

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rain kills 38 in China

AFP, Beijing

The number of people left dead from torrential rains and floods in southwest and central China rose to 38, state media reported Monday.

A downpour that hit Miyi county in Sichuan province for around 10 hours from late Sunday left 22 dead and seven missing, Xinhua news agency said. Meanwhile, 16 people were killed and one was missing after torrential rains battered Hunan province in central China from Thursday until early Monday, the China News Service said.

4 killed in Gaza tunnel collapse

AFP, Gaza City

Three more bodies were pulled out on Monday from a smuggling tunnel between Hamas-run Gaza and Egypt a day after its collapse, raising the death toll to at least four, medics said.

Rescue services were still searching the tunnel for three other missing people, they said.

Quake jolts Pakistan

AFP, Islamabad

A moderate earthquake on Monday rocked parts of northwest Pakistan, officials said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties but tremors were felt in Mansehra and Malakand at 12:24 pm (0624 GMT), Zahid Rafi, a senior officer at Pakistan's meteorological department, told AFP. The quake had a magnitude of 5.2 and the epicentre was located in Balakot, about 138 kilometres (86 miles) north of the capital Islamabad, he said.

KSA reports first swine flu death

AFP, Riyadh

A Saudi man has died after being struck down by swine flu, the first death from the disease in the kingdom, the health ministry said on Monday.

The 30-year-old man was admitted to a private hospital in Dammam in eastern Saudi Arabia on Wednesday with a fever and pneumonia. He died on Saturday from AH1N1 despite the application of antibiotics and the anti-flu drug Tamiflu, the ministry said.

