

Catastrophic consequences for S Asia if Taliban triumphed

Says Manmohan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

Emphasising the threat of civil war in Afghanistan if the US withdrew its forces, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has warned of "catastrophic consequences for the world, particularly for South Asia" if the Taliban triumphed.

"I hope the US and the global community will stay involved in Afghanistan. A victory for the Taliban in Afghanistan would have catastrophic consequences for the world, particularly for South Asia, for Central Asia and for the Middle East," Manmohan Singh said in an interview to the Washington Post, prior to his visit to Washington.

"Religious fundamentalism in the 1980s was used to defeat the Soviet Union. If this same group of people that defeated the Soviet Union now defeats the other major power, this would

embolden them in a manner which could have catastrophic consequences for the world."

"There is that danger," he added about the prospect of civil war in Afghanistan if the US withdrew.

Manmohan Singh's comments are significant, coming at a time when many are questioning US involvement in Afghanistan that has grown deeper and more costly since the invasion after the 9/11 attacks.

"We (in India) of course have more immediate concerns. We are victims of terrorism and the extremist ideologies of the type that the Taliban represent. If this is not checked, this could destabilise our country," he said.

"I hope the US public understands where it all started after 9/11. If al-Qaeda had not had a home in Afghanistan, maybe 9/11 would never have taken

place. God forbid if al-Qaeda gets another strong foothold in Afghanistan."

The prime minister also pointed out that Pakistan was not sincere in acting against the Taliban.

"As far as Afghanistan is concerned, I'm not sure whether the US and Pakistan have the same objectives. Pakistan would like Afghanistan to be under its control. And they would like the US to get out soon," he said.

"The US objectives are to get Pakistan to deal with the Taliban in Afghanistan. But I don't see Pakistan wholeheartedly in support of action against the Taliban in Afghanistan. They are of course taking action against the Taliban but only when it threatens the supremacy of the army."

The prime minister also pointed out that Afghan President Hamid Karzai's regime was "not perfect" and there were "problems of improving governance".

No decision yet on new BJP chief: Naidu

PTI, Hyderabad

Senior BJP leader M Venkaiah Naidu yesterday said no final decision has been taken on the new party president and dismissed as speculation reports that Nitin Gadkari will succeed Rajnath Singh. Naidu also said a decision on the new party president will be taken by the BJP, not anyone else.

"I can only tell you, no final decision has been taken about the next BJP president. The discussions are on and it is the BJP which will be taking the final decision about the next president of the party," Naidu told reporters here.

"The next president will be elected as part of the process of organisational polls and the election will be unanimous," he said.



PHOTO: AFP

Indian social activist and National Alliance for People's Movement (NAPM) and Naramada Bachao Andolan National Convener Medha Patkar (C) shouts anti-government slogans during a forest workers' protest near parliament in New Delhi yesterday. Hundreds of NAPM activists, farmers, tribals and forest workers demanded that Congress-led UPA government not pass the proposed Land Acquisition Bill.

