

Pakistan quizzes arrested foreigners over al-Qaeda links

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani authorities were questioning yesterday six men with alleged links to al-Qaeda, at least three of them US citizens, on suspicion of plotting a militant strike, police said.

The men were detained Wednesday in the eastern town of Sargodha, at the home of a member of the Jaish-e-Mohammad, one of a number of militant groups active in Pakistan, which is battling a fierce Islamist insurgency.

Security officials said detainees were planning to strike "sensitive installations" in Pakistan and that maps and laptops were found, although details of the men's identities and intentions remained scant.

Muslim leaders in Washington said five of the men had been living in the state of Virginia until last month, while FBI officials said they were looking into whether those missing students were indeed the men being held in Pakistan.

Sargodha district police chief Usman Anwar -- who interrogated the suspects -- told AFP that they were picked up on suspicion of having links to al-Qaeda and other outlawed extremist groups in Pakistan.

"Five foreigners -- two of them Pakistani-Americans, one Egyptian, one Ethiopian and one Eritrean -- have been arrested," he said.

"We have also arrested Khalid Chaudhry, father of the two Pakistani-American brothers aged 22 and 25 years, who is also an American national and local leader of Jaish-e-Mohammad, for harbouring these five people."

The US embassy in Islamabad was unable to confirm that US nationals were being held in Pakistan, saying they were investigating.

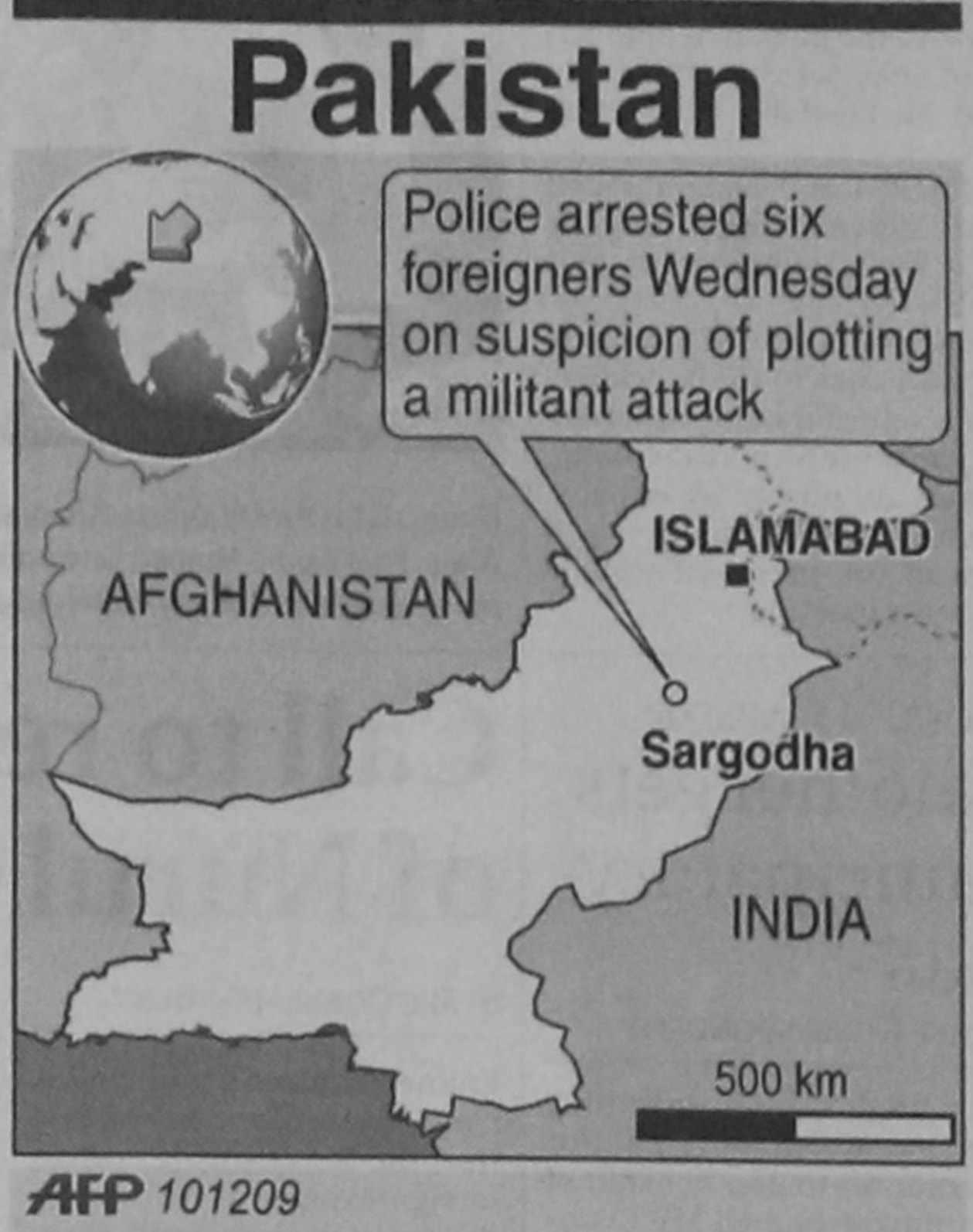
"We're working on confirming identities and nationalities. If we were to confirm they are American citizens, we would provide consular services," said embassy spokesman Richard Snelsire.

