

Indian PM appeals for clam after Ayodhya ruling

AFP, PTI, New Delhi/Lucknow/Ayodhya

India's prime minister led appeals for calm after a court verdict yesterday divided a disputed holy site in the northern town of Ayodhya between Muslims and Hindus.

The decision, capping a six-decade legal battle, split the flashpoint parcel of land in Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh state into three equal parts -- with two portions awarded to the Hindus and one to the Muslims.

"I have full faith in the people of India and I also have full confidence in the traditions of secularism, brotherhood and tolerance of our great country," said Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

MUSLIMS 'PARTLY DISAPPOINTED'

The main Muslim group contesting the religious site said it was "partly disappointed" by a verdict yesterday to divide the location.

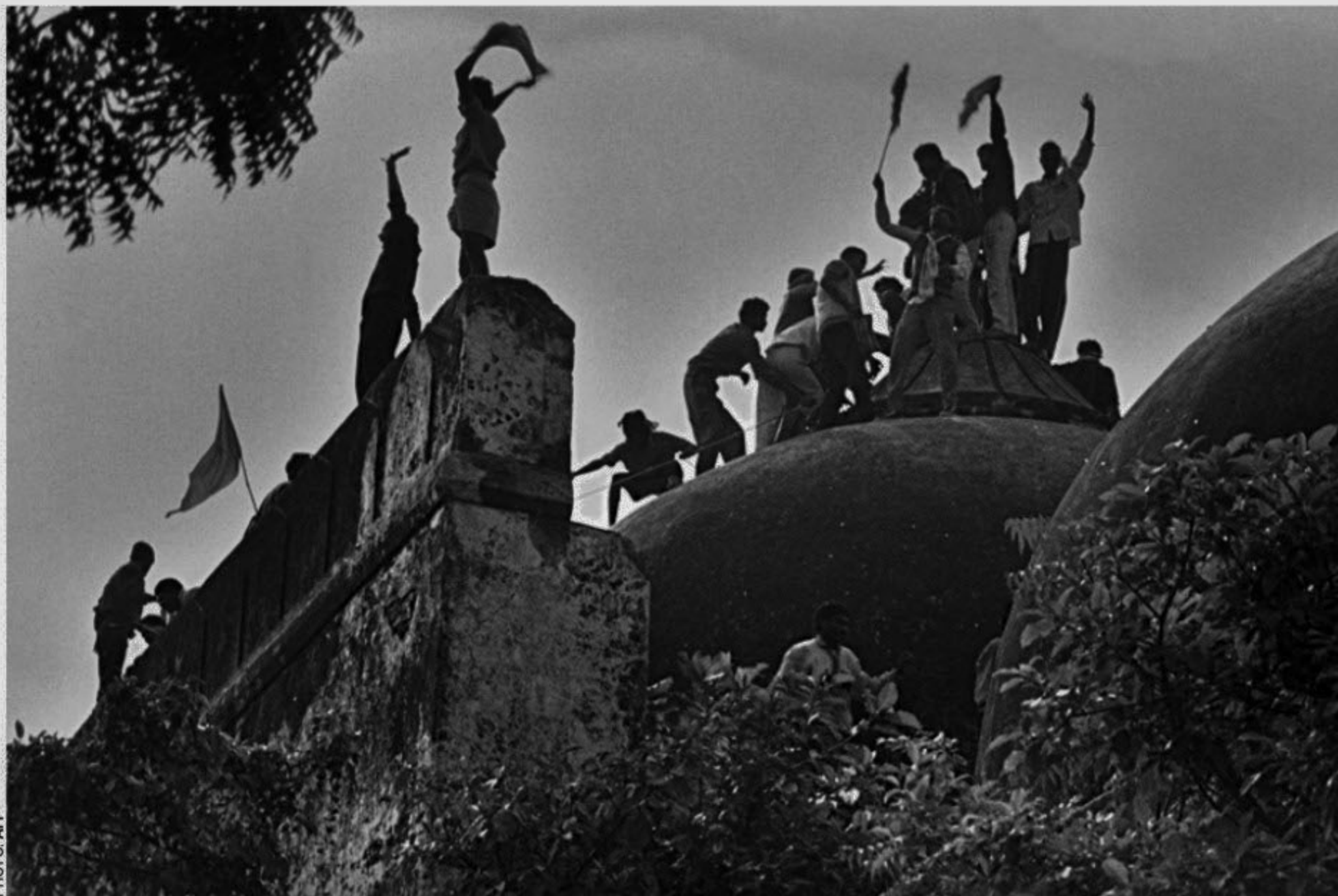
"The suit of Muslims were liable to be dismissed. But they are still entitled to one third of the site," the lawyer for the Babri Masjid Action Committee, Zafaryab Jilani, told reporters.