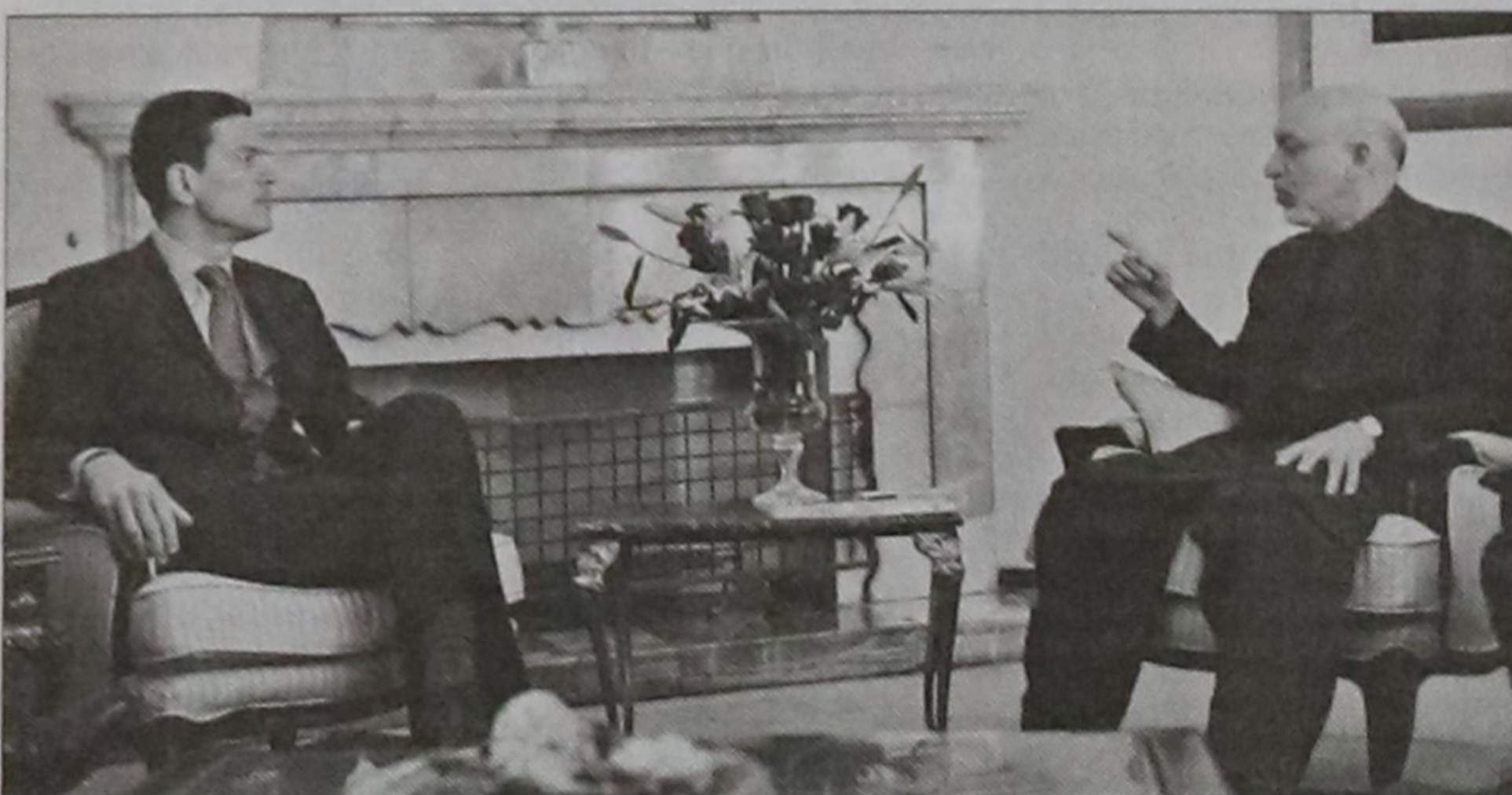


PHOTO: AFP

Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai (R) speaks as British Foreign Secretary David Miliband listens during a meeting at the presidential palace in Kabul yesterday.

Karzai under pressure to deliver on promises

AFP, Kabul

Afghan President Hamid Karzai gets down to business yesterday after being sworn in for a second term as the world watches to see if he can deliver on his pledges to clean up his government and work to bring peace to his war-ravaged nation.

Karzai won plaudits for his inauguration speech on Thursday from Western officials including US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who said it was an "important new starting point" as the US-led war stretches into its ninth year.

But he will face his first hurdle within weeks, with the international community and disillusioned Afghans keenly awaiting his cabinet line-up as a sign of his commitment to change.

His Western backers, frustrated after pouring more than 100,000 troops and billions of dollars of aid into Afghanistan with little in return, have demanded strong action from Karzai, whose reputation has been tarnished by his fraud-ridden re-election and rampant corruption and mismanagement.

UN presses for freedom for war-displaced Tamils

AFP, Colombo

The United Nations on Thursday stepped up pressure on Sri Lanka to free thousands of war-displaced civilians held in state-run internment camps. "Months after the conflict ended, our main concerns haven't changed. People are still not given free access to leave these camps on their own free will," UN humanitarian chief John Holmes told AFP after a visit to the camps.

Holmes, who ended a three-day visit on Thursday, said some

130,000 men, women and children remained inside the tightly-guarded camps.

More needs to be done to improve their living conditions, the UN under secretary general for humanitarian affairs added.

"We are very much encouraged by the government's progress to resettle people. There were about 288,000 people in May (when the conflict ended) and now its much less," Holmes said.

He asked the government to allow those returning to their villages a greater say in their

resettlement.

"People need to be consulted as much as possible on where they are going, the status of their homes, their livelihoods."

"But I must say that those who have been allowed to return are quite relieved to get out of the camps and rebuild their lives with what little they have."