Another senior Sargodha police official, Haseeb Shah, confirmed the arrests and nationalities, telling AFP: "A two-member FBI team has arrived in Sargodha to interrogate the six men."

Sargodha is about 180 kilometres (110 miles) south of the capital Islamabad in the province of Punjab, which analysts say is increasingly becoming a haven for Islamist militants.

Officials from the Council on American Islamic Relations told reporters in the United States that relatives of the men contacted the organisation on December 1 after they went missing from their homes close to the US capital.

Nihad Awad, CAIR's executive director, said the families brought along a farewell video showing one of the five men delivering a "final statement," and which included war images and Koranic verses.



US praises resettlement of Lankan refugees

AP, Colombo

A US envoy praised the Sri Lankan government Wednesday for making progress in resettling hundreds of thousands of ethnic Tamil civilians detained since the end of the country's civil war.

The comments come on the heels of a US Senate report that said Washington needs to increase engagement with Sri Lanka or risk ruining ties with the island nation.

Robert O Blake, US assistant secretary of state for South Asia, told reporters that he saw evidence of progress when he visited Manik Farm in northern Sri Lanka, where most of the roughly 100,000 remaining displaced civilians live.

The US withdrew military aid to Sri Lanka in the last years of its 25-year civil war because of human rights concerns. It was also among the countries to pressure Colombo after the war ended six months ago to expedite the release of the civilians, whose numbers in the squalid camps peaked at some 300,000.

Rights groups say the detention is an illegal form of collective punishment for the ethnic group. The government has maintained that Tamils must be screened for rebel ties and detainees' villages de-mined before the camps can be closed.

Move begins to form new Indian state

50 MLAs resign over Centre's nod

BBC ONLINE, ANI, Hyderabad

India's home minister announced that the process of forming a separate state in part of southern Andhra Pradesh state will begin soon.

P Chidambaram's announcement came in response to protests by separatists in Andhra Pradesh demanding a separate status for the Telengana region.

It also led a leading politician to call off a protest fast after 11 days.

The demand for a separate state for the underdeveloped and drought-prone Telengana region dates back 50 years.

The region is spread over 10 northern districts of Andhra Pradesh.

Separatists say that economic development in their region has been neglected in favour of the richer and more powerful Andhra region.

K Chandrasekara Rao of the Telengana Rashtra Samiti (TRS) broke his fast after Chidambaram's announcement.

Pakistan flip-flops over India's involvement in terror attack


ANI, Islamabad

Rejecting Interior Minister Rehman Malik's claims about having 'concrete evidence' regarding India's involvement in terror activities inside the country, Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood has said that evidence against New Delhi is not enough.

Talking to reporters here, Qureshi said that while involvement of foreign hands can not be ruled out, more evidence is needed to 'plausibly argue' that India is involved in fanning insurgency inside Pakistan.

"The possibility that there are elements who want to destabilise the country cannot be ruled out. But information received by us in this regard, is insufficient. We need more information and material to plausibly argue our case," The Daily Times quoted Qureshi, as saying.

Earlier, Malik had claimed that the Interior Ministry has substantial proof against India, and that it has been handed over to the Foreign Office.



BANGLADESH MEDICAL COLLEGE
 Road # 14/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209

No:BMC/Admission/103/2009

Date: 10-12-2009

NOTICE

The candidates bearing the following registration numbers have been selected for admission to 1st year MBBS class (BM-24) of session 2009-2010 subject to medical fitness and submission of original SSC and HSC/O level and A level certificates/mark sheets/equivalence certificate Admit Card and 3 (Three) recent P. P. size photo. If there is any wrong information in the application, then the admission will be cancelled at any time.

