



"Red Shirt" supporters of ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra storm the country's Parliament building in capital Bangkok yesterday. Protesters smash through the Parliament gate with a truck in an anti government protest for the fifth day.

PHOTO: AFP

Lankan president eyes political dynasty

AFP, Colombo

South Asia is no stranger to political dynasties, and Thursday's parliamentary polls in Sri Lanka could mark President Mahinda Rajapakse's first step in securing a legacy for his own "first family."

Rajapakse, 64, has campaigned for his eldest son, Namal, who is contesting the election in the family's home constituency of Hambantota in the island's southern Sinhalese heartland.

Namal, who will be 24 on Sunday, has no qualms about promoting himself as an ideological successor to his father, whose personal popularity following victory over Tamil rebels last year is expected to ensure a resounding poll win for his ruling Freedom Alliance party.

"I want to protect for future generations the freedom won by my father," Namal says on his website, which notes that he hails from "a

notable political family."

The president rounded off campaigning on Monday by addressing a rally for Namal, and images of the smiling father-son duo have been prominent in local newspapers and television.

In the past five years, Namal, the eldest of three sons, has been groomed for political leadership, and was made the head of a national youth movement, which has a strong network in rural areas.

Several other Rajapakse family members are contesting Thursday's vote, including the president's younger brother Basil, older brother Chamal, who is aviation minister, and his niece, Nirupama.

Austin Fernando, a retired defence secretary-turned-political analyst and author, said Sri Lanka society was generally open to the idea of dynastic politics.

China, India agree to set up hot line

AP, Beijing

China and India have agreed to set up a hot line linking their top leaders.

The agreement setting up the hot line was signed Wednesday. Visiting Indian External Affairs Minister SM Krishna and Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi did not comment on the hot line at the signing.

No details on the hot line were immediately available from officials on either side.

China and India have a growing military rivalry and lingering territorial disputes along their border.

Krishna is visiting China to take part in celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the countries.

Mumbai attack gunmen secretly buried

BBC ONLINE

The bodies of nine gunmen killed in the 2008 attacks on Mumbai have been secretly buried, Indian officials say.

Maharashtra state home minister RR Patil gave no location or date, saying only the burials had been in January.

The men remained unburied for more than a year after Indian Muslims opposed giving them space in their graveyards.

Nobody claimed the bodies. India said the men came from Pakistan but it denied they were its nationals and refused to take their bodies back.

Later, Pakistan admitted the attacks had been partly planned on its soil. The gunmen killed 166 people and the attacks damaged relations between the two countries.

A man alleged to have been the tenth attacker is currently on trial in Mumbai, along with two Indians accused of being accomplices.

Afghan suicide blast kills civilian, injures 15

AP, Kabul

Officials say a suicide attack in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad has killed one civilian and wounded 15 others.

The Afghan Ministry of Interior says the explosion early Wednesday appeared to have targeted a Nato convoy passing through the city's main intersection.

It says the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber and damaged one of the military vehicles and several nearby shops.

India pledges strong response to Maoists

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

A day after Maoists gunned down 75 security personnel in the central Indian state of Chhattisgarh, Indian Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram yesterday said there will be no halt in the offensive against Maoists and the government may have to reconsider its stand of not using the Air Force.

Chidambaram also said there is no proposal to deploy Army for the anti-Maoist operations.

Maintaining that a "war" has been thrust on the government by Maoists, Chidambaram said "at this moment we must remain calm and hold our nerves" in the fight to rid India of the

grave threat of Maoists and to save democracy.

Chidambaram, who flew to Chhattisgarh to assess the situation, told reporters that government still believes that the state police backed by central paramilitary forces are sufficient to counter the Maoist threat.

"There is no proposal to use the army. We think the state police assisted by federal paramilitary forces are sufficient to overcome the Maoist threat. It is our present assessment of the threat," he said.

However, answering another question, he said, "at present there is no mandate to use the Air Force or any aircraft. But, if necessary, we will have to revisit the mandate to make some changes".

Aide denies Karzai threatened to join Taliban

AP, Kabul

Hamid Karzai's spokesman denied reports that the Afghan leader threatened to join the Taliban insurgency if he were pressured further by foreign backers, in an apparent attempt yesterday to calm worsening tensions with Washington.

Karzai's comments, allegedly made in a meeting with lawmakers on Saturday, had been widely reported by The Associated Press and others,

prompting the White House to say a planned Washington visit might be cancelled if Karzai didn't stop blaming the US for his problems.

However, Karzai spokesman Waheed Omar said Karzai's government had been shocked to see the comment appearing in media outlets, and did not know where it came from.

The Afghanistan government has put "fighting against terror and fighting against those who put the lives of Afghan people in danger as priority No 1," Omar told a news conference.

Afghan election chief resigns

BBC ONLINE

The head of Afghanistan's Independent Election Commission (IEC) and his deputy have resigned, officials say.

A spokesman for President Hamid Karzai said commission president Azizullah Ludin's tenure had ended and that he did not want to continue in the post.

The commission's chief electoral officer, Daoud Ali Najafi, has also submitted his resignation.

The resignations follow international pressure over last year's presidential elections, which were marred by fraud.

Karzai won the election but the IEC was criticised for failing to deal with widespread irregularities.

The BBC's Martin Patience, in Kabul, says the resignations appear to show President Karzai has backed down in his standoff with Western powers over electoral procedures.

The changes will allay Western concerns of fraud in parliamentary elections planned for September, he adds.

VACANCY

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Qualifications: B. Sc. Engineer (Electrical & Electronics or Mechanical) with adequate knowledge/experiences in the maintenance work of electro-mechanical equipments used in high rise sophisticated buildings. Experience in Five Star hotel / Hospital will be preferred. Proficiency in oral and written English and excellent computer skills are required.