He inspected demining efforts and visited the Manik Farm area in the island's north where most of the displaced civilians are being held.

Copenhagen summit will be a 'success'

Says UN climate chief

AFP, United Nations

Efforts to craft a comprehensive climate treaty in Copenhagen, next month will certainly "yield a success," the UN's top climate official pledged on Thursday.

"There is no doubt in my mind whatsoever that it will yield a success," said Yvo de Boer, executive director of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

"I've seen some recent reports that said that Copenhagen has failed even before it starts and I must say that those reports are simply wrong," he insisted ahead of the December 7-18 meeting in the Danish capital of negotiators from 192 countries.

"Almost every day now we see new commitments and pledges from both industrialised and developing countries," de Boer said, citing announcements from Brazil and South Korea on national plans to reduce emissions "in a very, very significant way."

Japan has also tabled a "very generous offer of upfront financing to help developing countries on mitigation and adaptation" to climate change, he said.

"The political leadership that so many leaders promised at the UN climate change summit in September is alive, it is well and it will lead to success in Copenhagen," de Boer added.

US President Barack Obama, he said, has demonstrated "incredible courage and leadership" and wants a "strong" policy agreement on the issue.

"I am confident that the president of the United States can come to Copenhagen with targets and a financial commitment," he said.

The UN climate chief framed the summit positively following the meeting of 44 environment ministers from key countries in Copenhagen that aimed at laying the groundwork for a political agreement at next month's conference.

'Fat for cosmetics' murder suspects arrested in Peru

BBC ONLINE

Four people have been arrested in Peru on suspicion of killing dozens of people in order to sell their fat and tissue for cosmetic uses in Europe.

The gang allegedly targeted people on remote roads, luring them with fake job offers before killing them and extracting their fat.

The liquidised product fetched \$15,000 (£9,000) a litre and police suspect it was sold on to companies in Europe.

At least five other suspects, including two Italian nationals, remain at large.

Police said the gang could be behind the disappearances of up to 60 people in Peru's Huanuco and Pasco regions.

One of those arrested told police the ringleader had been killing people for their fat for more than three decades.

The gang has been referred to as the Pishtacos, after an ancient Peruvian legend of killers who attack people on lonely roads and murder them for their fat.

At a news conference in the capital, police showed reporters two bottles containing human body fat and images of one of the alleged victims.

200 sites spread al-Qaida's message in English

AP, Riyadh

Increasing numbers of English-language Websites are spreading al-Qaida's message to Muslims in the West.

They translate writings and sermons once largely out of reach of English readers and often feature charismatic clerics like Anwar al-Awlaki, who exchanged dozens of e-mails with the Army psychiatrist accused of the Fort Hood shootings.

The US-born al-Awlaki has been an inspiration to several militants arrested in the United States and Canada in recent years, with his Web-based sermons often turning up on their computers.

"The point is you don't have to be an official part of al-Qaida to spread hatred and sectarian views," said Evan Kohlmann, a senior investigator for the New York-based NEFA Foundation, which researches Islamic militants.



PHOTO: AFP

Indian opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and grandson of former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi, Varun Gandhi (C) addresses advocates during a protest in New Delhi yesterday. Hundreds of advocates from Uttar Pradesh and Delhi marched to parliament demanding a High Court in western Uttar Pradesh state.

Mixed response as top EU figures named

BBC ONLINE

The appointment of two little-known figures to the new top jobs in the EU has drawn a mixed response.

Belgian PM Herman van Rompuy was named President of the European Council, while Briton Baroness Catherine Ashton was made EU foreign affairs supremo.

The US welcomed the choice, saying it would make Europe a stronger partner.

However, the BBC's Jonny Dymond in Brussels says there has been some dismay at the choice of two candidates with a low international profile.

The post of president has become a much less important one than originally envisaged, he adds.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Van Rompuy would bring consensus and political competence to the presidency.

However, Turkish member of parliament Onur Oymen said he was concerned about what Van Rompuy's presidency could mean for Turkey's aspirations to join the EU.

He told the BBC's World Today that Van Rompuy had "said a few years ago he was totally against Turkish membership because of religious and cultural reasons".

Lanka ready to hold presidential polls any time

PTI, Colombo

Seeking to keep the opposition on tenterhooks on the presidential election dates, Sri Lankan government has said President Mahinda Rajapaksa has two more years to complete his first term in office but is ready to face election confidently any time.

