

Deputy Afghan mayor shot dead

4 children die in crossfire

AFP, AP, Kabul

Insurgents killed a vice mayor of the southern city of Kandahar while he was praying at a mosque, an official said yesterday, the latest brazen attack on government officials in the volatile region where AFP, Khost

Earlier, four children were killed in crossfire between foreign soldiers and insurgents in eastern Afghanistan, the education ministry said yesterday.

The incident took place in the Gurbuz district of Khost province at about 6:00 pm (1330 GMT) on Monday, it said in a statement.

"The school children... were killed in an exchange of fire between Isaf and the opposition," it said, referring to Nato's International Security Assistance Force and militants.

A spokesman for the ministry, Mohammad Asif Nang, told AFP: "Essentially the foreign forces opened fire on them."

The statement coincided with a release from Isaf that said four people had died in Khost after their vehicle was fired on by the international soldiers while it was accelerating towards their convoy.

It was unclear if the two reports referred to the same incident.

An Isaf spokesman said: "We don't have any reports that children were involved in this incident." Troops are preparing for an assault on Taliban forces.

Meanwhile, Nato said one of its convoys in Khost province, on the border with Pakistan, fired on a vehicle that ignored warnings to stop late Monday night, killing four people inside the car.



PHOTO: AFP
Pakistani artillery is seen during a military exercise in the Khairpur Tamewali area of Punjab province yesterday. Pakistan is flexing its military might near the Indian border in massive war games, analysts say, aimed at putting on a show of force for its nuclear-armed rival.

Zardari says 'I'm not powerless'

ANI, Islamabad

Presenting a brave face after signing the 18th Constitutional Amendment bill into law, which would subsequently clip his key powers, Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari has said democracy is his strength and that he is not 'powerless.'

"I believe in democracy and seek my strength from democracy as I think democratically, Zardari told media persons after the signing of the bill.

"Despite enjoying all the powers, I never thought of using these powers as I am not fond of keeping powers," he added.

Responding to a question, Zardari said 'doors to dictatorship' have been shut, but hinted that possibility of another military rule in the country remains.

"I am fully confident that no dictator would dare step in now, but then, who can rule out mishaps," The Daily Times quoted Zardari, as saying.

Afghanistan kicks off registration for polls

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan yesterday began registering thousands of candidates for the war-torn country's parliamentary elections to be held on September 18, an electoral official said.

"Today is the first day for the registration of the candidates for the parliamentary elections," Zakria Barakzai, a senior official at the Independent Election Commission (IEC), told reporters.

President Hamid Karzai last week appointed a new head of the IEC under pressure from his international backers and domestic political groups after last year's fraud-tainted presidential ballot, which saw him re-elected.

A UN-backed election watchdog, the Electoral Complaints Commission, ruled against more than one-third of the votes cast for Karzai, prompting criticism of the electoral body, including accusations of involvement in the rigging.

"I assure the people of Afghanistan that the IEC will be working day and night to ensure free, fair and just elections," said Barakzai, the acting chief electoral officer.

Karzai recently levelled a series of outbursts against the international community, alleging that foreign powers orchestrated the widespread fraud in the August poll, the second presidential election held in Afghanistan.

Pak Islamist blames US for suicide blast

AP, Peshawar

An Islamist politician whose party lost several members in a suicide attack blamed Pakistan's ally with the US for the violence and urged Islamabad yesterday to break links in the war on terror.

The comments showed the depth of anti-Americanism in Pakistan, whose support Washington considers key to stabilizing neighbouring Afghanistan. In the past three days, attacks in Pakistan have killed some 74 people, signalling a potential new wave of violence.

The Jamaat-e-Islami party was hit Monday when a suicide bomber apparently targeted police watching over a rally of the pro-Taliban group. Many of the 24 dead and 45 wounded were party loyalists, while two were officers, police official Khan Abbas said Tuesday.

Although authorities blamed the Taliban in the immediate aftermath of the attack in Peshawar, the Islamist party's leaders have declined to do so, instead alleging that the CIA or Indian intelligence were behind it.

"It is because we have brought America's war to our own country," Sirajul Haq, a provincial party leader, said Tuesday in Peshawar after attending funerals for some of the victims. "Still, there is time to end this alliance with America" to avoid more bloodshed.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but that is not unusual in cases where many ordinary Pakistanis die.