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Age limit: Not over 30 years.

Sub Assistant Engineer (Grade-II): 1 position

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Monthly Salary (for all positions): Attractive salary package will be offered to the deserving candidates.

Only short listed candidates will be called for interview
The position sought must be clearly stated on the envelope. Please apply giving detailed CV with a passport size photograph, copies of all relevant certificates and certificate from former clients (if possible) by **22 April 2010 to:**

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PABX: 880-2-8852000 Ext. 1201
or
e-mail : kmrahman@northsouth.edu

Vacancy Announcement

Smiling Sun Franchise Program

Smiling Sun Franchise Program (SSFP), the largest health project of USAID-Bangladesh, is rapidly moving to become the world's largest health social franchise. In fulfillment of this mission, SSFP has been maintaining a highly motivated and sizable team of skilled personnel ranging from doctors, to engineers to communications specialists, employed by Chemonics International Inc. SSFP in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the following position located in Dhaka.

1. Grants Specialist

Details of the Terms of Reference and instructions to apply are listed on our website: <http://www.smilinghealth.com/jobs>. Ideal candidates should have experience with contract compliance and finance management. Direct experience managing grants preferred. Interested candidate are requested to send their CV, mentioning current salary, by email to jobs@smilinghealth.com. Please mention the position in the subject line. Applications should be submitted no later than 14 April 2010.

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

"Women are especially encouraged to apply"

TALENT SEARCH

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Destiny Group invites bright and competent human capital for its corporate HR Department and Audit Department for the following Positions:

Position: Deputy Head of HR

Responsibilities:
• Assisting Head of HR for smooth operation of Departmental activities • Educating and supervising the internal resources to ensure the departmental activities • Implementing the policies, procedures, rules and regulations • Executing day to day HR operational activities and analyzing operational problems and developing solutions • Preparing and implementing annual HR budget.

Requirements:
• M.B.A (Major in HRM) or M.B.A in any discipline with PGDHRM • At least 7 years experience of which 2-3 years in mid level position of Human Resources Management.

Position: Assistant Manager-HR Audit

Responsibilities:
• Ensuring compliance of recruitment & selection with the organization alignment, policy & procedures • Ensuring accuracy of HRIS • Conducting employee salary & benefit audit of the organization.

Requirements:
• M.B.A (Major in HRM) or M.B.A in any discipline with PGDHRM • At least 4 years experience in the field of HR Audit.

Position: Assistant Manager-HR Operation

Responsibilities:
• Coordinating recruitment & selection of employee requisites by the departments • Coordinating advertisement for the recruitment • Collecting, preserving and sorting application against advertised position • Organizing test/interviews for the short listed candidates • Issuing offer letter to the selected candidates • Maintaining CV Bank and HRIS.

Requirements: • M.B.A (Major in HRM) or M.B.A in any discipline with PGDHRM • At least 4 years experience in the field of HR Operation.

Position: Assistant Manager-Performance Management

Responsibilities:
• Identifying the performance gap • Implementing the Performance Management System • Implementing the HR development plans as per the identified development plan • Managing the 'Reward & Recognition' process • Talent Management.

Requirements:
• M.B.A (Major in HRM) or M.B.A in any discipline with PGDHRM • At least 4 years experience in the field of Performance Management.

Position: Executive/ Senior Executive-Compensation & Benefit

Responsibilities:
• Assisting supervisor to ensure timely salary administration • Computing and regular updating of employee income tax • Assisting supervisor in preparing different reports on compensation & benefit administration.

Requirements:
• M.B.A (Major in HRM) or M.B.A in any discipline with PGDHRM • 2-3 years experience in Payroll Management.

Position: Coordinator, HR

Responsibilities:
• Coordinating unit HR operational activities with the corporate HR • Updating HRIS of the assigned business unit • Maintaining attendance & leave records of concern business unit and forwarding the same to corporate HR.

Requirements:
• M.B.A (Major in HRM) or M.B.A in any discipline with PGDHRM • 2-3 years experience in HR field.

Position: Manager/Deputy Manager, Audit

Responsibilities:
• Performing financial and operational audits to provide Management with objective analysis of activities • Assisting Head of Audit in developing annual audit plan, identifying areas of potential internal control exposure and areas for improving operational efficiency • Reviewing staff audit work papers and reports to ensure appropriate documentation and support for internal & external compliance • Assisting Head of Audit in preparing different report for the Management.

Requirements:
• M.B.A (Accounting)/Masters in Accounting with CACC • At least 3 years relevant experience for Manager and 2 years relevant experience for Deputy Manager position • Candidates having knowledge on ERP software would be given preference.

Position: Assistant Manager, Audit

Responsibilities:
• Assisting Head of Audit in operating audit activities in line with the organizational policy, rules & regulation • Ensuring appropriate documentation and support for internal & external compliance • Assisting Head of Audit in preparing different reports for the Management.

Requirements:
• M.B.A (Accounting)/Masters in Accounting with CACC • At least 2 years relevant experience in Audit work • Candidates having knowledge on ERP software would be given preference.

Position: Senior Executive/Executive, Audit

Responsibilities:
• Ensuring compliance of organizational activities with the policy & procedures • Sales Audit • Physical verification of Branch Office activities • Any other task assigned by the Head of the Department.

Requirements:
• M.B.A (Accounting)/Masters in Accounting with CACC • At least 1 year experience in Audit work in a well reputed company • Candidates having knowledge on ERP software would be given preference.

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HOW TO APPLY :
Please send your complete CV including passport size color photograph addressing "Head of HR"-Destiny Group, National Scout Bhaban (13th floor), 70/1 Inner Circular (VIP) Road, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on or before 20 April 2010.