



PHOTO: AFP

Supporters of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) take part in a rally in New Delhi yesterday. Thousands of protesters gathered in New Delhi to demonstrate against alleged government corruption as opposition parties launched a nationwide series of rallies.

Protests in Delhi over govt corruption scandals

AFP, New Delhi

Thousands of protesters gathered in New Delhi yesterday to demonstrate against alleged government corruption as opposition parties launched a nationwide series of rallies.

The Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) and its allies called for regular protests after the ruling Congress party was hit by a slew of corruption cases, including a massive telecom scandal that has rocked the government.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh this week fought back against accusations he failed to stop his telecom minister from selling mobile phone licences at knock-down prices that cost the treasury billions of dollars.

The opposition has been keen to take advantage of the scandal, paralysing parliament for the whole of its recent session by protesting every day on the floor of the lower house.

"Today is the launch of our anti-

corruption campaign," BJP leader L.K. Advani told cheering crowds in the Indian capital. "From now on, the prime minister will be on the cross-hairs of our attack."

Singh said Monday he had "nothing to hide" as he offered to be quizzed by a parliamentary panel over the controversy.

The BJP has been demanding a cross-party probe into the sale of the second-generation (2G) licences, which a national audit watchdog said may have lost the government up to 40 billion dollars.

Singh has repeatedly rebuffed such demands, saying police and other authorities are investigating the sales in 2008 when A. Raja was telecom minister.

Raja belongs to a regional party that the Congress party relies on to hold power as part of a coalition.

The BJP and its allies are also demanding more probes into financial irregularities surrounding the Commonwealth Games in Delhi and into a housing scam in Mumbai that forced the Congress state chief minister to resign.

BHUTTO CASE Pakistan arrests police officers

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani police yesterday arrested two senior police officers for alleged dereliction of duty over the 2007 assassination of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, a prosecutor said.

Bhutto was assassinated almost exactly three years ago in a gun and suicide attack after addressing an election campaign rally in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, near the capital Islamabad, on December 27, 2007.

In April, a UN panel accused the government of failing to provide Bhutto with adequate protection and said investigations were hampered by intelligence agencies and other officials who impeded "an unfettered search for the truth".

A Rawalpindi court this month issued warrants for the arrest of Saud Aziz, who was city police chief at the time of the killing, and Khurram Shahzad, another senior policeman for their "failure" to protect Bhutto.

GAZA ROCKET FIRE Israel complains to UN

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel and Hamas looked to the United Nations yesterday as tensions rose along the volatile Gaza border after a series of Israeli air strikes in response to rocket fire from the strip.

Israel urged the UN Security Council on Tuesday to issue a "clear and resolute" message to Palestinian militants against firing rockets into its territory from Gaza, in a letter made public yesterday.

And Hamas said it would appeal the international body to act against the "threat of further aggression against the Palestinians."

The tit-for-tat appeals to the UN come after exchanges of fire along the Gaza border.

Obama signs repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell'

AFP, Washington

President Barack Obama yesterday signed a law allowing gays to serve openly in the military, repealing the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in a sweeping and historic shift for the US armed forces.

"We are not a nation that says 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell.' We are a nation that says, 'Out of many, we are one,'" Obama said in a raucous and emotive ceremony at the Interior Department in Washington.

"We are a nation that welcomes the service of every patriot," Obama said.

The signing ceremony reconciled a promise from Obama's 2008 campaign, and followed a political and moral crusade by activists, and years of opposition from conservatives and some sectors of the military establishment.

The change in policy, which rights activists have compared to the fall of the Berlin Wall, the integration of the military in 1948 and the great civil rights legislation of the 1960s, will not be enacted overnight, however.

Obama, Defense Secretary Robert Gates and

the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Michael Mullen must certify that lifting the ban on gays serving openly can be done without harming readiness, effectiveness, unit cohesion, and recruitment.

Once the certification is made, the change will enter into force within 60 days.

Opponents say the repeal will badly harm unit cohesion at a time when US forces are embroiled in Iraq and Afghanistan, and ultimately denigrate US security.

But Obama argued the new law would "strengthen our national security and uphold the ideals that our fighting men and women risk their lives to defend."

"No longer will tens of thousands of Americans in uniform be asked to live a lie, or look over their shoulder in order to serve the country that they love."

As Obama arrived on stage, members of the audience chanted "Yes We Can" -- his 2008 campaign slogan, and the president, enjoying a late rebound after a brutal political year, answered "Yes, We did."

Kosovo PM 'to sue' EU investigator

ALJAZEERA ONLINE

Hashim Thaci, Kosovo's prime minister, has said he will sue a Council of Europe investigator over a report that alleged he led an organised crime ring that trafficked human organs across eastern Europe.

In an interview with the Reuters news agency, Thaci said Dick Marty, a Swiss senator who wrote the report, should "prepare good lawyers to defend him".

"Under no circumstances will Dick Marty escape justice for this slander," he said, but did not elaborate.

Last week's report accused Thaci of heading a crime ring during and after the Kosovo war in the late 1990s, which killed opponents and trafficked in drugs and organs taken from murdered Serbs.

Marty led a team of investigators to Kosovo



Hashim Thaci

and Albania in 2009, following allegations of organ trafficking published in a book by Carla Del Ponte, former chief UN war crimes tribunal prosecutor who said she was given information by Western journalists.

