

News in Brief

'Miracle' as guests survive bombing

AFP, Peshawar

A teenage suicide bomber blew himself up at a gathering of a northwestern Pakistani town yesterday, but guests escaped unhurt in the attack in a Taliban-troubled district, police said.

Senior police official Mohammad Ayub told AFP it was a "miracle" that no one was wounded or killed in the bombing in Essakkhel village in Bannu district, which borders the Taliban strongholds of North and South Waziristan.

Japan won't indict PM

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese prosecutors have decided not to indict Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama over the alleged misreporting of millions of dollars in political donations, newspapers reported yesterday.

They plan to indict a former aide to Hatoyama for allegedly cooking the books but not the premier because of a lack of evidence he was involved in the accounting irregularities, the Yomiuri and Nikkei dailies reported.

Major Mayon eruption likely

AFP, Legaspi

A major eruption of a volatile Philippine volcano could be just weeks away, scientists warned Thursday, as thousands of residents faced the prospect of four months in temporary shelters.

"We saw the formation of two lava domes at the crater of Mayon during an aerial survey yesterday," government volcanologist July Sabit told AFP.

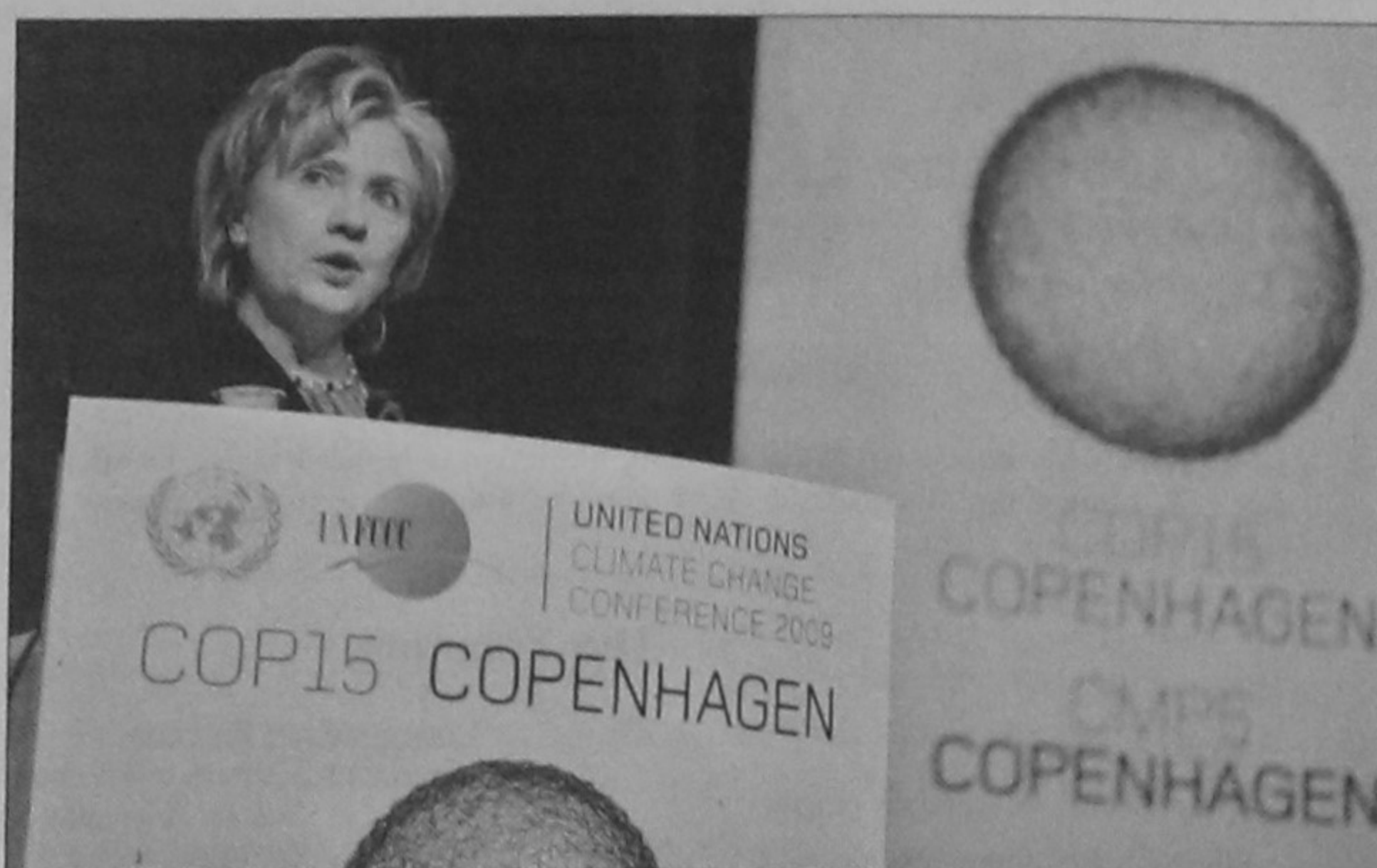


PHOTO: AFP

US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton gives a press conference at the Bella Centre in Copenhagen yesterday on the 11th day of the COP15 UN Climate Change Conference. Emerging giant economies are backsliding on pledges to open their emissions controls to scrutiny, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said warning the issue could be a "dealbreaker" at the UN climate conference.

Poor cannot be sacrificed to climate pact: Indian PM

AFP, New Delhi

India cannot accept a global warming treaty that would stall its drive to lift millions out of poverty, Premier Manmohan Singh said as he left for the final phase of UN climate talks in Copenhagen.

Singh is among the world leaders descending on the Danish capital for the final two days of a summit blighted by bitter wrangling that could wreck efforts to draw up a sweeping pact to combat global warming.

Singh said he looked forward to "constructive deliberation" but stressed that the developed world needed to address the concerns of poorer nations over the impact of any proposed agreement on their economic growth.