Admission date from 12.12.2009 to 15.12.2009. Those who will fail to get themselves admitted by 2.00 p. m. on 15.12.2009 their selection will be cancelled

Paying Quota:

Reg: No:

0050/58	0322/58	0400/41	0384/41	0071/65	0295/41	0482/58	0126/64	0075/61
0191/67	0661/67	0789/41	0078/52	0087/65	0204/58	0399/58	0357/41	0669/41
0057/58	0830/41	0582/41	0246/58	0392/52	0494/58	0003/44	0080/44	0056/64
0142/58	0533/52	0133/67	0020/41	0130/64	0354/58	0223/47	0249/58	0278/58
0649/41	0060/44	0410/58	0111/41	0029/74	0085/48	0214/44	0641/41	0361/58
0030/64	0045/61	0277/58	0308/58	0536/67	0275/41	0016/62	0248/58	0716/41
0787/41	0314/41	0049/58	0326/41	0208/62	0257/62	0036/45	0047/54	0023/63
0144/49	0813/41	0057/41	0312/41	0303/41	0544/41	0700/58	0262/67	0696/52
0662/41	0305/41	0331/52	0399/67	0021/73	0099/52	0189/67	0016/58	
0235/41	0068/41	0373/41	0338/63	0523/52	0020/63	0014/72	0026/58	

Waiting list in order of merit for Paying Quota: Subject to availability of seats admission date from 17.12.2009 to 20.12.2009 at 2.00 p. m. latest.

0007/62	0060/56	0015/67	0017/52	0044/58	0345/41	0751/41
0306/41	0037/67	0670/52	0012/67	0082/47	0252/47	0087/63
0121/58	0307/52	0019/60	0069/41	0322/41	0062/58	

Free Quota: The applicants for free quota should appear for interview along with parents on 12.12.2009 at 10.00 a. m. in the College Conference room and the result subsequently.

Freedom Fighter quota: Reg: No. 0154/41

Waiting list for Freedom Fighter Quota: Reg: No. 0323/41

Foreign quota:

Selected

1	Shreyash Kumar Piya	Nepali
2	Safwat Bin Hossain	USA
3	Tanim Ud Dowlah	USA
4	Sifate Zaman	Canadian
5	Jayati Atahar	USA

Provisionally selected

1	Prakriti Pradhan	Nepali
2	Prativa Basnet	Nepali
3	Mohammed Samiul Haque	USA

Prof. M A Zaman
Principal, BMC

Malaysia-based

FROM PAGE 1

Luxembourg-based digital security firm Gemalto.

"The home ministry is now scrutinising the evaluation committee report to see whether there are any loopholes. A summary in this regard will soon be sent to the purchase committee for consideration," Additional Secretary to the Home Ministry Md Ghulam Hussain told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the matter would be placed before the cabinet once the purchase committee approves it. He declined to comment on allegations that have been brought against the two companies.

The government in July floated a tender with a deadline of October 27 to bid for the project. A total of eight firms submitted bids. They are: Muhlauer ID Service GmbH, IRIS Corporation Berhad, Flora Telecom Ltd, Oberthur Technologies, BJ&C Security Printing Company Ltd, ST Electronics, Smart Cube Information System and Sasha Denim.

After financial scrutiny and technical evaluation, the government found two firms-- IRIS Corporation Berhad and Flora Telecom Ltd-- responsive for the task. In technical evaluation, both IRIS and Flora have been termed capable of meeting project requirements.

"No pressure through propaganda will be successful this time as the government is very firm on the selection of the most competent firm," said a home ministry official, seeking anonymity. The source said quotations would also be given priority in finalising the firm for the project.

There are allegations that the lowest bidder was black-listed in an e-passport (electronic passport) project in Turkey and did not submit lamination foil, an essential element for MRP to ensure security in passport. There are also allegations that IRIS is not capable of producing eight million passports in a year and have not issued a minimum of 25 million passports in other states.

Director (International Sales) of IRIS Michael Wong claimed that his firm did not participate in the Turkish project and the project was actually won by a consortium consisting IRIS Technologies (sister concern of IRIS Corporation Ltd) and Turkish company Kunt Elektronik San.

In a letter to Project Director of MRP and MRV in Bangladesh Brig Gen Md Refayet Ullah, he said they with the tender documents submitted sample passport booklets with lamination foil as per the tender requirements. He also said his company is capable of supplying more than eight million passports a year and has already provided more than 25 million passports in countries other than Bangladesh.

Many experts raised the question whether the government would be able to meet the deadline set by International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to start producing MRPs from April 1, 2010. They also questioned the government's firmness in introducing MRP when many countries across the world are introducing e-passports.

As per the tender requirements, all necessary hardware and software for the project would have to be supplied by the selected firm at one go. The firm will also supply MRPs for three years. According to DIP, 2.2 million passports will be necessary each year.

After the three years, the firm will hand over the project to the government.