Minister of Mass Media and Information, Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, said that the most trusted and strongest force in the country is the alliance headed by the ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) under the leadership of Rajapaksa.

'Big Bang' experiment to re-start

BBC ONLINE

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) experiment could be re-started on Saturday morning at the earliest, officials have said.

Engineers are preparing to send a beam of sub-atomic particles all the way round the 27km-long circular tunnel, which houses the LHC.

The £6bn machine on the French-Swiss border is designed to shed light on fundamental questions about the cosmos.

The LHC has been shut down for repairs since an accident in September 2008.

Operated by the European Organization for Nuclear

Research (CERN), the LHC will create similar conditions to those, which were present moments after the Big Bang.

There are some 1,200 "super-conducting" magnets arranged end-to-end in the underground tunnel.

These magnets bend proton beams in opposite directions around the main "ring" at close to the speed of light.

At allotted points around the tunnel, the proton beams cross paths, smashing into one another. Physicists hope to extend the laws of physics, looking for new sub-atomic particles in the debris of these collisions.

Child abuse may shorten cell lifeline

AFP, Paris

Beaten or sexually abused children are more likely to show accelerated ageing of cells later in life, a condition linked to higher rates of cancer and heart disease, according to a study released yesterday.

Investigators found that the natural process by which protective "caps" on the end of chromosomes, called telomeres, are worn away as humans age was accelerated among adults who had suffered such trauma in childhood.

Earlier studies had shown that psychological stress elevates risk for a wide range of diseases and mental conditions.

বাংলাদেশ তাঁত বোর্ড
বিটিএমসি ভবন (৫ম তলা)
৭-৯, কাওরান বাজার
ঢাকা-১২১৫

নং- বাতাবো/পবা/১৫৩ (অ-২)/২০০৯/ তারিখঃ ১৭-১১-২০০৯খ্রিঃ

পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বস্ত্র ও পাট মন্ত্রণালয়ধীন বাংলাদেশ তাঁত বোর্ডের "সিলেটের মনিপুরী তাঁত শিল্পের উন্নয়নে প্রশিক্ষণ, নমুনা উন্নয়ন, তাঁতবস্ত্র প্রদর্শনী ও বিক্রয় কেন্দ্র স্থাপন" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের মেয়াদকালীন সময়ের জন্য অর্থাৎ প্রস্তাবিত জুন, ২০১০ পর্যন্ত নিম্নবর্ণিত পদটি পূরণের লক্ষ্যে প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে :

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম	বেতন-স্কেল/ সর্বসাকুল্যে বেতন	পদ সংখ্যা	বয়স	প্রয়োজনীয় যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১।	ইনস্ট্রাক্টর	১০৩৬০.০০ (গ্রেড-৯)	০১	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এ স্নাতক অথবা তিন বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ টেক্সটাইল ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ডিপ্লোমা।
২।	ডায়ার	৫১৪০.০০ (গ্রেড-১৬)	০১	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বছর	রুথ ডায়িং এবং ইয়ার্প এ জ্ঞানসহ মাধ্যমিক পাশ।

আবেদনকারীর নাম, পিতা / স্বামীর নাম, মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, e-mail address ও মোবাইল নাম্বারসহ (যদি থাকে), জন্ম তারিখ, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা, জাতীয়তা, ধর্ম ইত্যাদি উল্লেখপূর্বক আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি অথবা ডাকযোগে ০৩/১২/২০০৯ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তরে পৌঁছাতে হবে। নামের উপরে প্রার্থী পদের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

আবেদন পত্রের সাথে ৩ কপি সাম্প্রতিক কালে তোলা পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত হায়ালিপি এবং ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ / পৌরসভার চেয়ারম্যান / সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ক্ষেত্রে ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার প্রদত্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদপত্র এবং প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে।

শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার সন্তানদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।

অসম্পূর্ণ দরখাস্ত কোন কারণ প্রদর্শন ব্যতিরেকে বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

(এস, মোস্তফা কামাল)
প্রধান (৩ বাস্তব)
প্রকল্প পরিচালক

বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস করপোরেশন
বিটিএমসি ভবন, ৭-৯, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা।