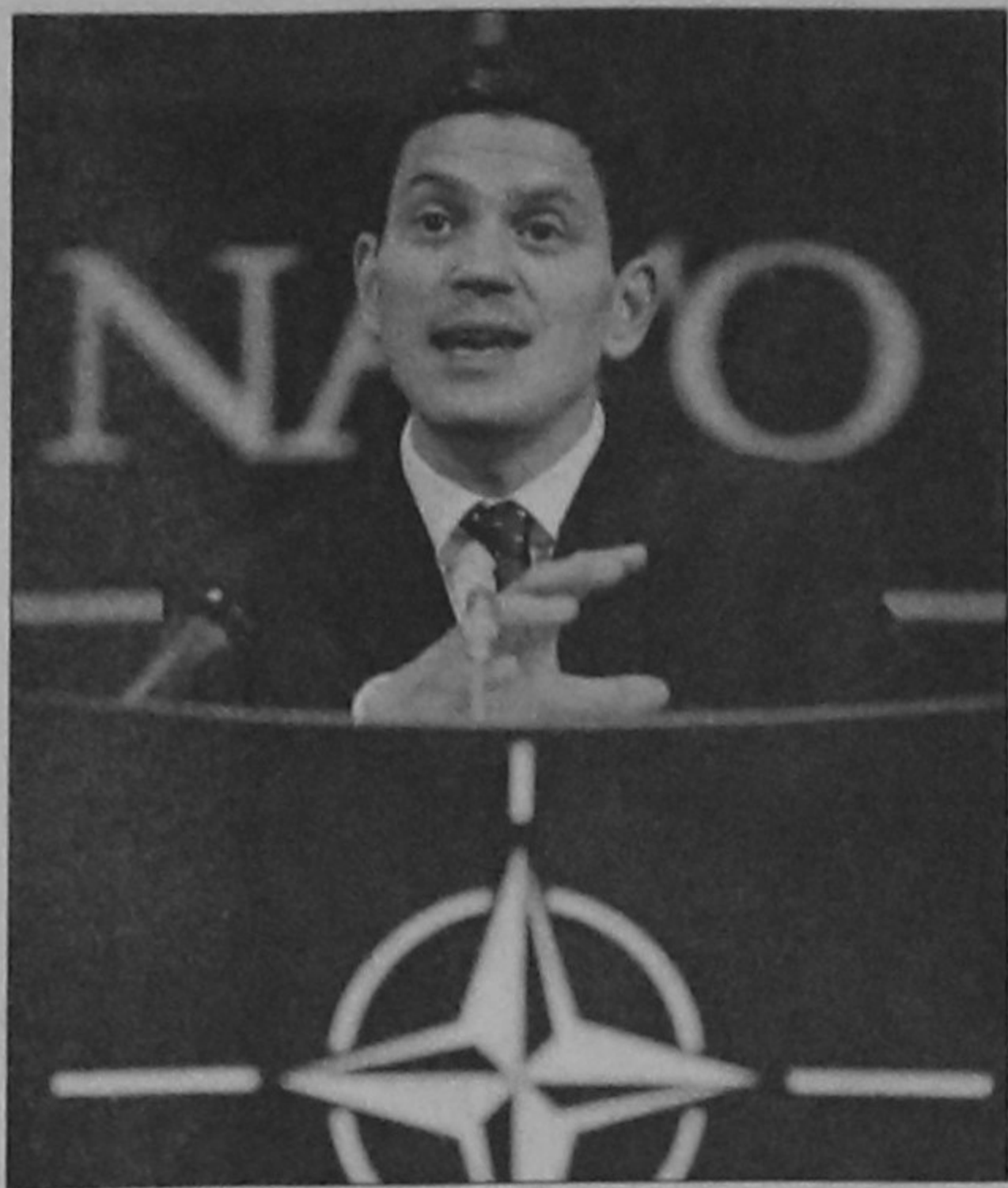


PHOTO: AFP

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband speaks during a press conference yesterday after a Nato meeting on Afghanistan and Pakistan at the organisation headquarters in Brussels. Miliband outlined a strategy for defeating the Taliban, promising the future Afghan government strong Nato backing if it did its utmost to undermine the insurgency.

Pakistan probes hardline cleric's Taliban ties

AP, Peshawar

Pakistani authorities are investigating whether an Islamist cleric who brokered a failed peace deal with the Taliban in the Swat Valley inappropriately aided the militants, a senior government official said yesterday.

Sunday's arrest of Sufi Muhammad indicated the government won't try to strike another peace deal with Taliban fighters in the north-west valley, where the army has waged a three-month offensive.

Investigators may also be trying to pressure the aging cleric for information on the location of Swat Taliban commanders, including his

son-in-law Maulana Fazlullah, the chief militant in the valley.

Amir Haider Khan Hoti, the chief minister of North West Frontier Province, said the government hopes to bring formal charges against Muhammadsoon.

"We don't even need any further evidence against him," Hoti told reporters in the main northwest city of Peshawar. "What he himself said publicly, that everybody knows. What he had said against constitution, the judiciary, the institutions. The contacts he has had with militants. The way he misled government. The way he facilitated militants. We will formally charge him on these things."

Taliban, Afghan govt strike truce in north

Britain backs engagement with militants

AP, AFP, Kabul/London

An Afghan official says the government and a Taliban commander who controls a small part of northwestern Afghanistan have agreed to a ceasefire.

Seyamak Herawi, a spokesman in President Hamid Karzai's office, says the agreement will allow a road construction project to move forward and for presidential candidates to open offices in the region ahead of the country's August 20 election.

The agreement covers the Bala Murgab district of northwestern Badkhis province, an area where the Afghan government has little or no control. The ceasefire was agreed to on Saturday and was reached with the help of tribal elders.

Herawi says the Afghan government hopes to reach similar types of agreements in other violence-plagued regions

of the country.

Earlier Britain voiced support for engagement with moderate Taliban elements in Afghanistan on Monday, with a government minister comparing the situation to dealing with extremists in Northern Ireland.

International Development Secretary Douglas Alexander told BBC radio on a visit to Afghanistan that military action should go side-by-side with the incentive of a political solution.

His comments come amid a political storm over a wave of recent British troop deaths -- 20 have died this month alone and 189 have died since operations against the Taliban began in 2001.

"I think people recognise from the experience of places like Northern Ireland that it is necessary to put military pressure on the Taliban while at the same time holding out the prospect that there can be a political process that can follow

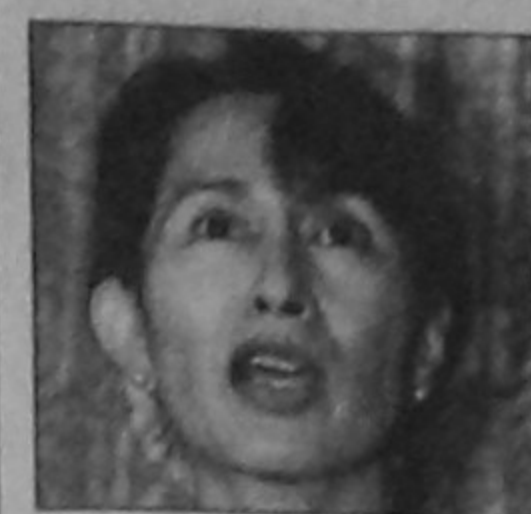
whereby those who are willing to (re-nounce) violence can find a different path," Alexander said.

