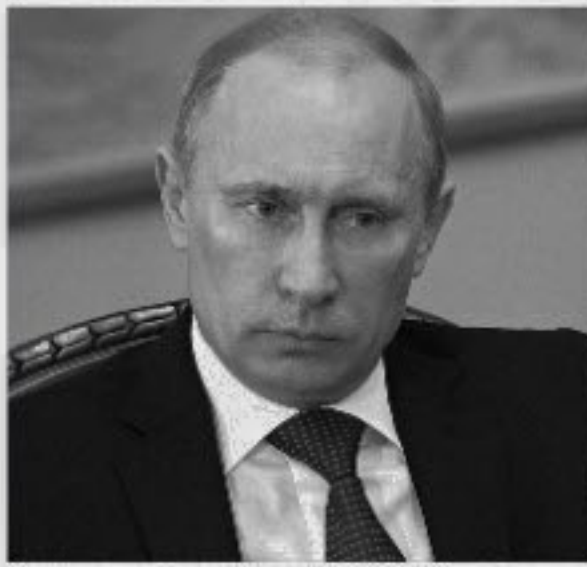


# Putin vows to make a strong Russia

REUTERS, Moscow



Vladimir Putin

President Vladimir Putin, speaking in Moscow's Red Square with military generals at his side, said he would promote Russia's might on the world stage in a patriotic speech yesterday glorifying the Soviet victory over Germany in World War Two.

Two days after being sworn in for a six-year term that has drawn protests against his return to the Kremlin, Putin used the address to troops and war veterans at the annual military parade on Red Square to reinforce appeals for national unity.

Putin faces a battle to reassure himself after the biggest protests since he rose to power in 2000 and the detention of hundreds of protesters this week to keep a lid on dissent.

"Russia consistently follows a policy of strengthening global security and we have a great moral right to stand up determinedly for our positions because our country suffered the blow of Nazism," Putin said on a podium flanked by military chiefs bristling with medals under the Kremlin's red walls.

He did not refer to any enemy other than evoking the victory over Nazi Germany in 1945 at a great human cost, including millions of Soviet victims, at a parade in which goose-stepping troops, tanks and trucks carrying missiles filed past him.

"Barbarians were plotting to destroy whole nations," he said. "The inevitable

happened - responsibility and common resolve prevailed over evil.

Putin, 59, has often used tough statements on foreign policy to rally people and resorted to anti-American rhetoric in the run-up to the March 4 presidential election. The tactic was also used by Soviet leaders, and featured prominently on national holidays such as Victory in Europe day.

During the election campaign, Putin accused US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton of stirring the protests against his 12-year rule by encouraging "mercenary" Kremlin foes.

A Russian general also warned last week that Moscow could carry out pre-emptive strikes on future Nato missile defense installations. Nato called such threats "unjustified" and said the system posed no threat to Russia's security.

Putin has said he is ready to go a long way to develop ties with the United States, Moscow's former Cold War enemy and its fellow veto-wielding member of the United Nations Security Council, but has made clear it must be on equal terms with Washington.

Russia has already reasserted itself on several fronts, opposing Western-promoted sanctions aimed at Moscow's long-standing allies Syria and Iran. It has emerged as Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's main foreign supporter in the conflict there, a stand that has created tension with Western powers.

# Myanmar leader takes charge of rebel talks

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's president has taken charge of peace talks with armed ethnic groups for the first time, his office has said, in a new push to end bloody fighting that has marred recent reforms.

Thein Sein was named as chairman of the government negotiating team, in an overhaul that removed elements of the previous delegation seen as obstacles to a deal with fighters in Kachin State in the country's far north.

An order from the president's office, dated May 3 but sent to AFP yesterday, said the high-level committee would "work in a leading role during discussions with ethnic armed groups".

The former general, whose exact involvement in the new negotiations was not specified, met leaders of a major ethnic minority group, the Karen National Union (KNU), for the first time in April.

