

32 killed in Afghan operation

AFP, Kandahar
Thirty-two Taliban and three soldiers have been killed in an Afghan-Nato operation in Helmand province ahead of a major anti-Taliban push, the provincial government said yesterday.
The operation took place in Nad Ali district, west of the provincial capital Lashkar Gar, on Wednesday, provincial government spokesman Daud Ahmadi told AFP.
"We had an operation in the Nad Ali area last night," Ahmadi said.
"During the operation 32 Taliban were killed and the bodies of some of them

remained in the area."
The southern province of Helmand, along with neighbouring Kandahar, has been the hub of the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan since their regime was pushed from power in the US-led invasion in late 2001.
The Marjah area, south of Nad Ali, is set to be the scene of a major military operation headed by US Marines who have been massing in their thousands, along with Afghan and Nato troops, for weeks in preparation.
Afghan and Nato officials said Wednesday the operation to clear the Taliban from one of their last bastions

should begin soon but gave no specific timeframe.
About 113,000 international troops are deployed in Afghanistan to eradicate the Taliban, with another 40,000 reinforcements due to arrive over the coming months. Most reinforcement will be sent to the southern insurgency hotspots.
In Istanbul, the United States on Thursday urged Nato allies to send thousands of trainers to help strengthen Afghan security forces and exploit a window of opportunity to defeat the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

Indian ministers asked to disclose their assets

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is understood to have asked his cabinet colleagues to disclose details of their assets and liabilities.
In a code of conduct for ministers both at federal and state levels, it has been emphasised that details of the assets should include particulars of all immovable property and the value of shares and debentures, cash holdings and jewellery.
The ministers have been advised to snap all connections with the conduct and management of any business in which they were interested before their appointment.
The code asked the ministers to divest themselves of all interests in business concerns and their management, which supplies goods or services to the government or to government undertakings.
It also asked the ministers to submit annually a declaration regarding their assets and liabilities for the previous financial year.



PHOTO: AFP
Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal also known as 'Prachanda' (C), addresses a press conference in Kathmandu yesterday. Prachanda announced plans to launch a fresh round of anti-government protests from February 13.

Obama keeps N Korea off terror list

AFP, Washington

President Barack Obama on Wednesday certified that North Korea would remain off the US list of terrorist states, despite some calls from Congress for the Stalinist state to be put back on.
The former administration of president George W Bush took Pyongyang off the list of state sponsors of terrorism in return for progress on declaring the extent of its nuclear

activities in 2008.
But following a series of provocative measures, including an atomic test and missile launches by the secretive state last year, some prominent members of Congress demanded Obama reconsider the move.
But the president, in a letter to Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill confirmed that North Korea "does not meet the statutory criteria to again be designated as a state sponsor of terrorism."

Last July, the US Senate passed a non-binding resolution calling on the president to consider adding Pyongyang to the list, calling it a "threat to the northeast Asian region and to international peace and security."
North Korea was added to the blacklist on January 20, 1988, following the bombing by its agents of a KAL plane on November 29, 1987, which killed all 115 on board.
The State Department has said that the North was not

known to have sponsored any terrorist acts since that bombing.
But conservative Republicans in Congress, and some Democrats, fear that the Stalinist regime is guilty of sending military technology to states that Washington views as a threat, including Iran.
Countries deemed by the US Secretary of State to be state sponsors of terrorism face a range of economic sanctions and other restrictions.

' Hamas wants talks with US, EU'

AFP, Gaza City

Hamas is ready for dialogue with the international community, including the United States and European Union, the leader of the Palestinian Islamist movement Ismail Haniya told AFP.

"Hamas is ready to dialogue with the world, international community, the US, the (Middle East) Quartet and the Europeans," Haniya said Wednesday.
The Islamist movement, which has been in power in the Gaza Strip since June 2007

after a week of vicious street battles with Fatah loyalists, remains a pariah of the international community.
It is considered a terrorist organisation by the United States and the European Union refuses to hold formal talks with the group.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

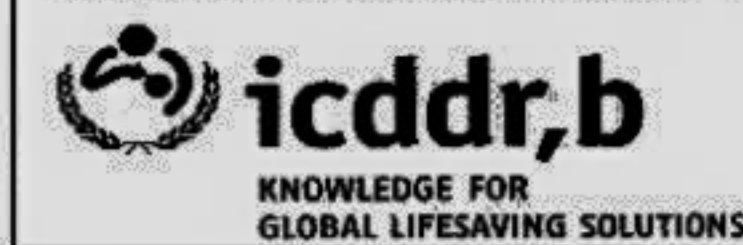
ICDDR,B invites applications from suitable candidates for the position of **Bio-Medical Engineer (Electrical & Electronics)** with the Bio-Medical Engineering Unit under the Laboratory Sciences Division in Dhaka. The appointment will be made on a fixed-term basis for 2 years, but may be extended for further period depending on satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

Salary -Annual - Tk.660,060/- inclusive of house rent and conveyance allowances with other admissible benefits.

