

3,000 more civilians flee Lankan war zone

AFP, Colombo

Nearly 3,000 civilians escaped from Sri Lanka's war zone and sought shelter with security forces, the defence ministry said yesterday as troops stepped up an offensive against cornered Tiger rebels.

The non-combatants escaped Saturday evening from the remaining area under the control of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the ministry said in a statement.

"The civilians started arriving in large groups since (Saturday) afternoon using the safe routes opened for them by troops," the ministry said.

The influx into government-held territory was in contrast to the trickle of civilians that came through when the military observed a unilateral two-day truce earlier in the week, the ministry noted.

Security forces kept up their offensive against Tamil Tiger rebels trapped in a

government-declared "no-fire zone," ignoring international appeals for a ceasefire.

At least 17 rebels were killed and another 22 wounded in fighting Saturday, the government said.

"Battlefield reports indicated that troops have encountered stiff resistance from the terrorists," it said.

President Mahinda Rajapakse told party workers at his tightly guarded residence in Colombo Saturday that the decimated Tamil Tigers faced a stark choice.

"They have only three alternatives. Either they have to surrender to our armed forces, eat the cyanide capsule (worn round their necks) and commit suicide, or plunge into the sea," he said.

Rajapakse said the international community should stop putting pressure on him for another ceasefire and instead ask Tiger rebels to free civilians in the conflict zone.

The United Nations says up to 100,000

civilians are trapped in the area in "dire humanitarian conditions."

The government has accused the Tigers of holding the civilians as a human shield, a charge denied by the guerrillas, who are trying to prevent a total defeat after fighting for 37 years for a separate state.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon last week sent his chief of staff, Vijay Nambiar, for talks with Sri Lankan leaders to extend the ceasefire but was rebuffed, officials said.

Britain's Foreign Secretary David Miliband said at the weekend he would ask Nambiar to report to the UN Security Council "immediately" on his return.

"I remain gravely concerned at the continuing conflict in northern Sri Lanka that threatens many thousands of civilian lives," Miliband said in a statement.

"The British government maintains its calls for an immediate ceasefire in Sri Lanka and for civilians to be allowed to leave the conflict area."

Pakistan 'in danger', says Musharraf

PTI, Islamabad

Warning that Pakistan "is in danger", former President Pervez Musharraf on Sunday said its leadership must take cognisance of concerns expressed by world community about security situation in the country but asserted that nobody should dictate any course of action to it.

"The country is in danger and if we get bogged down in minor and old issues, there will be problems," Musharraf told reporters at the airport here before he embarked on a visit to Saudi Arabia.

"The issue is very serious. Everyone in the world is seeing the seriousness of the issue in Pakistan. Everyone is trying to chart a course of action," he said. At the same time, he said, Pakistan must chart its own course of action to steer the country out of the problems it is facing.

Women portray the grief of Tamils during a demonstration of 600 Tamils in the Hague on Saturday to protest the Sri Lankan government's offensive on the Tamil Tiger rebels in the north of the island.

PHOTO: AFP

Manmohan, Advani trade barbs for top job

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

For all the talk of a fractured electoral mandate and important role of regional parties and their leaders, the campaign for Indian parliamentary election has so far been more about two personalities - about a Prime Minister "by accident" Manmohan Singh and his main challenger LK Advani aspiring for the top job.

Singh, 76, of ruling Congress and 81-year-old Advani of BJP have hogged media attention as they launched an all-out war of words against each other, much to the chagrin of regional and Left parties which accused the two principal contenders for power of trivialising the political

discourse.

Whatever one may say about issues figuring in elections, polls in Indian sub-continent have also been about certain personalities and India is no exception.

Though both were born in what is present-day Pakistan, Singh and Advani are a study in star contrasts. While Advani is a career politician rising from grassroots as a RSS activist, Singh, a leading economist who had headed the country's central bank, is an accidental prime minister on whom the mantle fell after Congress chief Sonia Gandhi played out the renunciation act five years ago.