"In exactly the same way as President Obama and others have made that case in the United States, there does ultimately need to be a political solution complementing the military progress that is being made."

Alexander's comments come ahead of a speech by Foreign Secretary David Miliband in Brussels on Monday in which he is reportedly set to stress the need for a comprehensive strategy in Afghanistan beyond the battlefield.

Last year, then Foreign Office Minister Bill Rammell said Britain would support efforts to reach out to Taliban elements prepared to turn their backs on violence and embrace politics.

At end of 2007, two British diplomats were expelled from Afghanistan, accused of contacting the Taliban.



Suu Kyi wins top Amnesty honour

AP, Dublin

Amnesty International says it is giving Myanmar's democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, its highest honour, the Ambassador of Conscience Award.

The human rights watchdog says it hopes the honor will help deter Myanmar's military government from imposing any harsh new punishments on Suu Kyi, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

She has suffered house arrest for 14 of the past 20 years and is currently on trial for allegedly harbouring an American in violation of her house-arrest rules.

Ruckus in Kashmir House, Speaker's mike snatched

PTI, Srinagar

Pandemonium broke out in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Monday over the Shopian case with Opposition PDP members trooping into the well of the House and trying to snatch the Speaker's microphone.

Trouble started shortly after the House assembled on Monday morning on the opening day of the budget session with National Conference (NC) member Choudhary Mohammad Ramzan trying to draw the attention of Speaker Mohammad Akbar Lone to an "important issue" which was objected to by the PDP members.

They trooped into the well of the House saying the Shopian rape and murder case involving two women was more important than anything else.

Led by their leader Mehbooba Mufti, the 21-member PDP group raised slogans like "Shopian kay katiloon ko pesh karo" (bring to book the culprits in the Shopian case).

As Mehbooba tried to snatch the mike of the Speaker, Lone directed the watch and ward staff to remove the agitating PDP members from the House.