Benefits/facilities -14.8% retirement fund contribution by ICDDR,B, children allowance @Tk.1,420/- per child per month, medical facilities for dependent spouse and children, free group life insurance, and subsidized transport, canteen, day care facilities.

For detailed job profile and requirements, please visit our website: www.icddr.org. Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should submit an **online application by 20 February 2010**

Only shortlisted candidates shall be invited for the interview.



HC orders

FROM PAGE 1
The court yesterday issued an eight-point directive upon the government asking it to frame within 60 days a new Warrant of Precedence in line with the directive "without any fetters or restrictions".

The Warrant of Precedence is used for all government purposes including ceremonial functions.
The HC bench of Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed and Justice Moyeenul Islam Chowdhury also directed the government to submit a report to the court by May 13 this year on the directive's implementation, and also fixed May 25 for further orders in this regard.

The directive said as the constitution is the supreme law of the land, all constitutional office holders are to be placed first in the order of priority.
It also said members of the judicial service equivalent to district judges will be put at the same serial number.
Additional district judges will be placed at the serial number immediately after district judges, it added.

Petitioner's lawyer Advocate Asaduzzaman told The Daily Star yesterday that the rank of district magistrates will also be placed above the positions of the chiefs of armed forces, and government secretaries from now on due to the HC verdict.
The rank of district judges is equivalent to that of the deputy secretaries in the Warrant of Precedence 1986, which undermines the spirit of the constitution, he said.
The HC verdict boosts the dignity of the judiciary, he added.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam however told reporters that his office will file an appeal with the Supreme Court against the verdict after getting a copy of it.
Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud and Dr M Zahir appeared for the petitioner while Deputy Attorney General Nazrul Islam Talukder argued for the state.
THE PRECEDENCE
According to the HC order, the following persons should be placed before the secretaries of the government and other employees of the republic:

1. President
2. Prime minister
3. Chief justice and Speaker of the parliament
4. Leader of the opposition, former president, former chief justice, former prime minister, former chief advisers to the non-party caretaker government and deputy speaker of the parliament
5. Ministers, judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court and chief whip
6. Ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary and high commissioners of Commonwealth countries accredited to Bangladesh, judges of the High Court division of the Supreme Court, and chief election commissioner
7. State ministers, deputy leader of the opposition in Parliament and election commissioners
8. Deputy ministers, attorney general, comptroller and auditor general, chairman of Public Service Commission, ombudsman, whips, persons having awarded of the state
9. Members of the Parliament
10. Envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary accredited to Bangladesh
11. District and sessions judges and additional district and sessions judges and equivalent posts
12. Chief of staff of the Army, Navy and Air Forces
13. Posts or Positions created under any statute

Career Opportunity

Radiant Pharmaceuticals Limited is committed to manufacturing of quality medicines through strict adherence to the internationally accepted standards of good manufacturing practices. We have a close collaboration with the Swiss pharmaceutical company, F. Hoffmann-La Roche Limited, as their licensee to manufacture and sell Roche pharmaceutical products in Bangladesh.

Currently we have positions to offer to eligible young candidates interested to work in our organization.

Position: Product Managers
Position Requirements:

- B. Pharm. (4 years curricula) or M. Pharm. degree from reputed universities.
- Commendable communication skills in English and Bangla.
- Well conversant with Microsoft office.
- Below 30 years of age.

Position: Cost Accountant
Position Requirements:

- Cost Accountant (CMA) with Masters in Accounting/Finance.
- Minimum 3 years experience in any pharmaceutical company.
- Strong knowledge of product cost accounting & methodology.

Position: Accounts Officer
Position Requirements:

- Masters/MBA in Accounting/Finance.
- 1-2 years experience in relevant area.
- Knowledge of finance, accounting, cash handling procedures.

Interested candidates are requested to send their own hand written applications with recent passport size photograph and resume to the following address by 22nd February 2010. Please inscribe the position title on the top of the envelope.