During the electioneering, Advani has accused Manmohan Singh of being the "weakest

PM" India has ever had and insinuated that the real power centre was Sonia Gandhi.

Congress retaliated by questioning BJP's "decency" in attacking their PM and launched their bitterest attack on Advani with four key leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh himself - casting serious doubts on Advani's ability to serve as PM.

The Congress leaders raked up the issue of releasing four terrorists to save the lives of 153 passengers of a hijacked Indian Airlines plane to Kandahar, Afghanistan, in December 1999, during BJP-led NDA rule when Advani had been Home Minister.

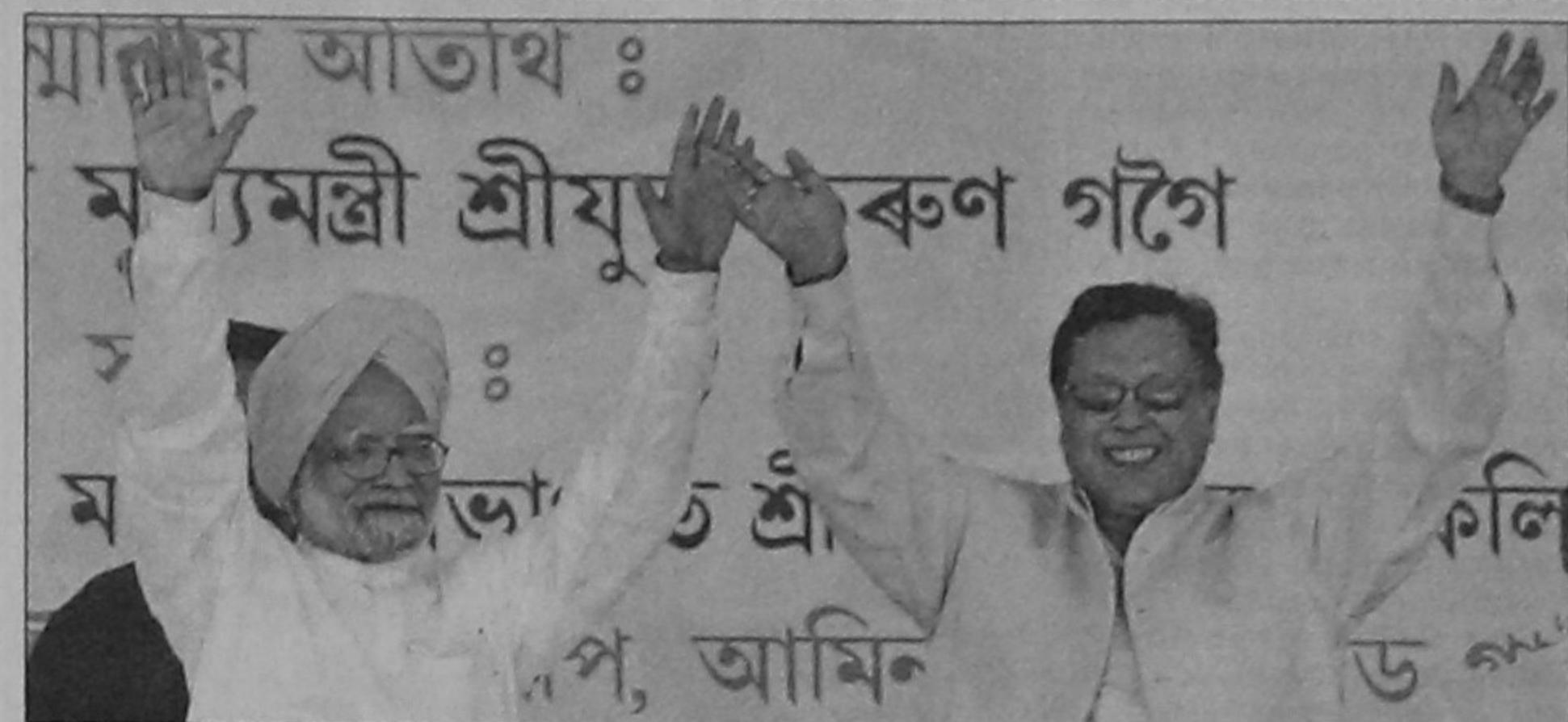
BJP solely to blame for Babri Mosque demolition: PM

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Guwahati

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Sunday rejected Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supremo Lalu Prasad's charge that the Congress too was to blame for Babri Masjid, saying the BJP was solely responsible for the 1992 mosque demolition.

