

Mandela's daughter came under attack

IANS, Cape Town

A daughter and some of the grandchildren of former South African president Nelson Mandela were attacked by gunmen in Johannesburg as they returned home from a weekend birthday party for the 92-year-old statesman, police confirmed yesterday.

Zindzi Mandela and her children were approached by the two armed strangers in the driveway of their home early Sunday evening, according to police spokesman Govindsamy Mariemuthoo.

He said the driver of the car, Mandela's daughter and the children were first ordered to lie on the ground. The attackers then reportedly walked away, but returned shortly after to search them.

One of the men suddenly fired a shot, leading the driver to return fire, Mariemuthoo said. No one was injured and the attackers fled.

Militants waiting to trigger India-Pakistan conflict: US

AFP, New Delhi

Top US diplomatic and military officials warned yesterday of fresh attempts by militant groups to push nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan into a military conflict.

The chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, said he feared extremists would attempt another operation similar to the 2008 Mumbai attacks in order to goad India into armed retaliation against its neighbour and arch-rival.

Mullen said the Mumbai carnage, which India blamed on the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) militant outfit, had demonstrated how a small group of extremists could have a "strategic impact".

"One of the things that struck me then and is still of great concern is that those terrorists could bring two countries closer (to a possible conflict)," he told reporters on board his plane bound for New Delhi.

India suspended a peace dialogue with Pakistan in the wake of the Mumbai attacks, which claimed 166 lives, and the two countries have only recently begun to explore a resumption of structured talks.

"I've worried a great deal about a repeat attack, of something like that," Mullen said, adding that he wanted "to focus on making sure this doesn't happen again."

Mullen began a two-day visit to India yesterday that coincided with a visit by the US special

envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan, Richard Holbrooke.

Speaking earlier to reporters in Delhi, Holbrooke said the LeT was just one of a number of regional outfits, along with the Pakistani and Afghan Taliban, looking to destabilise South Asia.

"They seem to be growing closer together ... (and) their long-term objective is the same: to create the maximum number of problems between India and Pakistan ... to create a crisis," Holbrooke said.

Both men said combating the LeT was a top priority.

"I see them starting to emerge as a larger regional to global -- at least aspirational -- global threat," Mullen said.

India accuses Pakistan of failing to crack down sufficiently on groups like the LeT that operate from bases on its territory, and Indian officials were expected to highlight the same charge during talks with Holbrooke and Mullen.

Meetings were also expected to focus on military cooperation and the situation in Afghanistan, where India is concerned about what it perceives as growing Pakistani influence.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars since the division of the sub-continent in 1947 and their relationship has always been beset by mutual mistrust.

Three killed in Baghdad rocket attack

AFP, Baghdad

Three security contractors working for the US government were killed in a rocket attack on Baghdad's heavily-fortified Green Zone yesterday, the American embassy said.

Three other people were killed in incidents in northern Iraq's main city of Mosul and the former rebel bastion of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, security officials added.

"Two Ugandans and one Peruvian were killed and 15 people injured" by "a rocket fired into the International Zone," the embassy said, using another name for the Green Zone in central Baghdad.

"All the dead and injured worked for a US government security contractor which protects US government facilities in Iraq," it said in a statement.



A handout photo taken on July 14, 2010 and released yesterday shows formerly conjoined twins Krishna, left, and Trishna, right, being re-united with their mother Lovely Goldar, 2nd left, and with the twin's Australian co-guardian Moira Kelly of the Children First Foundation in Melbourne. The Bangladeshi mother of conjoined twins, separated last year in Australia, has flown to visit her daughters for the first time since the complex surgery.

Decision on peace talks in 7 days Says Abbas

REUTERS, West Bank

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas yesterday said he would decide in the next seven days whether conditions are now ripe to proceed to face-to-face peace talks with Israel.

Abbas says he has a promise from Washington that if he agrees to direct negotiations, Israel would prolong a partial moratorium on West Bank settlement building that is due to expire in September.

But he wants to know in advance what shape and size of a future Palestinian state Israel is prepared to discuss in direct negotiations, and whether it is ready to quit the Jordan Valley and entrust security there to a third party.

Abbas also seeks clearer assurances from the United States. "We are not against direct negotiations," he told reporters in Ramallah after publication of a closed-door speech to his Fatah movement outlining slow progress so far in indirect negotiations mediated by U.S. envoy George Mitchell.

"If there is progress by July 28, we will present it to the Arab League. If there is no progress, we will tell the League that we will continue with the proximity talks until the end of the four-month mandate we received," Abbas said.

The Arab League committee that approved the indirect talks is due to convene in Cairo on July 29.