"Climate change cannot be addressed by perpetuating the poverty of the developing countries," he said in a departure statement released by his office.

India went to the Danish capital with an offer to reduce its carbon intensity by 20 to 25 percent by 2020, compared to 2005 levels.

"We are willing to do more provided there are credible arrangements to provide both

additional financial support as well as technological transfers from developed to developing countries," Singh said.

The fraught negotiations in Copenhagen received a shot in the arm Wednesday when wealthy nations pledged some 22 billion dollars to fund the fight against global warming.

India remains steadfastly opposed to binding emission cuts and has refused to adopt a peak year when its emissions would have to stop growing and start falling.

The presence of around 120 world leaders at the end of the summit, including US President Barack Obama, is meant to inject momentum into reaching a deal to stop climate change after the end of 2012, when obligations run out under the landmark Kyoto Protocol.

Indian Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh, speaking to Indian media in Copenhagen on Wednesday, said the Kyoto Protocol was currently in "intensive care".

Developing countries have accused industrialised nations of trying to discard Kyoto because it puts the onus on rich countries to accept binding emission cuts.

UN tackles problems with terror sanctions

AP, United Nations

The Security Council is expected to approve new measures Thursday aimed at ensuring that UN sanctions target the right people, companies and organisations for links to al-Qaeda and the Taliban including a new ombudsperson.

Since the council imposed sanctions against the Taliban a decade ago, questions have been raised about the fairness of the list and the rights of those subject to punitive measures to argue their case for being removed. There is also a problem of insufficient information about some on the list, which prevents police, border authorities and financial institutions from implementing sanctions.

Austria, which currently heads the Security Council committee monitoring sanctions against al-Qaeda and the Taliban, said about 30 court cases have

been filed by listed individuals in Europe, Pakistan, Turkey and the United States protesting their inclusion.

The US-sponsored resolution hammered out after lengthy negotiations, would strengthen the current sanctions regime, make it more transparent, and try to address these shortcomings.

