He came to Bangladesh in 1996 and married a Bangladeshi woman, who hailed from Kishoreganj. He also has two children.

Sources say there is another African national,

Abdur Rahman, who is a close associate of Bao and also married the sister of Bao's wife.

Earlier, one Akramuzzaman was the director of the RIHS Bangladesh chapter. His nephew Nasrullah was a Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leader and was killed in a blast in Rangamati while making bombs, the sources add.

After the government banned al-Qaeda donor-suspect Al Haramain Foundation [now outlawed worldwide] in 2003, many Haramain staffs including five foreign nationals joined RIHS. Four of the foreign

nationals were later withdrawn from the country following the August 17 serial blasts in 2005.

Meanwhile, RIHS has appealed to the Bureau for reconsidering cancellation of its registration, officials say.

Executed JMB chief Abdur Rahman himself told the media in 2004 that he used to get funds from the RIHS and Saudi Arabian NGO Rabitat-e Alam al Islami, which is allegedly run by Jamaat-e-Islami men.

The RIHS has so far erected 1,000 mosques, madrasas and orphanages across the country, many of which were used by JMB militants, said the investigators.



A project financed by the European Union

Vacancy Announcement

Promotion of Development and Confidence Building in the Chittagong Hill Tracts



United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancy for the following position for "UNDP-Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility" under "Service Contract" modality. The duration of the contract is one year initially and subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance.

1. Cluster Leader-Gender - 01 position

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Hard copies of the TOR's can be collected from UNDP-CHTDF Offices of Dhaka, Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. Applications should be submitted no later than 23 April, 2009.

"Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants" "Women are strongly encouraged to apply"

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

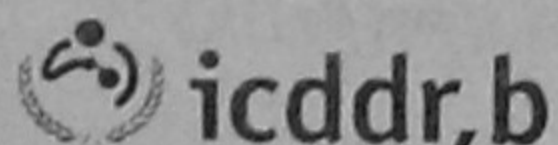
Date: April 10, 2008

ICDDR,B, Dhaka invites tenders in sealed cover, subject to the general terms and conditions from the manufacturers/sole distributors/authorized local agents for supply, installation and commissioning of ICU equipment for Dhaka Hospital on both C&F Dhaka air freight basis and C&F Chittagong sea freight basis. Quoted price should be in foreign currency for ICU equipment and installation, commissioning and others should in BDT.

Sl#	Description	Qty.	Tender Security Money	Completion time
1	ICU Equipment for Hospital use i) ICU Ventilator with standard accessories ii) Infant Warmer iii) Multi parameter Monitor iv) Medical Air Plant Including installation, commissioning and others.	4 nos. 3 nos. 3 nos. 1 no.	3% on quoted currency or in equivalent BDT.	90 days from date of contract signed/ LC open

Tender schedules along with general terms and conditions will be available from Cash Section, Finance Department of ICDDR,B on cash payment of Tk. 2,000.00 (non-refundable) per set on all working days of the Centre between 11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. up to May 5, 2009. All tenders should be dropped in the tender box kept in the Procurement & Materials Office, Dhaka up to 2:30 p.m. of May 5, 2009, which will be opened at 3:00 p.m. on the same day in presence of the tenderers (if any).

The ICDDR,B Management reserves the right to increase/decrease quantity and accept or reject part/whole of any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.



Senior Manager
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SQUARE KINDERGARTEN

SQUARE KINDERGARTEN, an English Medium School, run by SQUARE Group seeks qualified female applicants for the following position at Pabna.

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Major Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide professional leadership in the Kindergarten
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Position applied for must be mentioned at the top of the envelope.