

# India, Pakistan to hold peace talks

AFP, Islamabad

India and Pakistan are to hold talks on peace and security issues yesterday, part of efforts to stabilise South Asia as the United States prepares to draw down troops from Afghanistan.

Concerns over terrorism are likely to dominate India's agenda, just weeks after US troops killed Osama bin Laden in a Pakistani military town on May 2.

A four-year peace process between the nuclear-armed rivals collapsed after Islamist gunmen killed 166 people in Mumbai in November 2008.

India blamed the attack on Pakistani militants from the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba group and Islamabad acknowledged that the plot was hatched at least partly on its soil.

Following a hiatus of more than two years, the two countries announced talks would resume after a meeting between Pakistani foreign secretary Salman Bashir and his Indian counterpart Nirupama Rao in Bhutan in February.

The two civil servants, the highest-ranking career diplomats in their respective ministries, will now come together for two days of discussions in Islamabad before Pakistan's foreign minister is due to visit India next month.



Indian foreign secretary Nirupama Rao (L) shakes hands with her Pakistani counterpart Salman Bashir (R) ahead of a meeting at The Pakistan Foreign Ministry in Islamabad yesterday.

## SOUTH CHINA SEA ROW

## China, Vietnam hold joint patrols

AFP, Beijing

China and Vietnam conducted two days of joint naval patrols earlier this week in the Gulf of Tonkin, the defence ministry in Beijing has said, amid tensions over territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Naval ships from the two countries staged the patrols on Sunday and Monday in the gulf as part of an annual plan of "friendly exchanges" between the two militaries, the ministry said.

Tensions between China and other claimants to the strategically important waters in the nearby South China Sea have escalated in recent weeks.

## New drugs replace old ones: UN

BBC ONLINE

Gains made in tackling global use of cocaine and heroin are being offset by rising consumption of synthetic and prescription drugs, a UN report said yesterday.

In its annual report, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) said that in Europe, seizures of new psychoactive drugs had been growing.

A number of new synthetic compounds have emerged, the agency said.

These were commonly marketed as "legal" substitutes for drugs like cocaine or ecstasy, it said.

"Every year new products, not under control, are manufactured to supply an increasingly diversified demand for psychoactive substances," the report says.

These include synthetic drugs, as well as drugs based on cannabis, cocaine and opiates.

In Europe, which the UN described as among the most "innovative" regions for new drugs, 40 new substances were notified in the European early-warning system in 2010, compared to 24 in 2009.

Overall, the UN estimates that between 149 and 272 million people around the world used illicit substances in 2009.

# Another mangrove

FROM PAGE 1

by a local NGO called Bangladesh Ain Shahayata Kendra (BASAK), hired five large trawlers and descended on the island early yesterday with axes in their hands. Ahiya Hossain, the forester from Char Kukrimukri, a neighbouring island, arrived on the scene around 10:00am. He told The Daily Star correspondent over the phone that 400 to 500 people are axing the forest indiscriminately.

Around 3:00pm yesterday, Ahiya also informed that over 5,000 trees had already been felled.

"A person who identified himself as Belal told me that the forest has been allocated to the landless people by the Patuakhali district administration," said Ahiya Hossain.

"When I pointed out that it was illegal to cut down forests, Belal told me that I belonged to Bhola district and had nothing to do with areas under Patuakhali district," Ahiya added.

The neighbouring Char

Kukrimukri's mangrove forest recently came under attack by people trying to build a road through the forest. The move was halted by the High Court when Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association appealed. Yesterday's assault on the Char Bestin mangrove forest comes at a time when adverse effects of global climate change make our coastal areas most vulnerable to the elements. The mangrove forests in the coastal areas protect millions of people and wildlife from natural disasters.

Moreover, the country's forest cover has alarmingly shrunk to less than 10 percent of the land mass with only 0.02 hectares of per capita forest land, one of the lowest in the world.

Divisional Forest Officer in Bhola, Sayed Ali told The Daily Star that the mangrove forest covers the entirety of Char Bestin and it definitely plays a big role in protecting the coastal areas. The forest

department created the mangrove forest there since 2001. "The plundering is a direct result of negligence on the part of the administration," Sayed Ali said.

Around 3:00pm, Patuakhali forest officials said several policemen from Rangabali Police Station and forest officials were on their way to the spot. The sub-inspector who rushed to Char Bestin with two constables told The Daily Star over the phone that he was overwhelmed with the number of people cutting trees.

"We very politely tried to convince the rowdy people not to chop down any more trees until big bosses from the district administration decided what to do next," said Mizanur Rahman. He said a lot of trees have already been felled.

An inspector of BASAK Bellal Hossain, working from Galachipa, admitted that his organisation was working to help the landless peasants in the area but categorically denied that they were involved in felling trees.

"How can an NGO permit cutting trees?" he asked.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (Revenue) of Patuakhali Shah Alam Sarder told The Daily Star that the administration can never permit felling trees. "We have already dispatched police to stop tree cutting," Sarder said.

Range Officer of Char Kukrimukri Masud Sarder said the forest department planted 3.5 crore different tropical trees to create the Char Bestin mangrove forest.

# It's political

FROM PAGE 1

The party has declared countrywide demonstrations on Sunday against "repression and political harassment of the members of Zia family" and will observe the day as "anti-repression day".