Addressing a press conference in Amin Gaon in Guwahati, the prime minister also said he would prefer to put an end to the slanging match with Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) prime ministerial candidate L.K. Advani.

"We can't be blamed," the prime minister said replying to a question on his reaction to Lalu Prasad's remark on the Babri razing. He said that the then BJP chief minister of Uttar Pradesh Kalyan Singh "did what he did" despite his affidavit to the apex court that he will protect the 16th century disputed structure.



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, along with Guwahati constituency Congress party candidate Robin Bordoloi (R), wave to the crowd at an election campaign rally in Guwahati, the capital of Assam state yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Make A Difference

Vacancies with Oxfam GB

Oxfam works with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering.

Oxfam is committed to ensuring diversity and gender equity within the organization and welcomes application from women and under represented groups.

Oxfam GB, an international NGO, working in Bangladesh since 1971, has completed a new country programme strategy where Oxfam GB aims to increase communities resilience to shocks (economic, climate, disaster) and empowerment through greater social inclusion in decisions affecting their lives, addressing gender equity at all levels, developing economic growth and leadership, expand disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. This will be achieved through integrated community empowerment programming, increased local and national level policy, advocacy and campaigning and increasing humanitarian preparedness and response. These changes will evolve over the next 1-2 years therefore, Oxfam GB is looking for dynamic, innovative and self-starters who can work across programme and support teams with a proven commitment to ending all forms of exclusion and discrimination specifically against women, minority populations and marginalized communities in Bangladesh. As a result of these changes Oxfam GB have immediate vacancies:

Human Resources & Administration Coordinator

The role of the Human Resources & Administrator Coordinator is to provide support to the programme team, through the delivery of a cost effective and efficient administration team, and a HR function focussed on HR best practices and Staff Development.

Qualifications and Experience required

Academic qualification in HR or Business Management

Minimum of five years working experience a senior HR position.

Experience working as a coach and mentor and leading of learning, development and training strategies and implementation

Competencies and Skills required

Critical thinker with the ability to produce creative and pragmatic solutions to complex HR issues Ability to provide leadership and direction on HR, Learning and Development and Administration Good interpersonal skills with the ability to achieve results by influence and persuasion Commitment to Diversity, Equal Opportunities and Capacity Building.

Fluency in English oral and written essential

Economic & Private Sector Coordinator

This role aims to support the programme with the development of an Economic empowerment and private sector strategy, strengthen staff and partner capacities to engage with private sector in programmes; support field teams and partners with design and implementation of Livelihoods and Market Access Programmes/Projects, and strengthen community enterprise development

Qualifications and Experience required

Master's degree in a relevant social science, or natural resource management..

Minimum of five years of experience working with business development activities, or economic development projects including work with the private sector.

Preference will be given to candidates with experience in rural development, women's participation and development projects, rural cottage industries and income generation, cultural conservation, and natural resource management.

Competencies and Skills required

Interpersonal and cross-cultural skills appropriate to the participatory project approach. Knowledge and experience of key issues such as: livelihoods, food security, agriculture, assessments, general food distribution/ targeting, and food for work/ cash for work.

Proven influencing and negotiating skills with internal and external audiences in complex and stressful circumstances.

English written and oral essential,

Media and Programme Information Coordinator

This role aims to maximise the impact of Oxfam's programme and advocacy in Bangladesh by developing and delivering effective media and communication strategies.