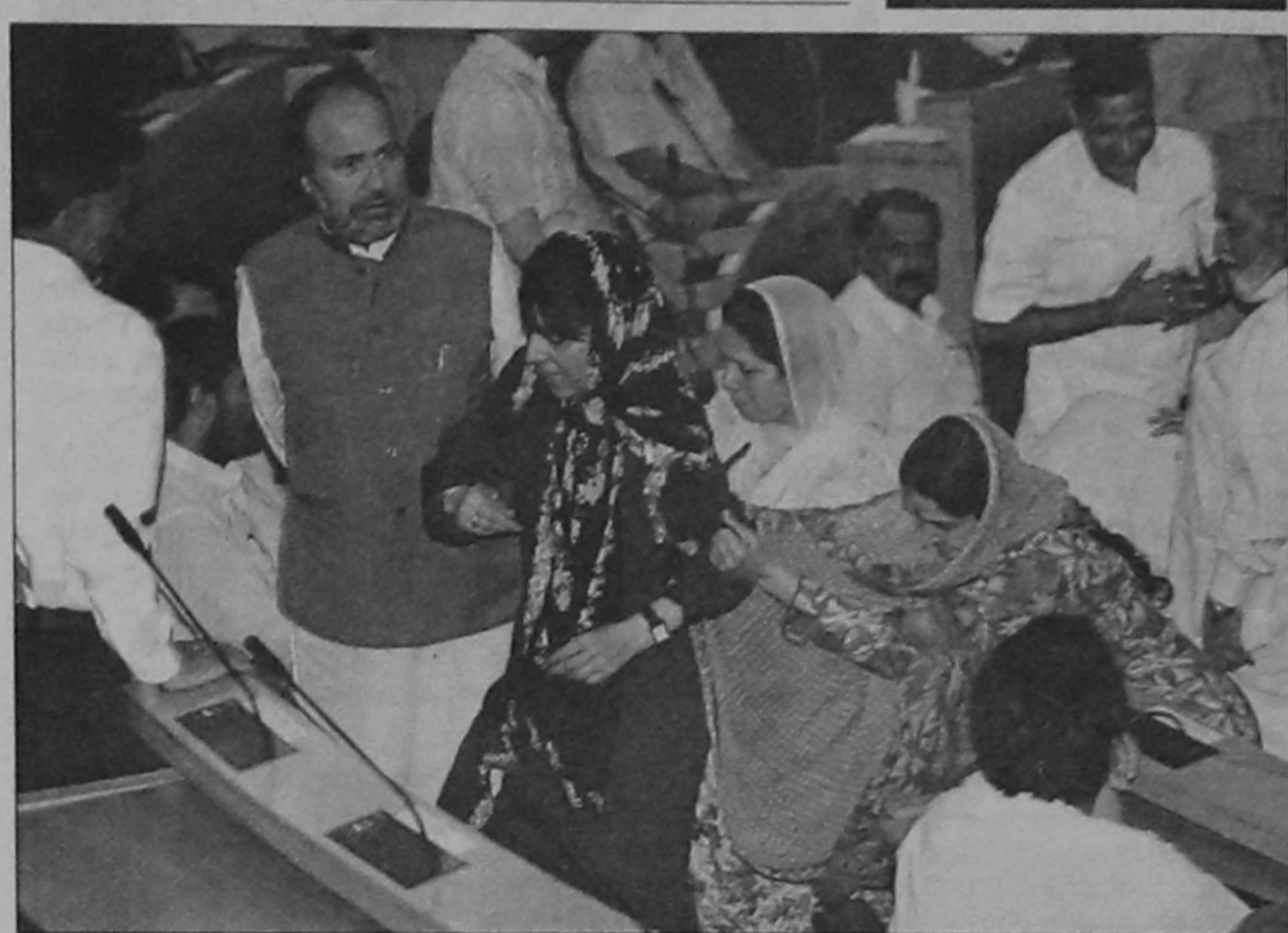


PHOTO: AFP

State Assembly hall security remove opposition People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti (C) from the assembly hall during a session in Srinagar yesterday. Lawmakers from the opposition PDP demonstrated at the centre of the Assembly, but the Speaker rejected their calls for a debate on the rape and killing of two Kashmiri women, allegedly by security forces on May 29.

Nepal PM thanks British actress for Gurkha campaign

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's prime minister on Monday thanked Joanna Lumley for bringing "justice" to Gurkha soldiers who served in the British army, as the glamorous actress was feted on her visit to the country.

Madhav Kumar Nepal said all Nepalese people recognised the achievements of the 63-year-old star, who spearheaded a successful campaign for Gurkha veterans and their families to be allowed to settle in Britain.