Myanmar has signed tentative ceasefire deals with a number of rebel groups in recent months as it seeks to draw a line under civil conflicts that have racked parts of the country since independence in 1948.

But fighting in Kachin, where a 17-year ceasefire broke down last June, has continued to rage, forcing tens of thousands of civilians from their homes.

The Kachin Independence Army (KIA) has previously said it lacks confidence in government negotiators and accused the military of planning a large-scale offensive against their stronghold near the border with China.

# Shed factional behaviour

India Congress chief tells partymen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi



Sonia Gandhi

Asking partymen to draw lessons from the previous polls, India's ruling Congress party President Sonia Gandhi yesterday said that leaders must shed factional behaviour and fight as one disciplined team as the party braces to face a series of elections in state legislatures in the coming months.

"We must all shed all manner of factional behaviour and fight as one disciplined team at all levels. That will be the single-most important factor to decide whether we win or lose", she told at a meeting of Congress lawmakers including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

Sonia said, "People look to us but we need to show them our commitment and our unity if we are to convert this sentiment into electoral victories".

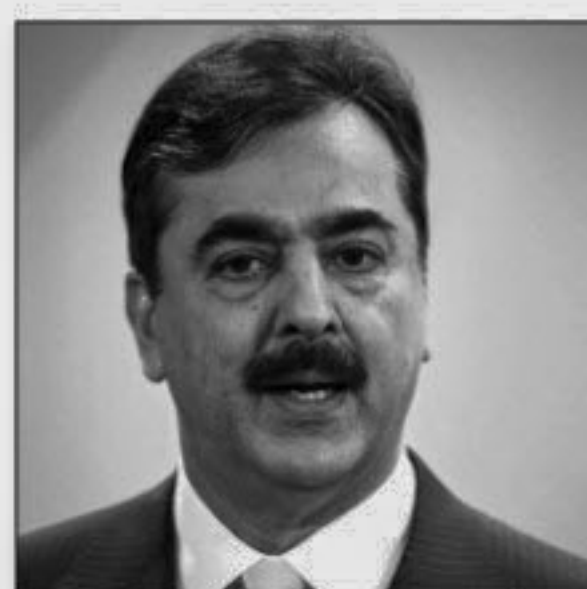
Commenting on the results of recent elections in five state legislatures including

India's most populous state Uttar Pradesh where the party could not perform as expected, Gandhi said, "While we can take satisfaction in the fact that we returned to power in Manipur for the third time and formed the government in Uttarakhand, the results in Punjab and Goa are very disappointing".

"In Uttar Pradesh, even though we did not perform as well as we had hoped to, we increased our vote share quite considerably and were seen as a serious player for the first time in 22 years. Of course, there is much work to be done there as in other states", Sonia said.

She said that with a series of state elections approaching in the coming months, Congress workers "must draw upon lessons of the previous polls."

She also asked partymen to project the works of the party-led government at the Centre and "expose the hollow claims of opposition-rule state governments".



# Mollah, Alim

FROM PAGE 20

"When all their [ruling Awami League's] efforts to isolate Jamaat from BNP-led four-party alliance and bifurcate the Jamaat through creating internal feuds have failed," said Razzaq, "they [the Awami League] clamped down on the Jamaat by raising the false issue of war crimes against the top Jamaat leadership."

"When they found it difficult to try Jamaat leaders under the 1973 Act [International Crimes (Tribunals) Act-1973], they made suitable amendments in 2009," he said.

Razzaq claimed that the purpose of the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 was only to try 195 Pakistan army men for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War and there was no scope to try any civilian under the act. There was the collaborator act for trying civilians, he said.

But the 1973 act reads, "A tribunal shall have the power to try and punish any person irrespective of his nationality who, being a member of any armed, defence or auxiliary forces commits or has committed [crimes], in the territory of Bangladesh, whether before or after the commencement of this Act..."

The government brought amendment to the act including the words "any individual or group of individuals" in 2009.