Kosovo independence did not violate international law: court

AFP, The Hague

Kosovo's declaration of independence from Serbia in February 2008 did not violate international law, judges at the UN's highest court said yesterday.

In a non-binding verdict, the International Court of Justice rejected Belgrade's argument that the declaration had no legal basis. Pristina hopes the outcome will lead to more nations recognising its independence.

"The declaration of February 17, 2008 did not violate general international law," the ICJ's president Hisashi Owada told a crowded courtroom, reading a decision that was expected to take three hours to complete.

The verdict came after Serbia said backing for the move would imperil borders around the world and urged the court to respect its territorial integrity.

"No frontier in the world and in the region would be safe" if the court supported Kosovo's "secession", Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic, who was in The Hague for the verdict, had earlier told the Tanjug news agency.

Sixty-nine countries have so far recognised Kosovo as independent, including the United

States and all but five of the 27 EU member states. Russia, Serbia's most powerful ally on the world stage, has not.

On the eve of the hearing, the United States reiterated its support for Kosovo's independence during a meeting in Washington between Vice President Joe Biden and Hashim Thaci, Kosovo's prime minister.

Biden "reaffirmed the United States' full support for an independent, democratic, whole and multi-ethnic Kosovo whose future lies firmly within European and Euro-Atlantic institutions," a White House statement said.

The 1998-99 war between separatist Kosovo Albanians and Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic's security forces ended when a NATO air campaign ousted the Serbs and established a UN protectorate.

The conflict claimed several thousand mostly ethnic Albanian lives.

Landlocked Kosovo, with its two million inhabitants -- 90 percent of them ethnic Albanians -- unilaterally declared independence from Serbia in February 2008 after UN-brokered negotiations to resolve its future status failed.

Lebanon plans 'spying' complaint

ALJAZEERA ONLINE

Lebanon plans to file a complaint about Israeli "espionage" at the United Nations, according to the country's information minister yesterday.

More than 50 people have been arrested since an investigation was launched into allegations of spying by Israeli agents inside Lebanon in April 2009.

Tareq Mitri said the Lebanese cabinet agreed to present a "detailed report" to the UN Security Council later this week.

Two employees from the state-owned Alfa phone company have been arrested during the last month. The two men, both technicians, could face the death penalty if convicted of spying.

Three other people have already been sentenced to death for espionage.

The spying investigation has particularly unnerved Hezbollah, which fought a two-month war with Israeli forces in 2006.

One of the men sentenced to death this month, Hassan Ahmed al-Hussein, was convicted of giving Israel the names and addresses of Hezbollah officials in the southern village of Qantara.

Another man, Ali Manstash, was given the death penalty last week for giving Israel the locations of military targets during the 2006 war.

Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, claimed earlier this month that Israel has "complete control" over Lebanon's telecommunications infrastructure.

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CAREER OPPORTUNITY

An International humanitarian organization invites applications from suitable candidates for the following positions.

National Coordinator - Gender and Child Rights:
The purpose of this position is to contribute to integrate programming quality improvement in organization in alignment with National Strategy as well as in alignment with the approved global procedures and policies. The role is responsible for sectoral strategy, facilitation of its implementation and strong coordination with other sectors. Candidate must be a graduate in Social Sciences or other relevant field with at least 5 years experience in Program Management/ Sector Coordination in an international organization preferably in NGO context. He/She should have expertise in Gender and child rights program and clear understanding of poverty & development. Experience in Project proposal development is preferable. Strong written and oral communication skills are required. Working knowledge of Microsoft Office is essential. Work involves need-based field visit - 30% visit to Regional offices and Projects. The position is based in its National Office, in Dhaka.

IT Coordinator:
The purpose of this position is to provide IT technical support in software, hardware maintenance, and troubleshooting and other helpdesk supports in LAN/WAN and other IT related services in Regional office and Projects of the region. The candidates should have Bachelor's degree in Information Technology or computer science or related field with at least 2 years experiences in providing IT technical support. The candidates must have thorough knowledge and high-level skills and experiences of computer hardware and software installation, configuration and maintenance. Strong technical knowledge and skills in Windows XP professional and Windows 7, RDBMS (SQL Server), LAN/WAN installation and configuration are required. The candidate must have skills to conduct training for users on different software. The candidate who has CCNA and programming skills on .Net/Java will get preference. The position is required extensive travel to different location of the working area across the country.

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer:
The purpose of this position is to collect, process, maintain and manage program related data and produce information for effective program intervention and tracking of targets. Specific responsibilities include designing M&E systems and processes in projects, facilitating data collection techniques, providing technical support in conducting quantitative and qualitative surveys and assessments, data analysis and using monitoring tools for different socio-economic indicators. Candidate must be a graduate with 2 years experience in the field of community development. He/she should have strong analytical and written communication skills both in English and Bangla. Working knowledge of Microsoft Office is essential. The position is based in district/upazila level.