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity because negotiations have been private, said the resolution is expected to be adopted unanimously on Thursday.

The Security Council imposed sanctions against the Taliban in November 1999 for refusing to send Osama bin Laden to the United States or a third country for trial on terrorism charges in connection with two 1998 US embassy bombings in Africa.

The sanctions - a travel ban, arms embargo and assets freeze - were later extended to al-Qaeda. In July 2005, the

council extended the sanctions again to cover affiliates and splinter groups of al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

The draft resolution reiterates the council's "unequivocal condemnation" of bin Laden, the Taliban and al-Qaeda "for ongoing and multiple criminal terrorist acts aimed at causing the deaths of innocent civilians and other victims, destruction of property and greatly undermining stability." It expresses concern at the increase in kidnappings and hostage-taking by individuals or groups associated with them "with the aim of raising funds or gaining political concessions."

Currently, governments propose individuals and entities for the sanctions list, and the Security Council committee monitoring sanctions decides behind closed doors who should be subject to the punitive measures.

Yemeni forces kill 34 Qaeda militants

AFP, AP, Sanaa

Yemeni security forces killed at least 34 al-Qaeda militants and captured 17 others in operations backed by air strikes yesterday that foiled imminent suicide attacks, the defence ministry said.

Witnesses said several civilians were killed in an attack on an alleged training camp for al-Qaeda, which is believed to have regrouped in Yemen for strikes on neighbouring Saudi Arabia, in the southern province of Abyan.

Raids also took place in the capital Sanaa and the neighbouring district of Arhab, a defence ministry official said in a statement carried by the ministry-linked website 26sep.net.

Yemeni security forces targeted a site used as a training camp for al-Qaeda in the Abyan village of Al-Maajala, some 480km southeast of Sanaa.

"Between 24 and 34 al-Qaeda militants, including foreigners, were killed while training," the official said.



PHOTO: AFP

People visit a light festival entitled "Earth Peace and Prosperity", at a shopping mall in Beijing on Wednesday. China is to invest more than three trillion yuan (440 billion USD) in environmental protection over five years from 2011, state media said Thursday as the country battles widespread pollution.

US-Russian arms deal not ready: Russian FM

AP, Moscow

The US and Russian presidents are unlikely to sign a new arms reduction treaty this week, the Russian foreign minister said yesterday.

Sergey Lavrov blamed the US delegation at the arms control talks for slowing their efforts to reach a deal in the past few days. He said that the talks in Geneva have now resumed

pace, but the deal is unlikely to be reached in time for Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev to sign it when they both attend an international climate summit in Copenhagen.

"It's unlikely to happen in Copenhagen," Lavrov said.

He urged the US to agree to deeper cuts in the parties' nuclear arsenals and less intrusive verification and control measures.

Mexican cartel kingpin killed

AP, Cuernavaca

Two hundred sailors raided an upscale apartment complex and killed a reputed Mexican drug cartel chief in a two-hour gunbattle, one of the biggest victories yet in President Felipe Calderon's drug war.

Arturo Beltran Leyva, the "boss of bosses," and three members of his cartel were slain in the shootout Wednesday in Cuernavaca, just south of Mexico City, according to a navy statement.



Vacancy Announcement



Bangladesh

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh invites applications from qualified, and experienced candidates who wish to join dynamic working environment, for the post of **Driver Cum Messenger** for the 'Activating Village Courts Project'.

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 Bhawan (Ground Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 by 29 December 2009**.