Razzaq claimed that the 195 Pakistan army personnel were the principal accused of atrocities. Citing

some court verdicts he said any of their abettors could not be tried unless the main accused were tried.

An Awami League-led government was in power between 1996 and 2001 but they did not take any initiative to hold the trial, said Razzaq, adding that the prosecution failed to explain the reason behind the delay.

Quader, who is facing seven charges of crimes against humanity, was produced in the dock yesterday. The defence counsel read out the discharge petition on Tuesday.

Earlier, Prosecutor Rana Dasgupta had told the tribunal that Alim, an influential leader of East Pakistan Conventional Muslim League, formed Peace Committee and Razakar Bahini (two collaborator forces) in Joypurhat in 1971 and committed killings, genocide, rape, looting, arson and other crimes against humanity in association with the auxiliary forces and the Pakistan army.

Tajul said the Razakar force was formed under the Razakar Ordinance on August 2, 1971 but the prosecution told the tribunal that Alim formed the force in May. It was not possible, said Tajul, adding that the prosecution failed to provide documents in this regard.

To this, Rana Dasgupta objected and said Razakar force was formed earlier but it was given legitimacy later through the ordinance.

The tribunal would resume hearing the defence today. Alim is facing 74 charges of crimes against humanity.

Later, a tribunal allowed a

prayer of special public prosecutor to withdraw the case and investigate further. In 1974, the then President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman granted general amnesty and thereby the case against Alim was stored.

Tajul said his client was released because of "scanty evidence" against him.

He said although the prosecution mentioned Abdul Alim as the chairman of Joypurhat Peace Committee during the Liberation War, they failed to prove it.

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# Relaxed visa regime likely for Indo-Pak businessmen

THE HINDU ONLINE

With the Interior/Home ministries of the two countries coming to an understanding on a liberalised visa regime for businessmen, Indian High Commissioner to Pakistan Sharat Sabharwal was on Tuesday confident of an agreement to this effect being signed later this month.

He disclosed this at the second 'Aman Ki Asha' (hope for peace) Indo-Pak Economic Conference in Lahore. The next round of Interior/Home Secretary-level talks within the composite dialogue framework is scheduled to be held in Islamabad on May 24-25.

Though similar assurances have been given in the past about a relaxed visa regime for businessmen, the High Commissioner was categorical this time round pointing out that already the Indian High Commission in Islamabad was fast-tracking applications of Pakistani businessmen.

Also, according to Sabharwal, efforts are on to simplify the visa procedure for all Pakistanis. Lesser documentation will be required and the attempt will be to issue the visa within 30 days. Presently, it takes a minimum of 45 days provided the clearance comes from the Home Ministry in New Delhi.

## Dwelling within nature A Residential Complex Design Competition



"Home", a heavenly word,  
A place of refuge,  
Where all the creatures of the nature return;  
Can a "home" exist without emotions?  
Can it exist without memories?  
And can it exist without nature?

In search of answers to these age-old questions and in pursuit of a perfect dwelling within nature, join with us in an open design competition for a residential complex (comprising 6 villas & a club-house) sponsored by a leading business house in Bangladesh.

Location : Barakathalia Mouza, Badda  
Land : 40 Bigha

### Competition Details

**Stage-1** : Concept Design  
Awards : 5 winners will be short-listed  
Prize : Tk 4,00,000 (Four Lacs Taka only) each for all five qualifying entrants  
Submission Deadline : 11th July 2012, Wednesday  
Result Declaration : 23rd July 2012, Monday

**Stage-2** : Design Development  
Awards : 3 winners  
Prize : 1st prize - Tk 10,00,000 (Ten Lacs Taka only)  
2nd prize - Certificate, Gift  
3rd prize - Certificate, Gift

Submission Deadline : 9th September, 2012, Sunday  
Result Declaration : 19th September, 2012, Wednesday

Eligibility : The participating Architect (if alone), or at least the team-leader (if in group) must be eligible according to the guidelines as prescribed in the "Dhaka Metropolitan Imarat Nirman Bidhimala 2008" for designing residential buildings.