Radiant Pharmaceuticals Limited
22/1 Dhanmondi, Road 2, Dhaka-1205, Tel: 8611661

Vacancy for Program Officer, Bangladesh

The Australian Government, through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), is seeking to fill the position of Program Officer, based in the Australian High Commission, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Program Officer's duties will support the development and management of Australian aid program activities, in Water and Sanitation (WatSan) and Health as well as other sectors as required, within the Bangladesh Program.

ESSENTIAL SELECTION CRITERIA

- Experience in working with development programs in the WatSan and/or health sectors. The ideal candidate will have had a minimum of 4 years professional experience;
- Postgraduate qualifications in development studies and demonstrated knowledge of Bangladesh's development, economic, political, social and environmental situation;
- Knowledge of WatSan and health related activities in Bangladesh and also preferably, in the international context;
- Excellent English and Bangla communication skills;
- Demonstrated ability to analyze, interpret and provide input to policy development;
- Demonstrated ability to work as a part of a multicultural team as well as independently;
- Ability to travel and work non-standard hours, when work demands dictate.

DESIRED SELECTION CRITERIA

- Knowledge of the Australian Government's aid policy and programs.

APPLICATIONS

- Interested applicants should submit their CV and a statement, outlining their suitability for the position, by **4:00 pm on Saturday, 27 February 2010**.
- Statements should not exceed two pages AND MUST DIRECTLY ADDRESS THE 'ESSENTIAL SELECTION CRITERIA' ABOVE. Statements not addressing the selection criteria will not be considered.
- Please address applications to hr.ausaid@dfat.gov.au and clearly mention 'Program Officer' in the subject line.
- All applications will be treated on merit and in strict confidence.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

Vacancy Announcement

Issued on: 5 Feb. 2010
Deadline for application: 19 Feb. 2010

The FAO Representation in Bangladesh is inviting applications from qualified and highly experienced candidates to the following vacant positions in Dhaka and Barisal (with in-country travel) to be filled as soon as possible under project UTF/BGD/040/BGD "Recovery of the Agriculture Sector and Improvement Programme in Cyclone Sidr-Affected Areas". Incumbents will be recruited as a National Project Personnel:

1. Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist - 1 Position (Dhaka)
2. Procurement/Logistics Specialist - 1 Position (Dhaka)
3. Senior Accountant - 1 Position (Dhaka)
4. Communications Specialist - 1 Position (Barisal)
5. Community Development Specialist - 1 Position (Barisal)
6. Component Coordinator (Agriculture) - 1 Position (Dhaka)
7. Agronomist/Sub-Component Implementation Cell Team Leader - 1 Position (Barisal)
8. Agricultural Mechanization Specialist - 1 Position (Barisal)
9. Irrigation Engineer/Water Management Specialist - 1 Position (Barisal)
10. Horticulturalist - 1 Position (Barisal)
11. Farmer Field School/Farmers' Training Specialist - 1 Position (Barisal)
12. Capture Fisheries Specialist/Sub-Component Implementation Cell Team Leader - 1 Position (Barisal)
13. Naval Architect - 1 Position (Barisal)
14. Fisheries Training Specialist (Capture Fishery) - 1 Position (Barisal)
15. Fisheries Training Specialist (Aquaculture) - 1 Position (Barisal)
16. Aquaculture Specialist - 1 Position (Barisal)
17. Livestock Production Specialist/Sub-Component Implementation Cell Team Leader - 1 Position (Barisal)
18. Livestock Training Specialist - 2 Positions (Barisal)
19. Component Coordinator (Livestock) - 1 Position (Dhaka)
20. Accountants - 2 Positions (Dhaka/Barisal)
21. Logistics Assistants - 2 Positions (Dhaka/Barisal)
22. Data Entry Clerks/Secretaries - 2 Positions (Dhaka/Barisal)
23. Drivers - 6 Positions (Dhaka/Barisal)

(UN Salary scale and benefits for similar position apply).

Interested qualified and highly experienced (minimum of between 5 and 15 years of demonstrated work experience, depending on the position) candidates will find the post descriptions, the link to the FAO Personal History Form (PH-Form) and the information on how to apply in the following web link: www.bdjobs.com. Hard copies of the completed and signed PH-Form, together with an application, must reach the **FAO Representation in Bangladesh, House#37, Road#8, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205** in a sealed envelope by close of business on **19 February 2010**.