



PHOTO: AFP

Pakistani government contract employees from the agricultural department disperse as police fire teargas shells during a protest rally in Karachi on Thursday. Hundreds of employees from the agricultural department took out a rally to demand the regularisation of their jobs.

# 44 militants killed in Pakistan

AP, Khar

Pakistan security forces battled militants close to the Afghan border yesterday in fighting that has killed 44 suspected insurgents over the last three days, a government official said.

There was no independent confirmation of the fighting or the identities of the dead in Bajur, a tribal region where al-Qaeda and Taliban have long had a presence. The Pakistan army launched a major operation in Bajur against the militants in 2008 that it claimed had cleared the area of militants, but clashes have continued since then.

Abdul Kabir, the top-ranking official in Bajur, said several troops had been injured in the fighting in the Slarzi area. He said the clashes began Wednesday when troops began helping a council of tribal elders in evicting Taliban from the area.

He said 21 militants were killed Friday, following 23 killed in the two preceding days.

Pakistan has launched a series of offensives against militants in the tribal areas, pushing them back in some areas. But Western countries want the army to continue pressing the fight because Taliban fighters in Afghanistan use the region as base from which to attack Nato and US forces.

Also Friday in the northwest, a bomb destroyed a truck carrying oil to Nato troops in

Afghanistan.

No one was wounded in the attack on the supply truck in the fabled Khyber Pass, government official Javed Khan said.

A large portion of non-lethal supplies for US and Nato forces in Afghanistan are trucked through Pakistan. Militants occasionally attack the trucks, but the strikes have had little impact on operations in Afghanistan.

In the southwest, gunmen killed three Shia Muslims on their way to visit holy sites in Iraq in an apparent sectarian attack.

Local police official Mohammad Ayaz said the group of travellers had come to Quetta city from the southern city of Karachi, and had hoped to travel across Iran to Iraq. The group was waiting in a bus Friday afternoon when the gunmen appeared on motorbikes and opened fire.

Two men and one woman were killed, while three other people were wounded, Ayaz said.

Police did not accuse any particular militant group Friday, but Quetta has in the past witnessed violence against Shia Muslims. The attacks are often blamed on Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a Sunni Muslim extremist group with ties to al-Qaeda and the Taliban.

Pakistan is a Sunni-majority country, and most of its Shia and Sunni residents live in harmony. However, extremists from both sects occasionally target one another's leaders.

# India to court martial top general

AFP, New Delhi

India's army has ordered the court martial of one of its top generals over his alleged involvement in an illegal land deal, officials said yesterday.

Lieutenant General Avadesh Prakash is the highest ranking officer to face court martial in the history of India's million-plus military.

Army chief general Deepak Kapoor ordered the proceedings after Defence Minister AK Antony sought stern action against Prakash, who is slated to retire on Sunday, the officials said.

General Prakash holds the rank of military secretary and is one of the country's eight key military advisers.

If convicted, he could face imprisonment as well as lose his rank and his pension.

"The trial will begin after the army names the judges for the general court martial of General Prakash," a senior defence ministry official said on condition that he not be named.

# Journalist jailed for 13 years in Myanmar

AFP, Yangon

A Myanmar court has handed down a 13-year jail term to a man accused of working with exiled media, his legal counsel said yesterday, as the ruling junta continues its crackdown on dissent.

Ngwe Soe Lin was sentenced Wednesday after being arrested for working for the Myanmar exile broadcaster Democratic Voice of Burma, based in Oslo, Norway, lawyer Aung Thein told AFP.

"Ngwe Soe Lin was sentenced to 13 years in prison on Wednesday at a special court in Insein prison," Aung Thein said.

There was no immediate confirmation of the sentence from authorities in Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, which remains under tight US and EU sanctions because of its human rights records.

# West backs \$500 fund for Taliban militants

## UN envoy holds meeting with Afghan militants in Dubai

AFP, London

World powers supported Afghan President Hamid Karzai's plan to woo moderate Taliban fighters who disarm, as it emerged that senior figures in the Islamist militia held secret talks with UN officials.

While leaders meeting in London to discuss the war-shattered country agreed to back a multimillion-dollar fund for militants who lay down their arms, a UN official said UN envoy Kai Eide had met Taliban members in Dubai this month.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, did not indicate which Taliban members were at the meeting, but said they were "active members of the insurgency" and that the meeting was held at the militants' request.

"The Taliban had made overtures to the

Special Representative to talk about peace talks," the official said.