Competition Document Package : Documents can be purchased against a written application, (any working day from 12.30pm to 8.30pm until 24th May, 2012) from IAB office.  
Early registration-Tk 1000 (One thousand) (from 10th to 20th May, 2012)  
Late registration-Tk 1200 (Twelve hundred) (from 21st to 24th May, 2012)

Queries : Queries, if any, will be submitted to the Competition Director by email to "competition@iab.com.bd" on or before 21st May, 2012, Monday by 8.30 pm. Answers will be sent out by emails to all entrants.

### Competition Director

Unity Complex  
Institute of Architects, Bangladesh (IAB)  
House-11, Road-4, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Tel: 8624664-65, Email: competition@iab.com.bd

## No one can force me out of office

Says Pakistani PM

AGENCIES

Pakistan's defiant Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has said that no one could force him out of office through unconstitutional means and he would exhaust all avenues for a fair trial following his conviction of contempt by the Supreme Court.

"I have no yearning to stick to power but I will take it to the finality and exhaust all avenues," he told journalists who accompanied him on an official visit to Britain.

He was speaking on Tuesday after the apex court issued its detailed order on the premier's conviction last month.

Asked about his refusal to implement the apex court's orders for reopening graft cases against President Asif Ali Zardari and his subsequent conviction of contempt, Gilani said the constitution explicitly spelt out the ways to remove a Prime Minister and that no one could force him out of office through unconstitutional means.

Gilani said he had the right to appeal after the announcement of the apex court's detailed judgement.

The matter of his disqualification will go to the speaker of the National Assembly and finally to the chief election commissioner, he said.



## PROFESSIONALS SEARCH

Since 1963 and in 145 countries, ACDI/VOCA has empowered people in developing and transitional nations to succeed in the global economy. Based in Washington, D.C., ACDI/VOCA is a nonprofit international development organization that delivers technical and management assistance in agribusiness, financial services, enterprise development, community development and food security in order to promote broad-based economic growth and vibrant civil society. ACDI/VOCA currently has approximately 90 projects in 40 countries and revenues of \$140 million.

We are currently seeking **Technical Specialists** for a large, multi-year agricultural development project in Bangladesh that will focus on targeted crops. The project's primary focus will be to increase agricultural productivity and marketability of selected food and non-food value chains. All positions are subject to ACDI/VOCA being awarded the program.

### Qualifications:

**Deputy Chief of Party/Head of Programs:** 10+ years of experience with USG or other similar development projects or programs management. Master's degree in Business Management, International Development, Agricultural Business, Marketing, Administration and Management or another relevant field required. 3-5 years of experience working on programs of a similar size and scope. Demonstrated experience with value chains. Demonstrated understanding of Bangladeshi and/or regional context. Proven ability to work and coordinate effectively with a wide variety of stakeholders, including national and local government, donors, community-based organizations, think tanks and universities, and the private sector. Excellent leadership and supervisory skills. Excellent written and spoken English is required. Fluency in Bangla is required.

**Sector Leader, Food Value Chains:** Minimum Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business, Business Management, International Markets, Supply Chain, International Development, Marketing, or another relevant field required. 8+ years of experience with similar development programs or projects. Minimum of 3-5 years of experience with Food Value Chains including fruits, vegetables, spices, pulses, and other food products. Demonstrated ability to work and coordinate effectively with a wide variety of stakeholders to build cooperative relationships. Demonstrated understanding of the Bangladeshi and/or regional context. Excellent written and spoken English is required. Fluency in Bangla is required.

**Sector Leader, Non-Food Agricultural Value Chains:** Minimum Bachelor's degree in Marketing, International Development, Business Management, International Markets, Supply Chain, or another relevant field. 8+ years of experience with similar development programs and projects. Minimum of 3-5 years of experience with Non-Food Agricultural Value Chains including bamboo, jute, floriculture, coconut byproducts, and others. Demonstrated understanding of the Bangladeshi and/or regional context. Demonstrated ability to work and coordinate effectively with a wide variety of stakeholders to build cooperative relationships. Excellent written and spoken English is required. Fluency in Bangla is required.