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

Offer available at:

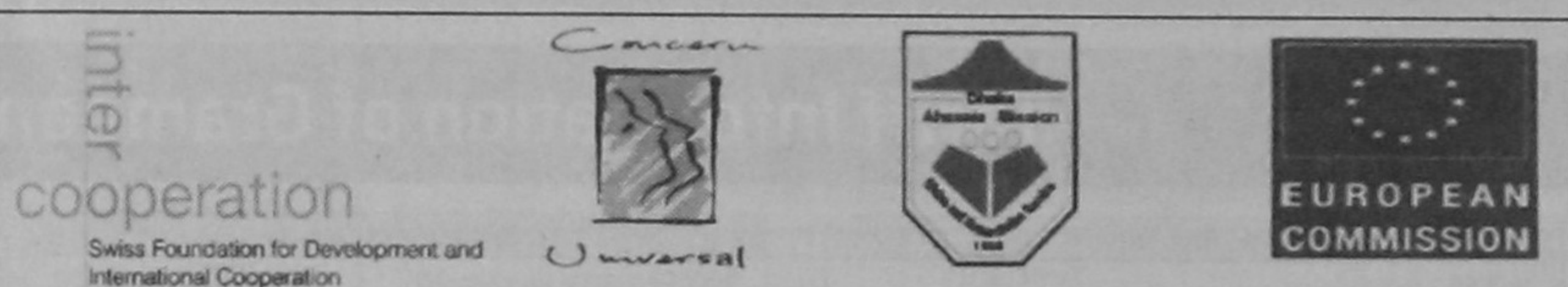
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NOKIA Connecting People



Job Vacancy

INTERCOOPERATION (IC) is a Swiss Foundation engaged in development and international cooperation. IC's mission is to make an important contribution to sustainable growth and equitable development for the benefit of the rural poor and is committed to equity and justice for the poor and discriminated and women.

IC collaborates with Concern Universal and Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) for a project named "Reduction of Food Insecurity for Poor and Extreme Poor Households" funded by the European Union. The project, which will start in January 2010 for 22 months, will contribute to reducing food insecurity for poor and extreme poor households caused by soaring food prices, in line with the global food security objectives including UN standards for nutritional requirement. IC invites applications for immediate recruitment in the above project for the following positions:

1. Specialist-Market (2 positions)

Specialist-Market is responsible to support DAM staff members in relation to market and MSE activities implemented at CBOs level. S/he would be in charge to provide capacity building and backstopping support to DAM staff members, contributing as well to organise market assessment, identify innovation and promote linkages between CBOs and market actors/local service providers. The person would responsible to develop operational approaches and appropriate tools in her/his area of expertise. S/he would also be responsible for monitoring and knowledge management in relevant field. The candidates should have at least 5 years practical experience in the relevant fields, particularly in development organisations and a post graduate degree in the relevant subject. S/he should have excellent knowledge and skills on promotion of micro small enterprise, marketing extension and value chain approach, development of IGAs for poor and extreme poor, development of innovation (technologies, processing etc.), dealing with private sector and human and institutional development approaches.

2. Specialist-Agriculture (2 positions)

Specialist-Agriculture would be responsible for planning and implementing a system of private service provision at local level. S/he would be responsible for promoting and facilitating a Regional Resource Pool (RRP) including specialists from agricultural line agencies and the private sector for capacity building of Local Service Providers (LSPs) and their associations. The person would also be responsible to implement activities in collaboration with line agencies, research organisations, private sector and other local development initiatives. The candidates should have at least 5 years practical experience in the relevant fields particularly in development organisations and a post graduate degree in Agriculture/Fisheries/Animal Husbandry/Veterinary Science. S/he should have good understanding in promotion of private local service provision, market structure and have knowledge and skills in developing training curriculum/modules.

Excellent skills in facilitations, networking, inter-personal communication and team building, promoting partnership, information processing and report writing (in both Bangla and English) are required for all positions. Experience in working with international development organisations will be treated as an added advantage. The persons should have skills in using computers.

All the positions would be based in Jamalpur district with involvement of more than 70% of time in field visits in remote areas. The incumbents would work under close communication and consultation with the respective project teams of Concern-Universal and DAM and will report to the IC Delegation in Bangladesh.

Candidates fulfilling the above criteria should submit their application including salary expectation with CV (maximum 3 pages including photo graph) by Email only to the following address by 27th December 2009:

info@intercooperation-bd.org