"That information was shared with the Afghan government and the UN hopes that the Afghan government will capitalise on this opportunity."

Asked about the outcome of the meeting, the official said: "It wasn't a meeting to make decisions."

"It was an approach made by the Taliban to the United Nations about the possibility of beginning peace talks with the Afghan government."

Eide's spokesman Aleem Siddique, when asked to comment, said: "The Special Representative has never commented on whether he has had any contact with the Taliban in the past and he is not about to start commenting now."

"Any peace talks must be led by the

Afghan government."

Eide, who will step down as UN envoy in March, was a key delegate at the London conference, at which around 70 nations including Afghanistan, the United States and Britain held seven hours of talks amid tight security on Thursday.

Discussions focused on how to stabilise Afghanistan and bolster Karzai, who was re-elected in November in polls tainted by corruption, as well as on reconciliation with militants willing to stop fighting his government.

The conference was earlier dismissed as propaganda by the Taliban, whom Karzai had invited to join peace talks.

An internationally backed fund believed to be worth 500 million dollars formed the main plank of Karzai's proposals at the conference.



PHOTO: AFP

A Sri Lankan woman walks past soldiers standing guard on the road leading to the political office of defeated presidential candidate General Sarath Fonseka in Colombo yesterday.

# Cops raid office of Fonseka

## HR group, monitors raise question over polls

AFP, Colombo

Police raided yesterday the office of defeated presidential candidate Sarath Fonseka as monitors and rights groups criticised the Sri Lankan election that returned President Mahinda Rajapakse to power.

The Cinnamon Gardens quarter of Colombo, where Fonseka's office is located, was cordoned off as dozens of commandos from the elite police Special Task Force searched the premises, a witness said.

Press photographers and television crews were kept away by security forces but a police officer at the scene said they were looking for "illegal material" in the compound.

Opposition spokesman Rauf Hakeem told reporters the search was an infringement of democratic rights and branded the raid government intimidation.

"This is an assault on democracy," Hakeem told reporters. "They are trying to intimidate us as we collect evidence of vote-rigging."

Fonseka was not at the office when the raid was carried out.

The raid came a day after the government accused the opposition of planning the assassination of President Mahinda Rajapakse who comfortably won a second term in Tuesday's poll in a result disputed by the opposition.

Security forces kept Fonseka under siege while election results were being announced on Wednesday and later allowed him to leave. Fonseka had expressed fears the government was trying to arrest or assassinate him.

The Hong Kong-based Asian Human Rights Commission cited alleged counting irregularities and accused Rajapakse of blatant misuse of state resources.

**বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়**  
গাজীপুর-১৭০৫

এক বৎসর মেয়াদি বি এড প্রোগ্রামে  
২০০৯-২০১০ শিক্ষাবর্ষে  
ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ উন্মুক্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় (বাবুবি)-এর স্কুল অব এডুকেশন পরিচালিত ব্যাচেলর অব এডুকেশন (বি এড) প্রোগ্রামে ২০০৯-২০১০ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ভর্তি ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীদের কাছ থেকে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। আগামী ০৩/০২/২০১০ তারিখ থেকে ২৫/০২/২০১০ তারিখের মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে বাবুবি মনোনীত জনতা ব্যাংকের নির্ধারিত শাখাসমূহে ব্যাংক রসিদে মাধ্যমে ৫০/- (পঞ্চাশ) টাকা জমা দিয়ে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্রে থেকে ছাত্র নির্দেশিকা ও ভর্তির আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।

- জনতা ব্যাংকের নির্ধারিত শাখাসমূহের নাম : আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্রে ব্যাংকের পূর্ণ তালিকা পাওয়া যাবে।
- ভর্তির যোগ্যতা : অনুমোদিত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের স্বাতন্ত্র্য বা সমমানের ডিগ্রি।
- আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার নিয়মাবলি : ছাত্র নির্দেশিকা ও ভর্তির আবেদনপত্র সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ অংশ দ্রষ্টব্য।
- আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার স্থান ও সময়সীমা : আবেদনকারী প্রার্থীকে এক কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি ও প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র প্রার্থী যে টিউটোরিয়াল কেন্দ্রে ভর্তি হতে ইচ্ছুক সে কেন্দ্রে, যে রিজিওনাল রিসোর্স সেন্টারের অন্তর্ভুক্ত সেখানে ২৫/০২/২০১০ তারিখের মধ্যে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ব্যক্তিগত ভাবে বা ডাকযোগে পৌঁছাতে হবে।
- আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্রে (রিজিওনাল রিসোর্স সেন্টার) সমূহের ঠিকানা :

আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্রের ঠিকানা	আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্রের ঠিকানা
আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র - ঢাকা ৪/কলেজ এরিয়া, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা-১২০৫ ফোন : ০২/৯৬৭৩৬৬৯	আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র - বগুড়া বিশ্বরোড, বনানী (বনানীস্থ বি এ ডি সি গুরুশ্রীশ্রম এর পূর্ব পার্শ্বে) বগুড়া-৫৮০০। ফোন : ০৫১/৬২৭৯৪
আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র - চট্টগ্রাম সি.আর.বি.রোড, স্টেডিয়াম সংলগ্ন, চট্টগ্রাম ফোন : ০৩১/৬১৯৬৩৩	আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র - যশোর উপ-শহর যশোর (বি আর টি সি বাস স্ট্যান্ড সংলগ্ন) ফোন : ০৪২/৬৮৫২৬
আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র - সিলেট পিরিজপুর, দক্ষিণ সুরমা, সিলেট। ফোন : ০৮২১/৭১৯৫২৩	আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র - রাজশাহী নওহাটা, পবা, রাজশাহী। ফোন : ০৭২১/৮০০০০৮
আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র - বরিশাল রূপাতলী, বরিশাল। ফোন : ০৪৩/২১৭৬২৮২	আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র - ফরিদপুর (নদী গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট এর বিপরীতে), হাড়েকাঙ্গি (বরিশাল রোড), ফরিদপুর। ফোন : ০৬৩১/৬৩২২৮, ৬২০৮১
আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র - কুমিল্লা ঢাকা-চট্টগ্রাম ট্রাংক রোড, নোয়াপাড়া, দুর্গাপুর, কুমিল্লা ফোন : ০৮১/৭৭৫৫৭	আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র - ঝুলনা আর কে রোড (কেন্দ্রীয় বাস স্ট্যান্ড সংলগ্ন), রংপুর ফোন : ০৫২/৬৩৫৯৩
আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র - ময়মনসিংহ মাসকান্দা, ময়মনসিংহ। ফোন : ০৯১/৬৫২৯৮	আঞ্চলিক কেন্দ্র - খুলনা রোশনাবাগ (খুলনা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের পশ্চিমে) খুলনা ফোন : ০৪১/৭৩১৭৯৫

- টিউটোরিয়াল কেন্দ্র সমূহের নাম
- প্রার্থী নির্বাচনের নীতি ও পদ্ধতি
- নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের তালিকা প্রকাশ
- মূল তালিকা হতে ভর্তির তারিখ
- অপেক্ষমান তালিকা হতে ভর্তি
- ওরিয়েন্টেশন / প্রথম টিউটোরিয়াল সেশন

ছাত্র নির্দেশিকা ও ভর্তির আবেদনপত্রের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ অংশ দ্রষ্টব্য।  
ছাত্র নির্দেশিকা ও ভর্তির আবেদনপত্রের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ অংশ দ্রষ্টব্য।  
নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের তালিকা (আবেদনপত্রের ক্রমিক সংখ্যা) রিজিওনাল রিসোর্স সেন্টারসমূহে আগামী ০১/০৩/২০১০ তারিখে প্রকাশ করা হবে।  
০১/০৩/২০১০ তারিখ থেকে ০৯/০৩/২০১০  
১০/০৩/২০১০ তারিখ হতে ১১/০৩/২০১০  
১২/০৩/২০১০

(ড.এম.ফজল আলী)  
পরিচালক  
স্টুডেন্ট সাপোর্ট সার্ভিসেস বিভাগ।

**US aid programme failing in NW Pakistan Reveals US audit**

AP, Islamabad

A \$46 million American aid programme aimed at strengthening the government in Pakistan's tribal regions and blunting the appeal of al-Qaeda and the Taliban has achieved little since it began two years ago, a US government audit found.

The programme is one of several US initiatives in the tribal areas close to the Afghan border and elsewhere in Pakistan, which is set to receive \$7.5 billion in humanitarian assistance from American taxpayers over the next five years.

The audit shows the difficulties facing the Obama administration as it seeks to boost aid to the violence-stricken region. The strategy is to convince impoverished residents that their interests are best served by the government, not by extremists who have seized control of much of the area.

The programme, run by Development Alternatives Inc., a US-based private contractor, was set up to improve the performance of local aid groups and the government agency that oversees the tribal areas. Both need to be strong to ensure future aid money is spent effectively.