To be considered for this recruitment, please submit a resume to [avbangladesh@joinav.org](mailto:avbangladesh@joinav.org) include **Position Title** in the **Subject Line**. No phone calls please. Only finalists contacted. Women and minorities encouraged to apply. EOE.

All applications must be received by **May 30, 2012**.

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENT



**Practical Action** is a UK-based international development organization working in 12 countries through seven country and regional offices in Latin America, Africa and South Asia, including Bangladesh. Practical Action uses technology to challenge poverty by building the capabilities of poor people, improving access to technical knowledge and working with them to influence social, economic and institutional systems for the innovation and the use of technology. We believe that technology innovation and dissemination should be governed by the principles of technology justice. Most of our work is focused in the areas of energy, food & agriculture, urban water sanitation, disaster risk reduction, climate change and access to market for the well-being of the poor people.

**Practical Action, Bangladesh** is looking for competent candidates for the following positions.

**District Coordinator-3 positions, based in Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari districts (initially for 2 years)**

[These positions for the project: 'Pathways from Poverty: Building Economic Empowerment & Resilience for Extreme Poor Households in Riverine areas of Bangladesh' funded by UKaid- Shiree]

This mid-level position is expecting the incumbent to be responsible for the overall project implementation, planning and execution through partner(s) at the district level. Experience is highly desirable in coordination and field management, partnership management, fund management and supporting multi-sectoral project activities including a series of on-farm and off-farm options. In depth knowledge and skills are required to lead a technical team with highly prioritized M & E activities, including extreme poor household selection, change & effectiveness monitoring, graduation measurement, and impact evaluation. Strong communications skill is needed to maintain liaison with government departments, local administrations, partner(s) and other stakeholders. Should have excellent analytical skills to support report writing and documentation, and be able to manage work under pressure to meet the deadlines. Experience in disaster management and emergency response will be an added advantage. The incumbent should have a valid motorcycle driving license and should be willing to travel remote locations.

**Qualifications:** Masters degree in Agricultural Science, having long-proven track record and experience in livelihoods diversification, food security, disaster, emergency response and/or economic empowerment. Should possess relevant experience in development field for 10-12 years, with 5-7 years of managerial experience and skills in leading integrated project and management. Good command in English, for report writing and communication, is essential.

**Fundraising Specialist -1 position, based in Dhaka**

The job is to develop quality project proposals in a multidisciplinary team, undertake donor research, support in ensuring donor and government compliance with programmes in country office and internationally.

**Qualifications:** Masters in any relevant field with 12-15 years of development (preferably in Energy, Food & Agriculture, Urban Water Sanitation, Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Change and Market) and 5-7 years of proven track record of fundraising is needed. Good English communication and report writing skills, donor networking and research skills are needed. Academic qualification from overseas will be an added advantage. The year of experience could be relaxed for the competent candidate.

**M & E and Impact Specialist- 1 position, based in Dhaka**

The incumbent will have to develop and monitor an impact assessment plan, write short learning reports, support in baseline survey, project evaluations, issue-based studies, post-project follow up and maintain database. S/he will measure cross project/programme impact, particularly in relation to technology injustice, beneficiary graduation, empowerment and well-being analysis.

**Qualifications:** Masters in Statistics and Social Science or any relevant field with 12-15 years of M & E, research and good development skills are needed. Strong statistical background and good English report writing skills will be added advantage.

Please send application with only CV, a photograph and two referees. Please also mention the position on the top of the envelope. Although Practical Action, Bangladesh is an equal opportunity employer but qualified women candidate are encouraged to apply. The organization's salary structure is consistent with other similar international non-government organization. The application should be sent to the following address by **24 May 2012**. **The Head of Human Resource, Practical Action, Bangladesh, House # 12/B, Road # 4, Dhanmondi, Dhaka-1205. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.**