Qualifications and Experience required

Relevant qualification in media, communication or related field

Good knowledge of and experience working in the Bangladesh media environment

Excellent knowledge of communication approaches, tools and issues, including photographing, using video materials and new web technology (You Tube, uploading materials on websites....)

Competencies and Skills required

Strong writing skills, preferably with a background of writing for media

Excellent communication skills, in written and verbal Bangla and English

Good analytical and conceptual thinking skills with good strategic perspective, able to understand complex issues and information from different sources and present this clearly and simply

Ability to work creatively, effectively and in an innovative manner and to identify and develop new ways to use the media to Oxfam's advantage

Ability and willingness to travel, including to humanitarian emergencies

Detailed job profiles are available for all of the above positions by contacting the address below.

Oxfam GB can offer you a challenging job, a competitive salary package with excellent benefits and a unique opportunity to make a difference.

Interest applicants should forward a CV with a one page brief as to why they are applying for the position to XXXX Oxfam GB, House # 4, Road # 3, Block # 1, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh or via email to oxfambd@oxfam.org.uk no later than 5.00 pm 30 April, 2009.

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE (2 nd Call) FOR DIESEL GENERATOR							
1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare					
2	Agency	ICDDR,B					
3	Procuring Entity Name	Executive Director, ICDDR,B					
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka					
5	Invitation for	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2000 KVA (Prime) Diesel Generator					
6	Invitation Ref No & Date	Memo No. ICDDR,B/Mohakhali/Gyanaloy/08/17(Re-tender)					
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method					
8	Budget and Source of Funds	GoB/USDA					
9	Project (if applicable)	Strengthening of ICDDR,B Capacity for Improved Hospital Services at Mohakhali Campus under Vertical Extension and Renovation of Research and Hospital Building - ICDDR,B, Dhaka, Bangladesh.					
10	Tender Package Number & Name	Package No.: 17 Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2000 KVA (Prime) Diesel Generator					
11	Tender Publication Date	April 20, 2009					
12	Tender Last Selling Date	May 20, 2009					
13	Tender Closing Date and Time	May 21, 2009		Time: 11:30 A.M			
14	Tender Opening Date and Time	May 21, 2009		Time: 12:00 Noon			
15	Name & Address of the office(s)	Address					
	- Selling Tender Document	Cash Counter, Treasury Unit, 2 nd Floor, Hospital Building, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.					
	- Receiving Tender Document	Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.					
	- Opening Tender Document	Procurement & Materials Office, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.					
16	Pre-Tender Meeting	Pre-Tender meeting will be held on May 10, 2009 at 10.00 AM in the Finance Conference Room, Procurement & Materials Unit, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka.					
17	Eligibility of Tenderer	(i) The tenderers shall be Manufacturer / Principal from eligible source countries having overall 10 (ten) years experience may participate in the tender through their local agent/distributor in Bangladesh. (ii) Tenderers shall have minimum 5 (five) years experience for supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Generator. (iii) Tenderer shall have completion certificate against minimum value of Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Generator under a single contract in the last 5(five) years is Tk 3 (three) Core or equivalent foreign currency. (iv) All prices of Imported Items shall be on C&F Chittagong by sea freight basis (Cost of items and freight to be specified). L/C will be opened by ICDDR,B in favour of the supplier abroad against their Proforma Invoice. (v) Local items for installation shall be quoted in Bangladesh Currency on site delivery basis by the authorized local agent. (vi) Authorized local agent shall have work experience for Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Generator in Bangladesh which is running successfully for at least 03 (three) years. (vii) Authorized Local Agent must have credit line facilities/liquid asset of at least Tk. (BDT) 2.00 (Two) Crore supported by documentary evidence. (viii) Authorized Local Agent must have physical facilities to provide after sale services during and after the warranty period. (ix) Tenderers are required to submit price quotation correspond to 100% of the required items and quantities.					
18	Brief Description of Goods	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2000 KVA (Prime) Diesel Generator.					
19	Brief Description of related services	Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2000 KVA (Prime) Diesel Generator.					
20	Identification of Lots, Tender Security, Completion Time and Price of						