The audit, dated Jan. 28 and posted on the Web site of the inspector general, said "little progress" had been made toward either goal of the programme. It said the programme "got off to a slow start" and had been delayed by confusion over a new US government initiative to direct money through Pakistani institutions, not US contractors.

As a result of the new strategy, it said DAI did not know whether its contract would be terminated, meaning many key programmes were put on hold. The audit added the contractor had requested \$15 million in June 2009 from the government to continue with the work, but was only given \$4.7 million

**Lost Gandhi ashes to be scattered on sea in South Africa**

AFP, Johannesburg

Some of the last of Mahatma Gandhi's ashes, kept in secret for decades by a family friend, will be scattered at sea off South Africa's coast today, 62 years after his assassination, his family said.

After a radical nationalist shot Gandhi on January 30, 1948, he was cremated according to Hindu custom.

Normally, ashes are immersed in rivers or the sea within days, but for Gandhi, his remains were divided to many urns and sent around India and across the globe so his followers could hold memorials.

One urn came to South Africa, where Gandhi had come to practise law in 1893, living in the country on and off for 21 years.

A family friend, Vilas Mehta, helped with the arrangements for the prayers, and the ashes were immersed after 10 days, according to the Gandhi Development Trust in Durban.

Unbeknownst to the family, Mehta kept a few remnants of the ashes, and guarded them in secret for the rest of her life, the Trust said.

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**5 Afghan militants die in 8-hour shootout**

AFP, Kandahar

An eight-hour shoot-out in southern Afghanistan ended on Friday with the deaths of five insurgents who had occupied a building near government offices, officials said.

Earlier in the day the militants, wearing suicide vests, took over the building near an Afghan army base, the governor's offices, and other municipal buildings in Lashkar Gah, the capital of the Taliban stronghold of Helmand province.

They started shooting at the government buildings from their positions in the multi-storey block, which was under construction.

The building was immediately surrounded by the Afghan police and army with Nato troops and helicopters supporting the local forces, witnesses and Nato's International Security Assistance Force (Isaf) said.

"We cleared the building just minutes ago and all the enemy elements were killed," said General Shair Mohammad Zazai, the southern military commander.

"We have collected five bodies of the militants and the building is under our total control," he told AFP.

Four Afghan army soldiers were wounded in the clash, Zazai said, adding that no civilians were harmed during the hours of fighting.

"We were using small arms to avoid collateral damage and possible casualties to civilians," he said.

Isaf confirmed in a statement that they had backed up Afghan forces in Lashkar Gah.

"The main group of attackers was contained in a vacant building to the south of Sharwali Barracks. Attack helicopters are over the city and have fired upon insurgents," the force said earlier as the fighting was ongoing.

It was not clear if the five insurgents blew themselves up or were shot dead by security forces.

**University of Dhaka Wanted**

Applications in prescribed form, obtainable from the Office of the Registrar, are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for appointment of a temporary Lecturer (against leave vacancy) in the Department of International Business, University of Dhaka.

Pay scale of Tk. 6800-325x7-9075-EB-365x11-13,090/-.

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must have a four year BBA in any discipline and an MBA in International Business/International Strategic Management/International Management with minimum CGPA of 3.70 in both. In addition they must have at least second divisions (or equivalent) in the SSC & HSC examinations. If candidates with above qualifications are not available the conditions may be relaxed. Other qualifications being equal preference will be given to those who have higher degrees. Third class/division at any level will not be acceptable. Eight copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials, mark-sheets and proof of experience along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value of Tk. 750/- (seven hundred fifty) only payable to the Registrar, should reach him on or before 20.02.2010. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel. GD-483

**University of Dhaka Wanted**

Applications in prescribed form, obtainable from the Office of the Registrar, are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for filling up 2 (two) permanent posts of Lecturer in the Department of Sanskrit in the Pay Scale of Tk. 11000-490x7-14430/- (NP Scale-2009).

QUALIFICATIONS: Candidates must have first class either in Honours or in Master's degree or in both in Sanskrit with at least second divisions in the SSC & HSC examinations. If candidates with above qualifications are not available the conditions may be relaxed. Other qualifications being equal preference will be given to those who have higher degrees. Third class/division at any level will not be acceptable. Eight copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials, mark-sheets and proof of experience along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value of Tk. 750/- (seven hundred fifty) only payable to the Registrar, should reach him on or before 23/2/2010. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel. GD-482