Pak-US ties improving

Says Pakistan's foreign minister in US

NUKE PROTEST

Fishermen block port in India

AFP, Chennai

Indian fishermen and antinuclear activists yesterday mounted a sea protest against an atomic power plant following violent demonstrations earlier this month, police said.

Some 3,000 fishermen and anti-nuclear activists in 500 fishing boats sought to block a port in southern Tamil Nadu state to protest against the under-construction power plant, police said.

Witnesses said the boatborne protesters shouted anti-nuclear slogans and demanded an end to the loading of uranium at the Russian-backed project.

Earlier this month, one fisherman was shot dead by police as hundreds of protesters clashed with armed officers.

ASSANGE EXTRADITION

UK, Sweden

Britain's Foreign Office was

tightlipped yesterday over a

proposal from Ecuador that

WikiLeaks founder Julian

Assange be transferred from

London to Sweden but stay

Sweden's foreign ministry

for its part said Stockholm

had not received any

Ecuador's Foreign

Minister Ricardo Patino said

he was weighing such a

transfer as a possible alterna-

tive for Assange to "remain

under our protection while

also satisfying the demands

of the Swedish justice sys-

approach from Quito.

under Quito's protection.

silent over

Ecuador's

proposal

AFP, london



Atlantic Council 2012 Global Citizen Award recepients Quincy Jones, producer and humanitarian; Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar Member of Parliament and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate; Henry Kissinger, former US Secretary of State and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate pose for a picture yesterday in New York.

Highly risky yet in high demand

FrOM pAGE 20

than a hastily walled-up 8 by 6 feet space, populated only in some rare cases by a proper bed. Up to six people live in each of these rooms and up to twenty rooms are littered in each of the three or four floors that make up these establishments. For the sake of comparison, most singleoccupancy prison cells in the Western world are larger than that, but in Dhaka where land prices and rent are astronomically high, these rickety, dingy, uninhabitable ironsheet houses are the sole abode for the urban poor.

Karim's erstwhile house is in Begunbari, just a few kilometres south-west of the city's posh Gulshan area. Most of his neighbours work either as drivers, domestic helps or

peons in the numerous are the regular screaming offices and residences just a stone's throw away. But Begunbari is just one of many such instalments that have mushroomed up uncontrollably on the outskirts of lively commercial zones. Similar multistoreyed iron-sheet house establishments can be found in Islambagh and in Lalbagh on the banks of the reeking Buriganga. Even here, rent is some-

times untenable. Karim pays Tk 2,000 of his Tk 6,900 salary for his "cell". There is no formal electricity or running water, although there is a tenuous supply of both, pilfered from nearby lines by unscrupulous owners. Natural light is a dream in the pitch-black rooms and the only way to differentiate mornings from nights

matches that break out like clockwork every morning about the use of water or bathrooms. To say these establish-

ments are a hazard would be criminally understating. Indeed, it is a wonder that such fatalistic accidents do not break out more often given the complete disregard for any semblance of safety. Amateurishly pinned

together nails and rickety bamboos serve as foundations for unsustainable vertical growth. Rotting, makeshift ladders serve as staircases as little children run amok. "The owners don't care," says Karim. "There is such high demand that if I leave, he will find someone to replace me in a matter of

Indeed, it seems that for the owners, it is very much

a matter of just rebuilding and waiting for the influx. In the last two years alone, there have been four to five incidents of fire in these establishments. In each case, the narrative has been exactly the same a hue and cry, followed by a process of rebuilding and moving forward as if nothing had happened.

On September 23, 2010, a special feature by The Daily Star, titled "House of Horror" outlined the life inside one such structure. It spoke of how 350 people inhabited a dangerous three-storey structure, paying rent of Tk 1,200 per room.

Exactly two years on, the only things that have changed are the amplified prices of the rooms (Tk 2,000 in 2012 from Tk 1,200 in 2010) and the greater number (500 people in

2012 from 350 in 2010) of people who live in these horror houses. Such structures are illegal but there is little or no noise from the authorities who turn a blind eye while shady landowners rake in the profits

toll yesterday reached to 21.

AFP, Washington

tests rocking her country.