সূত্র নং- বিটিএমসি/বাণিজ্য/৫৬০/৩/০৯ তারিখঃ ১৮/১১/২০০৯ খ্রিঃ

বিটিএমসি নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন খুলনা টেক্সটাইল মিলের যাবতীয় মেশিনারী/যন্ত্রপাতি বিক্রয়ের পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিটিএমসি নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন খুলনা টেক্সটাইল মিলের পিপিই এবং উইজিং ইউনিটের মেশিনারী / যন্ত্রপাতি "যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে সেই অবস্থায়" ভিত্তিতে বিক্রয়ের লক্ষ্যে আগ্রহী প্রতিষ্ঠান / ব্যক্তির নিকট থেকে পুনরায় সীল মোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

বিস্তারিত শর্ত সম্বলিত দরপত্র তফসিল (Tender Schedule) প্রতি সেট ৭৫০.০০ (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা মূল্যে (অফেরতযোগ্য) (১) বস্ত্র ও পাট মন্ত্রণালয়ের সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখা, ভবন নং- ৬ (১২ তলা), বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা (২) হিসাব বিভাগ, বিটিএমসি প্রধান কার্যালয়, "বিটিএমসি ভবন" ৭-৯, কাওরান বাজার বা/এ, ঢাকা (৩) বিটিএমসি লিয়াজো অফিস, পরিবহন ওদাম, পোর্ট কলোনী ওদাম এলাকা, চট্টগ্রাম এবং (৪) খুলনা টেক্সটাইল মিলস, বয়রা মেইন রোড, খুলনা হতে আগামী ১৩/১২/২০০৯ খ্রিঃ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জমা করা যাবে। দরপত্র গ্রহণের দিন কোন দরপত্র তফসিল বিক্রী করা হবে না।

দরপত্র আগামী ১৪/১২/২০০৯ খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত (১) সিনিয়র সহকারী সচিব / সহকারী সচিব, শাখাঃ নীতি-১, বস্ত্র ও পাট মন্ত্রণালয়ের সংশ্লিষ্ট শাখা, ভবন নং- ৬ (১২ তলা), কক্ষ নং- ১১২৫, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা (২) জেলা প্রশাসক, খুলনা (৩) বাণিজ্য বিভাগ, অফিস, পরিবহন ওদাম, পোর্ট কলোনী ওদাম এলাকা, চট্টগ্রাম এবং (৪) খুলনা টেক্সটাইল মিলস, বয়রা মেইন রোড, খুলনা-এ রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাস্তবে গ্রহণ করা হবে। দরপত্র বাস্তব একই দিন দুপুর ১২.১৫ ঘটিকার সময় উক্ত ৫ (পাঁচ) টি স্থানে দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে এবং সীল মোহরকৃত দরপত্রসমূহ আগামী ১৫/১২/২০০৯ খ্রিঃ তারিখ দুপুর ১২.১৫ ঘটিকার সময়ে বিটিএমসি প্রধান কার্যালয়ের বোর্ড কক্ষে দরদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে।

দরপত্রের সাথে যে কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক হতে পে-অর্ডার / ডিভি আকারে মোট উক্ত মূল্যের ৫% (শতকরা পাঁচ ভাগ) সম-পরিমান অর্থ "জামানত" হিসেবে বাংলাদেশ টেক্সটাইল মিলস করপোরেশন, ঢাকা এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে। জামানতবিহীন কিংবা আংশিক জামানত সম্বলিত দরপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

বিটিএমসি কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

(প্রকৌঃ এম এ জি আকন্দ)
মহাব্যবস্থাপক (বাণিজ্য)



REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS (RFQ) PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (CHT)



Bangladesh

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility, United Nations Development Programme Bangladesh, seeks Request for Quotations (RFQ) for:

- (1) Electrification Works - Building No. -5, Rangamati (RFQ-CHTDF-03-2009)
- (2) PABX Set Up - Building No. 4 & 5, Rangamati (RFQ-CHTDF-04-2009)
- (3) LAN Set Up - Building No. 5, Rangamati (RFQ-CHTDF-05-2009)

RFQ documents along with the submission instructions are available on the UNDP Bangladesh Procurement website at: http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php

Hardcopy of the Solicitation documents are also available in CHTDF, UNDP Offices located in Dhaka (IDB Bhaban, 7th Floor, Agargaon), Rangamati (Rajbari Road), Bandarban (Jadipara, Don Bosco High School Road) and Khagrachari (Milonpur).

The deadline for submission of Quotations is November 29, 2009 (Sunday) at 05:00 pm