BNP acting Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said they would declare greater anti-government programme after June 28, a scheduled day for holding rallies across the country protesting against increase in fuel price and transport fares.

Several thousand leaders, workers and supporters were chanting "hartal" at a protest rally in front of the party headquarters in Naya Paltan in the capital. Mirza Alamgir however told the rally the "sentiment of the people" will be conveyed to Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who will announce the expected programmes.

"The conviction [of Koko] was made to take political revenge. Nobody will accept the verdict, which proves the judiciary has become a farce," said Alamgir amidst continuous chanting of slogans.

Meanwhile, Advocate Anisul Haque, chief counsel for the Anti-Corruption Commission in the case, insisted that politics had nothing to do with the money laundering case. "The court has delivered the verdict after examining all relevant documents and evidence," he said at a press briefing at his chamber.

In response, Supreme Court Bar Association President Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, also a member of BNP chairperson's advisory council, said they could understand that Koko would be convicted as the premier directed the authorities to dispose of this case quickly.

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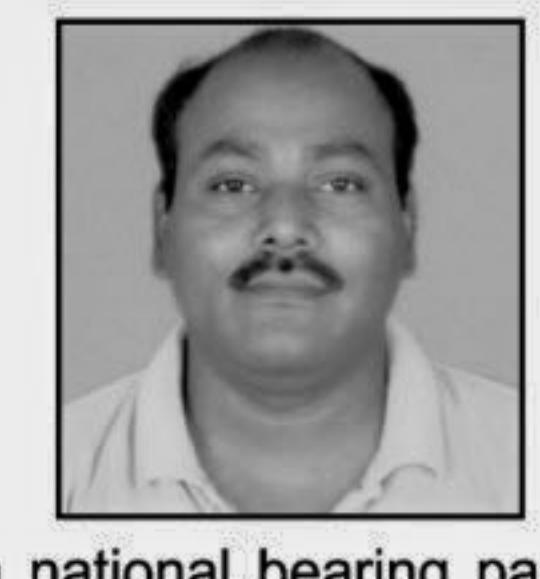
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বালাদেশ প্রক্রিয়া নথি নথি

GD-2829

## NOTICE



Mr. Sanjay Saini, Indian national bearing passport # Z2018033, S/O Kishori Lal Saini worked as Chief Maintenance Engineer (Utah Knitting & Dyeing Ltd) in our Labels For Less Ltd. He was absent unauthorized from 29th January, 2011 and dismissed (vide letter # UG/HO/2011 dated April 13, 2011) from the company effective from April 13, 2011. A General Diary was filed against him to the Joydebpur Police Station, Gazipur, diary # 1236 dated 16-03-2011.

Any dealing, financial or any other with Mr. Sanjay Saini will not be a liability of Utah Group.

UUAH House # 06, Road # 03, Dhanmondi Residential Area, Dhaka -1205



UNDP

Bangladesh

## PROCUREMENT NOTICE FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT (IC) PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS (CHT)

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh, seeks proposals from interested and well qualified individuals in response to the following procurement notice in the CHT.

1. National Consultant on Planning and Organizational Development
2. National Consultant on Capacity Assessment
3. National Consultant on MDG Localization for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT)

Three (3) separate IC Procurement Notices along with the instructions for proposal submission can be downloaded from UNDP website: [http://www.undp.org.bd/proc\\_more.php](http://www.undp.org.bd/proc_more.php)

The deadline for proposal submission is 30th June, 2011

**Career in Oxfam**  
Regional Policy Coordinator  
REF INT4626  
Based in Thailand or Bangladesh  
(This is a National Post- No work permit provided)

**Who are we?**

Oxfam GB is a leading aid, development, and campaigning charity with a worldwide reputation for excellence and over 60 years of experience. Our purpose is to work with others to overcome suffering and find lasting solutions to poverty. Be part of a dynamic new region - we have recently brought together our South and East Asia regions to form a single new region Oxfam GB Asia, with its Regional Centre in Bangkok.

**The Role:**

Our work needs to adapt constantly to be relevant for the Asia region on key poverty and inequality issues, specifically related to Food security, Agriculture and Climate change. So we will look to you to understand the trends and produce policy briefing papers, policy position statements and public communication materials for the Region, which will also contribute effectively to the development of Oxfam's global briefing papers and briefing notes. You'll also attend high level Policy forum, debates and lobby meetings to articulate Oxfam's Policy position. You'll also collaborate with other key staff in the Asia region and Oxford-base campaigns and policy team to maximise synergies between regional and global level policy work.

**The requirements:**

We are looking for a strong thinker on development, campaign and poverty issues, you'll have proven expertise and minimum 5 years experience in policy analysis or advocacy work that will show your ability to deliver persuasive lobbying and briefing papers. Committed to gender and diversity issues, you'll have outstanding written and verbal communications skills, with an ability to simplify complex concepts both verbally and orally in order to influence others. Fluency in written and spoken English is essential.

**How to apply**

If you believe you are the candidate we are looking for, please apply online at [www.oxfam.org.uk/jobs](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/jobs) using the job REF INT4626

**The closing date: Friday 15th July 2011**

The interviews will be conducted on 28th-29th July 2011. Only short listed will be contacted.

Minorities and women are especially encouraged to apply. Any persuasion will disqualify the candidate.

Oxfam is a global movement of people working with others to overcome poverty and suffering.

**Diversity**



(মো: ফাইল নথি নথি)  
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