Pakistan and the US are repairing ties which

had plunged to an all-time low, Pakistani

Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar said

Friday, despite violent anti-American pro-

"The last 18 months were very, very

difficult," Khar said at the start of talks with

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, adding

the nations were doing "better than we could

The two women leaders were meeting at

the State Department as violent protests

flared for another day across Pakistan,

targeting American diplomatic missions,

and fueled by anger at an anti-Islam film

As Pakistani police fought back with

gunshots and tear gas in five major cities, 15

people were killed and more than 200

wounded. With 4 more deaths over night, the

Anger in Pakistan has spiked since the

killing of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden

in a secret US commando raid on his

which Muslims say insults their faith.

have expected to do in rebuilding the trust."

But somehow, even inside these horror houses, people like Karim had found happiness. "I had everything," he says, and now he is weeping openly. "I had some clothes, plates and a nice coloured mobile set. I had all I needed. I was

from the hapless.

happy.' To Karim's left are the glistening, building blocks of the new Hatirjheel project. Beyond his right shoulder, you can make out the fancy, high-rise buildings of Dhaka's plushest zip code. But all Karim has are the clothes he is now wearing, and the vivid and painful memory of a dark,

airstrike in November which killed more than 24 Pakistani troops.

The incidents saw relations plunge, as Islamabad closed border crossings into Afghanistan to Nato convoys, forcing them to take a longer, more expensive route to supply

their troops, until the blockade was lifted in July. But Khar insisted that after efforts to renew the relationship over the past few months "we stand at a time of opportunity."

"At a time of opportunity to seize the trust deficit mantra and start building on the trust by walking the talk, that achieves the interests that are clearly common."

Hillary said their shared top priority was pursuing our joint counter-terrorism objectives to ensure the security of American and Pakistan citizens alike."

The two nations "both recognized that we can achieve more when we work together on a focused agenda," said Hillary who will meet with President Asif Ali Zardari next week on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

"At each meeting we are working to identify the strategic goals we share, and there are many. And the concrete actions we

can each take to accomplish them." Pakistani compound in May 2011, and a US Taliban Propaganda Tool Afghans ban Pak

newspapers **BBC ONLINE**

Afghanistan yesterday moved to block the entry of all newspapers from Pakistan, saying they serve Taliban militants. In its order, the interior ministry said the newspapers

"are a propaganda resource of the Taliban spokesmen" and has ordered police forces in east Afghanistan to confiscate all copies.

The latest move comes amid increasing tension between the two countries. Afghanistan has urged Pakistan to immediately stop shelling in the border province of Kunar. The Afghan interior ministry order focuses specifically on

blocking entry of the papers at Torkham, a busy border crossing.

It authorises police to impound Pakistani newspapers in the three eastern provinces of Nangarhar, Kunar and Nuristan.

Correspondents say that cross-border violence has become a highly sensitive issue in Afghanistan, where many are wary of Pakistan's historic ties to the Taliban.

The UN says around 4,000 people have been displaced due to cross-border shelling.

Islamabad says that the violence is being carried out by Pakistani Taliban fighters sheltering in Afghanistan, who have infiltrated the border to resume attacks on its security forces.

Pakistan says it is only targeting militants who flee from

Science education on the wane

FrOM pAGE 1

while that of commerce students has risen significantly, falling for the lure of lucrative jobs.

His findings are based on two research works carried out on 440 secondary schools of 23 districts two years ago.

Bangladesh Freedom Foundation, a private think tank, and The Daily Star jointly organised the roundtable on the decline in science education at secondary level at The Daily Star Centre in the city.

Of the total SSC examinees in 1988, 41 percent was science students, but the figure dropped to 22 percent in 2010. At the secondary level, science students have decreased by 31 percent over the last eight years, according to educa-

No- 56.105.007.00.00.1918.2012-2014

and reporting etc.

contacted.

tion ministry data.

Citing the statistics of an education officer's data, Munir said that out of 52 secondary schools in Kumarkhali upazila of Kushtia, as many as 32 do not have a single science student.

On an average, only 18 percent of 148 SSC level students at each school study science, said the specialist, which should have been more than 50 percent.

In 1987, the Ershad government had made religious study compulsory for all students and higher mathematics an optional subject for science students, which was earlier compulsory for them. As a result, science graduates became math teachers without studying

higher mathematics. Referring to a survey,

manage the DW2012 Conference for the following activities:

available on website: http://www.bcc.net.bd.

relation, International advertisement, News coverage etc.

Munir said 3,600 out of 4,500 math teachers studied only general mathematics at the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) level.