"We can say we are partly disappointed not fully because some of the stand of the Muslims has been vindicated."

HINDU GROUP GREET'S VERDICT

A Hindu group campaigning to build a temple at the disputed site yesterday said the court verdict on the issue was a "matter of great happiness."

Hindu lawyers said the court's ruling, which has not been fully released, backed Hindu beliefs that the site was the birth-place of the deity Lord Ram.



This file photo taken on December 6, 1992 shows Hindu fundamentalists shouting and waving banners as they stand on the top of a stone wall and celebrate the destruction of the 16th Century Babri Mosque in Ayodhya. An Indian court ruled yesterday that the disputed holy site with a history of triggering Hindu-Muslim clashes should be divided - a judgement seen as favouring the Hindu litigants.

WE SHOULD WELCOME THE JUDGEMENT: CONGRESS

Congress Hillary yesterday welcomed the Ayodhya judgement saying everyone should accept it and no one should treat it as a victory or defeat. "Congress has held that the controversy should either be solved through talks or the verdict of the court should be accepted.

The court has given the verdict. We should all welcome the judgement," party general secretary Janardhan Dwivedi told reporters.

VERDICT NOT A WIN OR LOSS: RSS

Appealing for restraint, the RSS yesterday said the Allahabad High Court verdict on Ayodhya title suit should not be seen as anybody's victory or defeat and sought people's support for construction of a Ram temple. "The judgement has paved the way for the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The judgement is not a win or loss for anybody. We invite everybody, including Muslims, to help build the temple," Sarsangchalak Mohan Bhagwat told reporters.

GOVT EXTENDS BULK SMS BAN

The government yesterday extended the ban on bulk SMSes and MMSes till today in view of the Ayodhya verdict on title suit.

"We have decided to extend the ban by a day in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs in the wake of the Ayodhya verdict, which is to be pronounced today," a senior DoT official told PTI.

The government is apprehensive that some extreme elements may foment trouble by inciting communal passions during the period and is taking all measures to check any untoward incidents.

"The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology issued orders in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs to all Mobile Telecom Service Providers in the country that all bulk SMS and all bulk MMS messages shall remain banned in all service areas till September 30," the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology had said earlier in a statement.

Govt to free Kashmir stone-throwers

BBC ONLINE, PTI, Srinagar

Authorities in Indian-administered Kashmir say men detained for throwing stones at security forces during the current protests will be released immediately.

More than 100 civilians have been killed since June in protests against Indian rule.

Most of the clashes have been between young people throwing stones and Indian security forces.

Barring Pulwama and Shopian district towns in south Kashmir, curfew was reimposed in all major towns of the Valley including Srinagar. Although no reason was given for the reimposition of curfew in the Valley, sources said the decision was taken as a precautionary measure in view of the Allahabad High Court's verdict in the Ayodhya title suit case.

Pakistan cuts Nato supply line

AP, AFP, Parachinar/Kabul

Pakistan blocked a vital supply route for US and Nato troops in Afghanistan yesterday in apparent retaliation for an alleged cross-border helicopter strike by the coalition that killed three Pakistani frontier troops.

Nato said its aircraft entered Pakistani airspace early yesterday in self defence and killed "several armed individuals" after the crews believed they had been fired at from the ground.

The blockade appeared to be a major escalation in tensions between Pakistan and the United States.

A permanent stoppage of supply trucks would place massive strains on the relationship between the two countries and hurt the Afghan war effort. Even a short halt is a reminder of the leverage Pakistan has over the United States at a crucial time in the 9-year-old war.

By mid-morning, a line of around 100 Nato vehicles was waiting to cross the border into Afghanistan, officials said.

"We will have to see whether we are allies or

enemies," Pakistani Interior Minister Rehman Malik said of the border incident, without mentioning the blockade.

Nato said it was investigating Pakistani reports that coalition aircraft had mistakenly attacked its forces. The coalition has on at least one other occasion acknowledged mistakenly killing Pakistani security forces stationed close to the border.

Over the weekend, Nato helicopters fired on targets in Pakistan at least two times, killing several suspected insurgents they had pursued over the border from Afghanistan. Pakistan's government protested the attacks, which came in a month during which there have been an unprecedented number of US drone missile strikes in the northwest, inflaming already pervasive anti-American sentiment among Pakistanis.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani told visiting CIA director Leon Panetta in Islamabad that Pakistan was "profoundly concerned" about the missile strikes and helicopter incursions.