Earlier Monday, a bomb exploded outside a school run by a police welfare foundation, killing a young boy and wounding 10 people. And over the weekend, multiple bombs in the Kohat region elsewhere in the northwest killed nearly 50 people.

BHUTTO REPORT Pak officials lose posts

AFP, Islamabad

Several senior Pakistani police and intelligence officials have been removed from their posts after a damning UN report into the killing of ex-premier Benazir Bhutto, officials said yesterday.

The United Nations investigation released Thursday found that Bhutto's death in a gun and suicide attack in December 2007 could have been prevented, and that the authorities deliberately failed to properly investigate.

"Eight officials have been relieved of their duties while the service contract of a retired brigadier has been terminated," presidential spokesman Farhatullah Babar told AFP.

Mukul Sangma sworn in as Meghalaya CM

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Shillong

Mukul M Sangma took oath as the 21st chief minister of Meghalaya yesterday, which also happens to be his 45th birthday.

Sangma was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor RS Mooshahary at Raj Bhavan. Three other ministers - one Independent and two from the United Democratic Party - were also sworn-in.

The three are: AT Mondal, Independent, and JA Lyngdoh and Bindom M Lapang of the UDP. Lapang was sworn in as deputy chief minister.

The three had been part of the DD Lapang ministry.

After his swearing-in, Sangma said he will leave for New Delhi Wednesday to get the list of council of ministers approved by the Congress high command. Eight more ministers have to be inducted.

Veteran Congress leader DD Lapang was asked to step down as chief minister after 21 of the 28 Congress legislators proposed Sangma's name as the new Congress legislature party leader.

Nepal hurtles towards chaos

INDO ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kathmandu

With just 37 days left for Nepal to unveil a new constitution, the country has begun hurtling towards chaos with the three major parties still at daggers drawn and the key players admitting it would be impossible to execute the task.

Concern and fear began to mount yesterday after Nilambar Acharya, chairman of the constitutional committee that has the mandate of drafting the new statute, admitted on television Monday night that the new constitution was doomed with mistrust among the major parties deepening.

Former American president and Nobel laureate Jimmy Carter, who gave a clean chit to the election in 2008 that saw the former Maoist guerrillas come to power, sent his representative in Nepal, Peter Burleigh, to meet Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal and ask about the floundering peace process.

Though the Prime Minister's Office said Nepal had pledged to be 'flexible to the utmost' to conclude the peace negotiations that began in 2006 when the Maoists ended their 10-year-long armed insurrection, the assurance rings hollow.

The PM's own party, the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (UML), Tuesday agreed among itself that it would root for extending the term of the current parliament, which was elected in 2008 to write the new constitution.

The interim constitution has a provision to lengthen the life of the house by six months in case of an emergency, like a natural calamity or war.

However, legal experts are divided on this. Sher Bahadur KC, a former official of the Nepal Bar Association, says if the new constitution is not promulgated on the pledged date of May 28, the validity of the present parliament and government would end, plunging the country into chaos.

Executive Director Search

The Self-Employment for Rural Women Through Cottage Industries (SERWTCI) Trust is seeking for a full time qualified female candidate for the position of **Executive Director**. SERWTCI Trust is an autonomous organization formed under the purview of Ministry of Industries for socio-economic uplift of the poor and disadvantaged class of women in Bangladesh by providing micro credit and training support.

- Job location :** Head office, Dhaka. With frequent field visit to the project areas.
- Duration :** 03 (Three) years contract on renewal basis.
- Age limit :** Not exceeding 45 years.
- Education :** Masters in any discipline from recognized/reputed Universities. PhD holder in Social Welfare, Social Science or Business Administration will be given preference.
- Experience :** Minimum 15 years practical experience in Social Welfare. Sound knowledge in operation of micro credit is must. Computer literacy and strong communication skills both in Bangla and English is essential.
- Job description:**
- Remain responsible for administration and management of all activities of the Trust.
 - Raise fund from GOB, development partners, Donors and other sources for implementation of the project of the Trust.
 - Prepare Annual Plan of Actions, Budget and Progress report.
 - Remains responsible for recruitment and posting of personnel.
 - Organize training course, workshop, seminar, study tours, etc.
 - Supervise, review and monitor the field activities.
 - Prepare project proposal, different manuals, management rules and regulations etc.
 - Maintain regular liaison with the concerned officials of the ministry, donors and other concern agencies.
 - Arrange proper internal and external audit of the Trust accounts.
 - Hold Board Meeting and prepare working paper, proceedings etc.
- Salary :** Taka 40,000/- (negotiable) plus transport and other admissible benefits as per organization's policy.