In a separate interview with the AP news agency also published yesterday, Thaci said he wanted an independent investigation to "dispel the mist" surrounding the allegations, saying he has "nothing to hide".

He said the allegations were aimed at undermining Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence from Serbia and blamed Marty for masterminding what he said was a "powerful attack upon Kosovo, Albania and all Albanians".

"It damages Kosovo's image and me personally. But, I have challenged similar inventions for the past 15 years and I have always won," he told the AP.

New Iraq cabinet starts work

AFP, Baghdad

Iraq's new cabinet held its first meeting yesterday faced with "enormous" challenges to improve security, public services and ties with other countries, following months of political deadlock.

"We must have a clear policy in the sectors of security, finance, oil, electricity and on improving our foreign relations," Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki told ministers in a speech broadcast on television.

"The challenges facing us are enormous."

Maliki said "his three top priorities are security, public services, especially electricity, and relations with neighbouring countries," aide Ali Moussawi told AFP earlier.

Career Opportunity Senior Program Manager



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Bangladesh Office is recruiting a new office staff for smooth implementation of office operation and its projects. The staff will be working as Senior Program Manager in the Economic Development Section of JICA Bangladesh Office. S/he will be managing various JICA financed government projects mainly in the areas of infrastructure development. The candidate expected to work in a team, with various stakeholders including government agencies and other development partners.

Requirements

The candidate should have the following qualifications:

Education: Master degree with honors, preferably in the areas of economics, finance, development studies, business, public administration or engineering from reputed university. Candidates having Master's Degree from foreign universities are preferred.

Experience: At least five years of work experience in project management an administration. Working experience in Bangladesh Government or international organization (Foreign donors, international NGOs or multinational companies) is encouraged.

Personal Qualities: High level of interpersonal skills, self-confidence, patience and ability to work in a team often under pressure.

Language: Proficient in writing and speaking English. (Certificate of Courses/IELTS/equivalent is preferable)

Computer: Operation of word processing, Excel and Power Point.

Age: Should be under 45 years old.

Interested candidates are requested to apply as below.

- 1) Number of copies: Two (2) copies of proposal in sealed envelope (one marked 'ORIGINAL' and others marked 'DUPLICATE')
- 2) Date: By 16:00 hours, January 8, 2011
- 3) Address: JICA Bangladesh Office, Uday Tower 7th Floor, 57 & 57A Gulshan Avenue(South) Circle-1, Dhaka
- 4) Items to be included in the Proposal: CV with passport size photo of the applicant.

Following items must be mentioned in CV.

- 1) Education & Training
- 2) Experience: The organization and the Job must be mentioned clearly and specifically
- 3) Language: A copy of certificate of English score test like IELTS, TOEFL etc, is preferable to be attached.
- 4) Computer skill
- 5) Age
- 6) Other strengths: if any

Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



University Grants Commission of Bangladesh Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207.

Memo No.-2(9)/UGC/Admin (Gen. Services)/Furniture/95(Part-5/)

Date:

Invitation for Tenders

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education
2	Agency	University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
3	Invitation for	(a) Supply of office furniture
4	Procurement Method	Open tendering method (OTM)
5	Budget and Source of Funds	UGC
6	Tender Package No.	(a) 2(9)/Furniture/95(Part-5)/2010-2011
7	Tender Package Name	(a) Supply of office furniture
8	Tender Last Selling Date	12-01-2011 within Office hour.
9	Tender Closing Date and Time	13-01-2011 at 12:00 AM.
10	Tender Opening Date and Time	13-01-2011 at 12:05PM.
11	Name & Address of the office(s)	University Grants Commission of Bangladesh
	(a) Selling Tender Document	Finance & Account Division, UGC Building, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
	(b) Receiving Tender Document	Office of the Secretary, UGC Building, 4 th floor Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
	(c) Opening Tender Document	Office of the Secretary, UGC Building, 4 th floor Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. (Tenderers or their authorized representatives are allowed to attend the tender opening meeting)
12	Eligibility of Tenderer	At least 5 years experience on supply of similar goods except from Israel with an average annual turnover of Tk. 3.00(five) lakh during last 3 years. (Supporting evidence shall be submitted with tender).
13	Submission of Tender	(a) The original copy of the tender document shall be submitted in an envelope (containing price schedule etc. in standard tender forms prescribed by the CPTU) & properly superscripted stating the name of package. (b) The tender document shall be written in the English or Bangla language. (c) The tenderers shall submit Valid trade license, recent bank solvency certificate, VAT certification, valid income tax clearance certificate etc. as required by the PPR-2008
14	Price of Tender Document (non refundable)	(a) Tk. 300.00 (Three hundred) only in cash.
15	Tender Security Amount (refundable)	a) Tk.10,000.00 (Ten thousand) only in the form of Bank Draft/ Pray Order/Bank Guarantee in favour of The Secretary, University Grants Commission of Bangladesh.
16	Performance Security Amount (refundable)	10% of the contract price in the form of Bank Draft/ Pray Order
17	Tender validity time	120 (one hundred twenty) calendar days from the submission date of tender.
18	Time for completion of supply	30 (Thirty) calendar days from the signing date of contract.
19	The period of validity of the warranty	12 months from the date of acceptance of the goods.
20	The procuring entity & the tenderers should follow the Public Procurement Regulation-2008	
21	The procuring entity reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantities of the works.	
22	The procuring entity reserves the right to reject all tenders or accept any tender in part or in full without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

(S M Moniruzzaman) Deputy Secretary

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