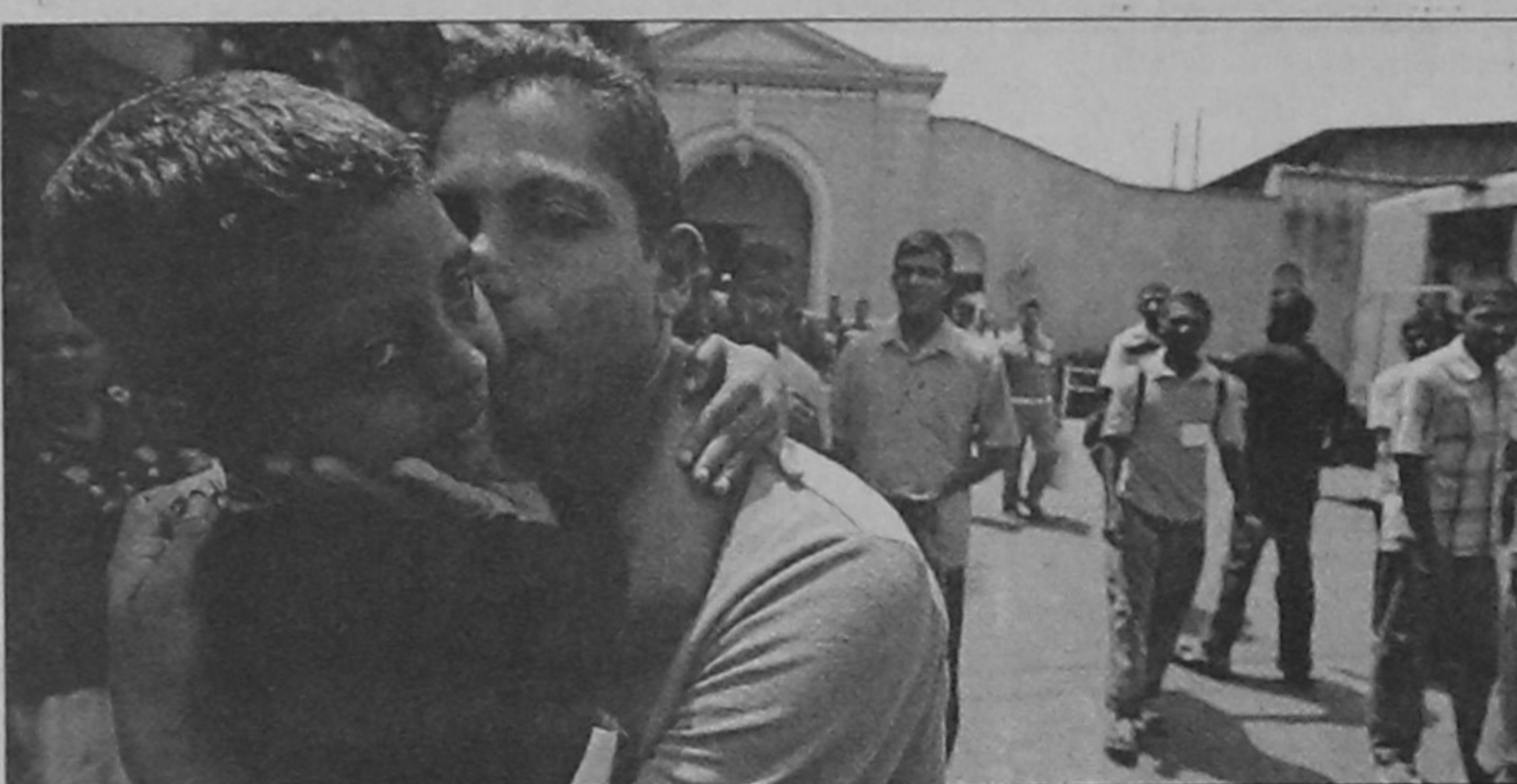


PHOTO: AFP

A Sri Lankan military deserter embraces a younger relative following his release from a prison in Colombo yesterday. Around 1,800 military deserters were released from prisons across the country on Monday, following a presidential amnesty after the decades long war with Tamil Tiger rebels ended in mid-May.

PHILLIPS-VAN HEUSEN FAR EAST LIMITED

PVH

Founded 125 years ago, Phillips-Van Heusen (PVH) is one of the world's most successful apparel companies. PVH owns, designs, sources and markets a selection of world-renowned brands - Van Heusen, Calvin Klein, Izod, Arrow, Bass - in the dress shirts, sportswear, neckwear, footwear, and accessories categories. Phillips-Van Heusen Far East Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of PVH Corp., USA is inviting candidates of outstanding credentials to apply for the following position:

Compliance Administrator, Region D

(Ref. No. BD/DS/016/09)

Overview of the position:

The Compliance Administrator assists the Human Rights compliance team and coordinates daily office administration tasks at the PVH regional office in Dhaka.

Major Responsibilities:

- Prepare, trace, process, and document compliance documentation
- Maintain files, documentation, database, and information in good order
- Coordinate with other Human Rights administrator(s) to ensure all compliance procedures are in place
- Maintain statistical data regarding audits and compliance status; prepare relevant analysis reports
- Handle administrative tasks such as corresponding with stakeholders, handling incoming and outgoing mail, routine office tasks

Requirements:

- 4-year Bachelor's (Hons.) Degree from reputable University
- Complete fluency in verbal and written English, and sound Bengali language skills
- Computer proficiency, including familiarity with MS Office, e-mail communication, and basic internet skills.

Competencies:

- Well-organized
- Able to work under pressure
- Skilled in time management
- Composed and action-oriented
- Self motivated
- Able to function in a diverse team

An attractive package, including a 5-day work-week, and medical / life / travel accident insurance scheme will be offered to the successful candidate.

Please submit your resume with your application by **Aug 10, 2009**, including

reference number quoted above in this advertisement

expected salary, and

date of availability

Applications should be addressed to Human Resources Department and emailed to:

hkhr@pvh.com

Only candidates meeting the above requirements are invited to apply. Multiple applications from the same candidate and canvassing in any form may result in disqualification.

Taliban sets rules for handling captives

AFP, Dubai

The Taliban have adopted rules for the handling of captured "infidel fighters", the pan-Arab Al-Jazeera television channel reported on Monday as the Afghan militia continued to hold a US soldier.