Interested candidate may apply in confidence along with detailed Curriculum Vitae, two recent passport size photographs and copies of all educational/professional certificates with a brief write-up regarding her role, contribution and interest towards Women Development and Poverty Alleviation of Bangladesh to the Convener, Search Committee, SERWTCI Trust, Head Office, Malek Mansion (7th Floor), 128 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh on or before 20 May, 2010.

Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Represented by
The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Dhaka
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RE-TENDER

For the completion of the new building for the Embassy
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Only General Contractors, who have recently completed works similar in type have the scope to submit this bid.

Details of company structure, evidences of previous works and capability to undertake the project are required in specific format, which will be ready for pick up by all interested contractors at the Embassy during its working hours, starting from the date of this advertisement.

Pre-qualification documents should be returned in a sealed envelope within two weeks from the date of this advertisement to the Embassy at the following address:



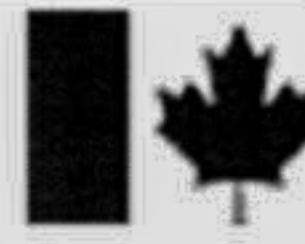

The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia
House No. 5, Road No. 83,
Gulshan-2, Dhaka

Tender documents will be made available to qualified contractors only which are to be collected from the Embassy's above mentioned address.

Bids should be submitted in a sealed envelope to the Embassy's above address no later than Monday 31.5.2010 during The Embassy's working hours.

Contractors shall be required to submit together with their bids a bank guarantee equal to (1%) of the bid sum (bid guarantee) with 4 months validity date.

The Embassy reserves the right to accept or reject any or all submissions at its sole discretion.

Job Opportunities with a University Partnership Project

A Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) supported project 'Building Environmental Governance Capacity in Bangladesh (BEGCB)' under Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) being implemented by North South University (NSU), the University of Manitoba (UM), Canada and other partners requires the following personnel for its operation.

i. Program Manager (PM)
Key roles and responsibilities:

- PM will responsible for overall management of the project
- PM will organize and facilitate all events of the project, as stipulated in the project profile
- Will manage all the project accounts, its inflow and expenditures, and submit quarterly financial reports to the University of Manitoba, NSU VC, and NSU Finance Director
- PM will maintain liaison with other project partners-BRAC University and Centre for Natural Resources Studies (CNRS)
- PM will be responsible for coordinating and maintaining regular activities with project launched Masters in Resource and Environmental Management (MREM) program
- Will also remain responsible for building and maintaining networking with other donors, GoB agencies, NGOs, private sector, etc.
- PM will facilitate field practica and internship for students of MREM and any other task assigned by the two Project Directors from the NSU and the UM as and when required.

Qualifications: The ideal candidate should have tertiary level qualification in the development field -Masters degree from a reputed university, preferably from Europe, North America, Australia or New Zealand. Similar experience in development project management is required.

Remuneration: The position is contractual (yearly renewable) and carries a consolidated remuneration package of tk. 50,000.00 (fifty thousand) per month.

ii. Program Secretary cum Library Assistant
Key roles and responsibilities:

- Administrative support for smooth execution of the project.
- Maintaining a resource center and its books, computers, logistics and other facilities.
- Maintaining petty cash and producing reports on cash outflows
- Documentation- filing, record keeping, book keeping, etc
- Organizing- meeting, workshops, other events related to the project
- Maintaining internal communication with various sections and departments of NSU as and when required
- Any other administrative work assigned by the Project Manager and Project Director.

Remuneration: The position is contractual (yearly renewable) and carries a consolidated remuneration package of tk. 15,000.00 (fifteen thousand) per month. However, higher remuneration might be considered for extremely suitable candidate.

Qualifications: An ideal candidate should be a graduate with adequate IT and secretarial skills. She/he should. The position would require good English writing ability.

Daily working hour for both the positions is 12:00 noon to 8:00 pm
The positions are open for both female and male candidates.

Application: Please forward your CV only mentioning application for PM position for position i and PS position for ii. to the following e-mail address: mrem@northsouth.edu within 6 May 2010 or post it to the following address:
Department of Environmental Science and Management (DESM)
NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY
SAC, Level-7, NSU Campus, Bashundhara, Dhaka-1229.