Afghanistan opium production 'halved': UN

AFP, Kabul

Opium output in Afghanistan, the world's biggest producer of the drug, has dropped by almost half this year due to a poppy crop disease but its value has soared, a UN report said yesterday.

Afghanistan has produced an estimated 3,600 tonnes of opium this year, almost 50 percent of the 2009 output, according to the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

But the value of the opium rose by 38 percent to 604 million dollars at the farm gate, its Afghanistan Opium Survey 2010 said.

The report, released in Kabul, put the value of opium output at five percent of Afghanistan's gross domestic product (GDP) this year, and said this was more than six times the value of the country's wheat crop.

Junta to free Suu Kyi after polls

AFP, Yangon

Democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi will be released just days after Myanmar's first election in two decades, officials said yesterday.

The Nobel Peace laureate, who has been detained for most of the last twenty years since winning the country's last general election, will be freed when her current term of house arrest expires on November 13, the unnamed sources said.

"November will be an important and busy month for us because of the election and because of Aung San Suu Kyi's release," a Myanmar official told AFP, noting the release would come soon after the country's November 7 poll.

A second Myanmar official, who also declined to be named, confirmed the release date, adding "she will be released on that day according to the law".

Neither Suu Kyi nor her National League for Democracy (NLD) party will participate in the first poll since their 1990 victory and the vote has been dismissed as a sham aimed at hiding military power behind a civilian facade.

Suu Kyi was initially sentenced to three years in jail and hard labour last year after a bizarre incident in May in which American John Yettaw swam to her lakeside house.

At first she was held at Myanmar's feared Insein prison but was allowed to return to her crumbling family mansion in August 2009 after her sentence was commuted to one and a half years house arrest by junta leader Than Shwe.

New Malaysian sultan strips brother's royal titles

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's newest sultan, who this month ousted his father to become royal ruler of Kelantan state, stripped his brother and arch-rival of royal titles and awards yesterday.

State media quoted Kelantan authorities as saying that Sultan Muhammad V, known as Tengku Muhammad Faris Petra before his elevation, had withdrawn three titles and awards from his younger brother Tengku Muhammad Fakhry Petra.

In a shock move three weeks ago, the 40-year-old sultan, who had been regent, was appointed new ruler in the culmination of months of palace intrigue.



An image grab from state-run Korean Central Television (KCTV) broadcast on South Korean television yesterday shows whom experts believe is Kim Jong-Un, North Korean leader Kim Jong-il's youngest son and likely heir.

Taliban reject Karzai's peace council

REUTERS, Kabul

The Taliban have rejected Afghan President Hamid Karzai's latest bid to move toward peace talks, dubbing a High Peace Council "failed and impractical" and denying that senior Taliban leaders were in contact with Kabul.

Karzai's government on Tuesday named the members of the council, approved by a peace jirga, or traditional gathering of tribal and community leaders, earlier this year.

It aims to lay the ground for a negotiated end to a war which will soon be heading into its 10th year.

The insurgency is bloodier than it has ever been, despite the presence of 150,000 foreign troops, and there is a growing sense both at home and in some quarters among Afghanistan's allies that talks may be the only route to peace.

Rajapakse okays Fonseka's jail term

AP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's president approved a 30-month jail term for his former army chief and political rival yesterday, confirming a military court verdict that he was guilty of fraud. The decision disqualifies the ex-general from continuing as an opposition lawmaker.

President Mahinda Rajapakse endorsed a court-martial decision on former Gen Sarath Fonseka on Thursday and "has recommended two and half years in his endorsement in keeping with the maximum period for the offence in accordance with the law," a statement from the president's office said.

Fonseka's party, the Democratic National Alliance, cried foul at the jailing, calling it personal and political revenge.

Party lawmaker Vijitha Herath told reporters that Fonseka will appeal the military court's decision in a civilian court.

Once allies, Rajapakse and Fonseka were both considered heroes by the country's Sinhalese majority for crushing Tamil Tiger rebels last year, ending a quarter-century civil war that killed 80,000 to 100,000 people.

But they had a falling out months after the war ended and the general quit the army after accusing Rajapakse of sidelining him, suspecting a military coup. Their relationship further deteriorated after Fonseka challenged Rajapakse in a presidential election earlier this year.