> The government in 1985 had allocated Tk 33 lakh for hosting science fairs all over the country, but about three decades later the amount allocated is now 28 lakh.

schools surveyed never science and technology and organised a science fair, while there has been no such fair in all the schools in Chittagong and Sylhet.

nearly half of the teachers influence students saying it is hard as well as costly to pass from the science group.

Prof AR Khan, a retired teacher of Dhaka University, said science education should be made popular through the revival of exhibi-

Digital World 2012 Secretariat

Ministry of Information and Communication Technology

BCC Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207

Phone: 8144046, Fax: +880-2-9124626, E-mail: ed@bcc.net.bd, Website: www.bcc.net.bd

Expression of Interest (EOI) for Firm(s)

The Government of Bangladesh intends to organize Digital World 2012 (DW2012),

an international event including conferences, seminar, showcasing of product and

services, B2B sessions etc, during **December 6-8, 2012** in Dhaka. The government has

allocated fund for organizing the event. Digital World 2012 Secretariat established in

Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), intends to hire qualified firm(s) (national) to

a. International PR and media buying: International electronic and print media

b. **Research and development**: Qualitative, quantitative and cosmic survey, study

BCC invites Expression of Interest (Eol) for the above mentioned areas from

qualified and experienced firms (National) for Quality & Cost Based (QCBS)

assignment under lump sum amount contract. The terms of reference (ToR) is

EoI should be submitted not later than **2nd October 2012** by 12:30 pm. at DW2012

Secretariat, BCC Bhaban, Agargaon, Dhaka 1207. Only shortlisted firms will be

tion, science week and Olympiad with government support.

It is difficult to find competent science teachers, he mentioned, as teachers as a whole do not have financial and social recognition.

He observed that poverty alleviation and overall social change are not practicable More than 94 percent without the knowledge of therefore it is vital to promote science education

from as early as school level. Dr SM Mahbub-ul-The survey revealed that Haque Majumder of Daffodil International University blamed poor salary structure and lack of social recognition of the teachers, among other things, for the decline in science education.

> Kanika Chakraborty, who works for Muslim Aid of the

> > Date: 20-09-2012

UK, said as a parent she is caught in a real dilemma about whether to send her son to study science as it is expensive and difficult to find competent teachers.

Citing Indian examples, Vice-chancellor of University of Asia Pacific Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury said study of science should be rewarded financially and socially to stop the decline in science education.

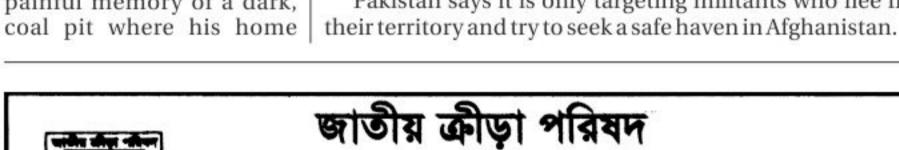
Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said a society without strong scientific basis is unimaginable in today's world order and a nation cannot survive without the knowledge of science and technology.

Climate change challenges are in a way a great opportunity to advance science education in the country, as solutions to its adverse impacts lie in science and technology, he mentioned.

He announced that The Daily Star was ready to recognise the best science teacher and the best science writer nationally every year if eminent persons in the field of science education take the lead.

Syed Manzur Elahi said science education should be the number one priority.

Prof Narayan Chandra Paul, member of National Curriculum and Textbook Board, and M Saidur Rahman, director general of National Museum of Science and Technology, spoke, among others.



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তারিখ-১৭/০৯/২০১২ খ্রি:

জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদের নিম্নবর্ণিত শূন্য পদসমূহে লোক নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে আবেদনপত্র আহবান করা যাচেছ।