The evaluation committee also discussed cancellation of a task won by a local concern of IRIS Corporation Berhad. It, however, accepted a letter from Turkish authorities that said IRIS had done its part perfectly.

The committee fears that if the two responsive bidders declined to implement the project, the government would not be able to float a fresh tender and start implementing the project due to time constraint.

"If anything like that happens, it will not be possible to introduce MRP and MRV within the ICAO set deadline," said the committee in its report.

The Ecneec on March 19 decided to issue 174,00,000 general and 10,00,000 urgent passports under the five-year project at a cost of Tk 283 crore.

The Awami League government sensing urgency of the matter assigned the army to supervise the project and implement it on time.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

gtz

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH is an international cooperation enterprise for sustainable development with worldwide operations. Jointly with the Department of Fisheries (DoF) under the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock (MoFL) GTZ is implementing a project entitled "Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project" addressing the loss of fisheries production and loss of biodiversity of floodplains in the Pabna District through a community based natural resources management approach

GTZ invites applications from suitable candidates for the position of a "Monitoring and Evaluation Expert" with the duty station in Dhaka (frequent travel to Pabna).

A. Tasks

The incumbent shall be responsible for but not limited to the following:

- Develop and follow up a participatory and impact oriented project monitoring system
- Update information concerning the progress of the project
- Periodically document and present the results in team meetings
- Observe topics directly related to the project through evaluation by the press, direct dialog, forum participation, public hearings, seminars, etc.
- Travel to the project sites frequently to observe the implementation of the project activities
- Assist in the planning, coordination, reporting and documentation of meetings, workshops, seminars and other activities of the project, focusing on the technical aspects
- Support public relations activities for the project

B. Required Entry Qualifications and Competencies:

Formal Education & Experience


- Advance University Degree in a relevant sector, e.g. Development Studies, Natural Resources Management, Statistics and / or Economics
- At least 6 years of proven track record in the field of impact monitoring and evaluation (preferable in Fisheries related sectors)
- Good working knowledge of the Bangladesh local governance structures
- Extensive familiarity with procedures for implementing donor programs
- Extensive familiarity with policy issues of bilateral and multilateral assistance
- Proven ability to maintain close relations with the government, NGOs and development partners to foster a learning environment through the monitoring and evaluation efforts

Other Qualifications

- Excellent command of modern telecommunication systems and MS Office, as well as Database Programs, e.g. Access or SPSS
- Excellent speaking and writing skills in both English and Bangla
- Strong report writing skills to clearly articulate the issues of interest to the decision makers
- She/he must be a strong team player, demonstrate initiative, posses self-organization skill and have a results-oriented approach
- Previous work experience with GTZ and / or German language skills are considered an asset

We accept electronic applications only. Please send your complete and current CV along with a recent passport size photograph before 24 December 2009, to GTZ. If you have an email client installed, just click Email, otherwise please send your application via email to jobs@gtz-bd.de with the subject line "Monitoring and Evaluation Expert-Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project". No phone calls please. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

GTZ is an equal opportunity employer.
Women and impaired persons are especially encouraged to apply and they will be selected in case of equal qualification with other candidates.



Vacancy Announcement
 Bangladesh

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh invites applications from highly qualified, energetic and experienced professionals who wish to join UNDP's dynamic working environment, for recruitment in the following positions for the 'Police Reform Programme' Project -Phase II.

- Security Sector Reform Expert
- Police Training Expert
- Gender Expert
- Crime Prevention and Community Policing Expert
- Investigation and Operations Expert
- Public Relations Officer

For details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply, for the above mentioned positions please visit our website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs>. Applications should be submitted no later than December 26, 2009.

Driver cum Messenger
Duties and Responsibilities: The incumbent will drive the project vehicle within / outside Dhaka city to meet the transportation requirement of the project, day-to-day maintenance of the vehicle, maintain a log book, arrange repairs where necessary, collect / deliver mail or documents when required

Qualifications and Experiences: The incumbent should have at least secondary education or equivalent level, with at least five years of relevant experience. The incumbent must have a valid heavy / light vehicles driving license. Good knowledge of road network in Dhaka and surrounding areas and adequate knowledge and skills in vehicle maintenance and minor repair are essential. She / he must have working knowledge of communicative English. Experience of UN or government organizations would be an asset;

Submission of Application: Application should be marked 'Confidential' and the position applied for i.e. Driver-cum- Messenger - PRP should be clearly written on the A4 Size envelope. Application including curriculum vitae and a recent passport-size photograph should be sent to the HR Cluster, UNDP-Dhaka, GPO Box: 224, Dhaka-1000, or deposited at the Deposit Box at the IDB Bhaban (Ground Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 by 26 December 2009.

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