Two weeks ago Fonseka was found guilty of bypassing military procedures in purchasing equipment and involving his son-in-law in the dealings.

Fonseka has already been stripped of his title, medals, pension and other honours and dishonourably discharged following an earlier court-martial ruling that he laid the groundwork for a political career while still serving in the army.

Fonseka has described the cases against him as a political vendetta, and said they were launched to persecute him for daring to challenge Rajapakse in the presidential election. Earlier this month, Fonseka met reporters in Parliament and said the government was determined to send him to jail and he did not expect justice.

World's first 'cyber super weapon' attacks China

AFP, Beijing

A computer virus dubbed the world's "first cyber super weapon" by experts and which may have been designed to attack Iran's nuclear facilities has found a new target -- China.

The Stuxnet computer worm has wreaked havoc in China, infecting millions of computers around the country, state media reported this week.

Stuxnet is feared by experts around the globe as it can break into computers that control machinery at the heart of industry, allowing an attacker to assume control of critical systems like pumps, motors, alarms and valves.

It could, technically, make factory boilers explode, destroy gas pipelines or even cause a nuclear plant to malfunction.

The virus targets control systems made by German industrial giant Siemens commonly used to manage water supplies, oil rigs, power plants and other industrial facilities.

"This malware is specially designed to sabotage plants and damage industrial systems, instead of stealing personal data," an engineer surnamed Wang at an virus service provider Rising International Software told the Global Times.

"Once Stuxnet successfully penetrates factory computers in China, those industries may collapse, which would damage China's national security," he added.

Another unnamed expert at Rising International said the attacks had so far infected more than six million individual accounts and nearly 1,000 corporate accounts around the country, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Musharraf warns of coup in Pakistan

IANS, Islamabad

Pakistan is at risk of another military coup, warned its former army chief Pervez Musharraf, advocating a constitutional role for the army in the country's turbulent politics.

Musharraf, who is in Britain and preparing to return to Pakistan, said that army chief Ashfaq Pervez Kayani could be forced to intervene against the unpopular President Asif Ali Zardari, GeoTV reported yesterday.

The army should be given a constitutional role in

Pakistan, which has been hit hard by rampant militancy and a crumbling economy, the former general said at a debate in London Wednesday night.

He made the comments when he was asked if a new putsch was likely, following a reported crisis meeting this week between Kayani, Zardari and Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani.

"Well, you see the photographs of the meeting with the president and the prime minister, and I can assure you they were not discussing the weather," he replied to the debate host Christopher Meyer, Britain's former ambassador to the US.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ICDDR,B invites applications from suitable candidates for the following positions with the Dhaka Hospital under the Executive Director's Division. The appointments will be made on a fixed-term basis for 2 years, which may be extended for further period depending on satisfactory performance and availability of funds.

Duty Station - Dhaka

Benefits/facilities -14.8% retirement fund contribution by the Centre, 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.

Manager, Quality Assurance

Salary -Annual Tk.813,620/- inclusive of house rent and conveyance allowances with other admissible benefits.

Business Development Manager

Salary -Annual Tk.813,620/- inclusive of house rent and conveyance allowances with other admissible benefits.

Office Manager

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

Staff Nurse (5 posts)

Salary -Annual Tk.309,700/- inclusive of house rent and conveyance allowances with other admissible benefits.

For detailed job profile and requirements, please visit our website: www.icddr.org. Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should submit online applications by **October 9, 2010**

Only short-listed candidates shall be invited for the interview.

IUCN, International Union of Conservation of Nature

is urgently seeking to recruit Finance Manager for its IUCN Bangladesh Country Office

This position is open only to Bangladeshi nationals.

IUCN is an equal opportunity employer

Interested candidates should visit the following website for further details; www.bdjobs.com and submit their applications per the details posted on the website. For details on IUCN, please visit www.iucn.org/bangladesh

UNICEF Vacancy Announcement

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is seeking applications from Bangladeshi Nationals to fill the following positions. For detailed Job Descriptions, please visit our website: www.unicef.org.bd

- 1) Communication Specialist; NO-C
- 2) Health Specialist; NO-C

Last date of receiving applications: **14 October 2010**

Applications with CV and a filled-in P-11 form should be forwarded to the HR Officer, Human Resources Section, UNICEF-Bangladesh, Sheraton Annex, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000, by **14 October 2010**. Please mark on the envelope the post applied for. **Only short-listed candidates will be called for written test/interview. Any attempt to unduly influence UNICEF's selection process will lead to automatic disqualification of the applicant.**

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