Project Officer: Agriculture / Agriculture Officer:
The purpose of this position is to facilitate the participatory planning, implementation, monitoring and assessing the quality of agricultural programs in our development projects. Candidate must be a graduate in Agriculture/ Agricultural Engineering/ DVM/ Animal Husbandry/ Fisheries with 2 years experience. Ability to design and conduct agricultural training, knowledge and experience in program monitoring, evaluation and reporting is essential. Working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel is essential. The position is based in district/upazila level.

Project Officer: Health / Health Program Specialist-Doctor:
The purpose of this position is to implement and monitor health programs and provide health services in projects. Candidate must possess MBBS with at least 2 years experience in health care management. Postgraduate in public health will be an added advantage. The position is based in district/upazila level.

Health Programs Organizer-(Nurses / Paramedics):
The purpose of this position is to facilitate and implement the process of primary health care related interventions in development projects with active participation and ownership of community. Candidate must be diploma in nursing/paramedics with 2 years work experience. He/She should possess excellent interpersonal and communication skills. Must have the ability to train and develop the community. The position is based in district/upazila level.

- Salary commensurate with qualification and experience.
- Only short-listed candidates will be called for interview.
- Please mention the position applied for, at the top of the envelope.
- Any personal persuasion will result in disqualification.
- Women candidates are encouraged to apply.

We have a responsibility to ensure the protection and safety of children while they are in contact with staff members. Recruitment to jobs involving regular contact with children will include specific checks and procedures in accordance with our Child Protection Policy.

Interested candidates are requested to send their applications along with CV, a recent passport size photograph and attested photocopies of academic certificates before/by August 8, 2010 to:

**P.O Box No - 9071
Banani, Dhaka 1213
Bangladesh**

Leadership Development for Anti-Corruption Reform Requests-for-Proposals

Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) seeks a qualified Bangladeshi organization to conduct activities to strengthen leadership and communication by civil society leaders. This work will be contracted under the USAID-funded Promoting Governance, Accountability, Transparency and Integrity (PROGATI) Project.

Objective. Strengthen the capacity of local level civil society leaders to promote anti-corruption reform.

Tasks. The selected organization will complete the following tasks:

- Develop training module and associated materials;
- Conduct training of a total of 75 grassroots civil society leaders in "Strengthening Leadership in Anti-Corruption Reform." Each training will be of three days duration and residential. Training will be conducted in three batches of 25 persons. The training location is Khulna and Chittagong.

Proposals. Interested organizations/individuals should submit proposals including the following information which represent the selection criteria for this procurement [maximum 10 pages]:

- Cover letter, with address details, contact information and contact person [1 page].
- Organizational profile, including management structure and staff expertise in related areas of work - (1) module development, and (2) training grassroots civil society representatives [3 pages].
- Qualifications, presenting similar projects related to training civil society representatives on leadership skills and communication undertaken as lead-five-years, include information on tasks and outputs, client reference information, and period of engagement [1 page].
- Method and technical approach, describing how you will conduct the required tasks and including detailed explanation of roles and responsibilities of all resource people and other persons proposed for the work. Proposals must include the following: (1) Title and detailed description of all proposed sessions. Training must include, but is not limited to, the following sessions: Empowerment & Awareness, Communication & Facilitation, Conflict Management & Resolution, Vision and Mission, and Networking/Collaboration; (2) List of resource persons to participate in the sessions. The vendor is responsible for confirming the availability of all resource persons; (3) Description of participatory methods used to implement the training; (4) Methods the vendor will take to make sure the training is practical and relevant to the audience. [4 pages].
- Timeline, with clear duration for entire project and all associated tasks. All training should be completed by September 30, 2010. [1 page].
- Provide clear and detailed budget estimates for all labor, travel and material costs necessary to complete all tasks [not included in proposal page limits].

Proposals will be assessed on both technical and cost proposals. Technical and cost proposals should be submitted as separate documents. Do not include attachments or promotional documents with your submission. Note that this enlistment does not in any way commit DAI to enter into contact or partnership with any organization.

DAI will host a bidders' conference to answer questions on this RFP on **Sunday, 25 July at 10 AM**. The meeting will be held at House 54/A, Road 16, Block A, Banani, Dhaka.

Electronic submissions are encouraged, and should be sent to progratieoi@yahoo.com with "Leadership Training" in the subject line. Written submission should be delivered to House 54/A, Road 16, Block A, Banani, Dhaka in a sealed envelop addressed to "PROGATI Grants Manager". All submissions are due by 14:00 hours on **5 August 2010**. Only short listed organizations will be contacted.