The rules give the militia's leader, Mullah Omar, authority to decide on the fate of its captives according to the strict Islamic sharia rules adopted in the 13-chapter "constitution," the Qatar-based television said.

"If an infidel fighter is captured, he can be killed, exchanged or be offered for ransom, depending on the Muslim interest," the rules stated.

The decision was down to "the imam or his deputy," the text added, in a reference to the Taliban leader, or a lieutenant.

"If soldiers surrender to the Mujahadeen, they will not be killed, they will be rewarded if they give up their weapons," it added.

Al-Jazeera said the rules of war had been adopted by the Afghan militia on May 9, well before they seized US Private First Class Bowe Bergdahl, 23, posted as missing or captured since July 2.

The Taliban militia ruled from Kabul from 1996 until they were evicted by a US-led coalition in 2001 but it has been waging a deadly insurgency since.

India's nuclear sub to trigger arms race

Says Pak Navy

THE DAWN, Karachi

Pakistan Navy's spokesman Captain Asif Majeed Butt termed India's nuclear-powered submarine a destabilising step, which would jeopardise the security paradigm of the entire Indian Ocean region, DawnNews reported.

India, on Sunday, inducted its first nuclear powered submarine 'INS Arihant'.

Built with the cooperation of Russia, the submarine can carry the 'Sagarika' (K-15)

missile capable of hitting targets at a range of 700 kilometres.

India already has fighter aircraft and missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

The submarine completes a nuclear triad encompassing land, air and sea, Indian officials say.

Captain Majeed said the induction of the new submarine could trigger a nuclear arms race and all littoral states, including Pakistan, will take safeguarding steps.

VACANCY NOTICE



Bangladesh

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces vacancies for following positions for the **Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change through Coastal Afforestation in Bangladesh project**. This is a project to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities to climate change-induced risks in coastal districts. The project is aimed at enhancing the resilience of coastal communities and protective ecosystems through community-led adaptation interventions, focusing on coastal afforestation and livelihood diversification, enhancing national and local capacities of government authorities and sectoral planners to understand climate risk dynamics in coastal areas and implement appropriate risk reduction measures.

1. Project Manager
2. Database Manager
3. Office Executive
4. Finance Assistant
5. Office Attendant

The duration of the service contract is one year initially, subject to renewal on an annual basis upon satisfactory performance.

For details of the Job Description and instructions to apply, please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be submitted no later than 17:00 pm, Tuesday, 11 August 2009.

Submitted documents will not be returned to the applicants and only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Recruitment of CEO

UHSRL a Public Ltd. Company will develop a 250- bed hospital and medical college in Dhaka. The company will soon commence a 20-storied building construction in Dhaka. The company is seeking a qualified candidate for the following position. The initial contract would likely be for 2 years but renewable for a confident recruit.

Position Title: Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

REPORTS TO: Board of Directors, UHSRL

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: Supervise on promoters' behalf & be a bridge between Promoters, and Consultant & Builders.

Oversee design, delivery and quality of project and services

Effectively manage the human resources of the organization according to authorized personnel policies and procedures that fully conform to current laws and regulations

Oversee company operations to insure efficiency, quality, service, and cost-effective management of resources. support the EC and Board on matters of timely execution in an adverse situation

Direct/help company planning and policy-making committees.

Plan and execute/negotiate contracts as and when necessary.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES, EXPERTISE AND COMPLEXITY:

1. Excellent communication skills in both written and spoken English and Bangla;
2. Fluency in verbal and written English.
3. Full competency in Microsoft Excel, Word, and Power Point.
4. Excellent interpersonal relationship
5. Excellent analytical and problem solving skills
6. Skills in examining and engineering operational procedures
7. Work requires willingness to work a flexible schedule

MINIMUM RECRUITMENT STANDARDS:

- B. Sc (Eng.) in Civil Engineering preferably with an MBA.
- The candidate should have at least 10 years experience in project Implementation, HR and management experience in 10 storied building construction.

Proven record of accomplishment of consistent success in managing reputed company. **Salary range:** The company offers a six digits package of remuneration along with other facilities for the deserving candidate. Interested candidates confident of adequately catering to the above features should submit their application to Universal Health Services & Research Ltd, Flat C1, House 37, Road 3, Dhanmondi, Dhaka by August 10, 2009. The selected candidate would be required to join with effect from early September 2009.