৬২/৩, পুরানা পন্টন, ঢাকা।

ঞ্চপ্তশহ	পদের নাম	(মুড	ক্ষেপ-২০০৯	শণের সংখ্যা	বয়স সামা অনুধর্ব	াশকাগত যোগ্যাতা ও আভঞ্জতা
3	বাজেট-কাম অডিট- অফিসার	১ম শ্রেণী	১১,০০০- ২০৩৭০/-	০১(এক)টি	৩০ বৎসর	বাণিজ্য স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রী এবং ৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা
2	মেডিকেল অফিসার	১ম শ্ৰেণী	১১,০০০- ২০৩৭০/-	০১(এক)টি	৩০ কংসর	এম.বি.বি.এস ডিম্মী ।
9	প্রশিক্ষক, গ্রেড-৩ ক)ফুটবল-২টি খ)বাক্ষেটবল-১টি গ)সাঁতার-২টি ঘ)ক্রিকেট-১টি ভ)এ্যাথলেটিক-২টি	২য় শ্ৰেণী	\$9680\- \$9680	০২(দুই)টি ০১(এক)টি ০২(দুই)টি ০২(দুই)টি ০১(এক)টি ০২(দুই)টি		বেলাধুলার প্রশিক্ষণে ডিপ্রোমা ।
8	সহকারী নিরীক্ষা অফিসার	২য় শ্ৰেণী	79680\- 2000-	০১(এক)টি	৩০ বৎসর	সুপারিনটেনডেন্ট/অডিটর পদে ৫ বছরের চাকুরীর অভিজ্ঞতা সহ বানিজ্যে স্নাতক ডিগ্রী ।

আবেদনের শর্তাবলীঃ-

১। প্রার্থীকে জন্মসূত্রে বাংলাদেশের নাগরিক হতে হবে।

২। ১০/০৬/২০১২খ্রিঃ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়স অনুধর্ব-৩০ বৎসর হতে হবে। মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের সম্ভানদের জন্য সর্বোচ্চ বয়সসীমা ৩২ বছর পর্যন্ত শিথিলযোগ্য।

৩। আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সদ্যতোলা ৩ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতার সনদ, ইউনিয়ন/পৌরসভার মেয়র/ওয়ার্ড কাউন্সিলর কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত নাগরিকত্ব সনদ, জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্র ও জন্ম নিবন্ধন

সনদের কপি প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত করে অবশ্যই সংযোজন করতে হবে। 8। আবেদন পত্রে প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, মাতার নাম, বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও খেলাধূলায় অংশগ্রহণ সম্পর্কিত তথ্য উল্লেখপূর্বক আগামী ১৫/১১/২০১২খ্রিঃ তারিখের বৃহস্পতিবার-এর মধ্যে

সচিব, জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদ, ঢাকা-১০০০ এর বরাবরে ডাকযোগে বা সরাসরি পাঠাতে হবে। ১(এক)জন প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদন্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র দরখান্তের সহিত দাখিল করতে হবে।

চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীগণকে যথায়থ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে। কোন অগ্রিমকপি গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না। আবেদন পত্রের খামের উপরে সংশ্রিষ্ট পদের নাম ও জেলার নাম অবশ্যই উল্লেখ করতে হবে।

প্রার্থী মুক্তিযোদ্ধা/শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধার পুত্র/কন্যা হলে জনপ্রশাসন মন্ত্রণালয়ের ৩১-১২-৯৭খ্রিঃ তারিখের সম(বিধি-১) এস-৮/৯৫(অশং)-৩১১(৫০০) নং পরিপত্র অনুযায়ী আবেদনপত্রের সাথে মুক্তিযোদ্ধার মাতা/

পিতা মুক্তিযোদ্ধা সার্টিফিকেট-এর সত্যায়িত কপি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। কোন প্রার্থী উপ-জাতীয় তফসীল সম্প্রদায়ভূক্ত হলে সংশ্লিষ্ট জেলা প্রশাসকের নিকট হতে প্রাপ্ত সনদের

সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি দাখিল করতে হবে।

১০। সরকারী বিধি মোভাবেক কোটা সংরক্ষন করা হবে।

১১। উপরোক্ত পদে আবেদনকারীকে ১০০/-(একশত) টাকার পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট সোনালী ব্যাংক লিঃ-এর যে কোন শাখা হতে ইস্যু পূর্বক জাতীয় ক্রীড়া পরিষদের অনুকূলে আবেদনপত্রের সহিত জমা দিতে হবে। অন্যথায় আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

১২। ইতিপূর্বে ২৫/০৪/২০১২ইং তারিখের বিজ্ঞপ্তির সকল শর্তাবলী পূরণপূর্বক যথাযথ ভাবে যারা আবেদন করেছেন

তাদের পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই। ১৩। আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ, বাছাই ও বাভিল করার পূর্ণ ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত থাকবে।

১৪। প্রার্থীদের পরীক্ষার তারিখ, স্থান ও সময় যথাসময়ে জানানো হবে।

ভোলা, কুষ্টিয়া, গাজীপুর, গোপালগঞ্জ, লন্মীপুর, নড়াইল ও ঝিনাইদহ।

১৫। লিখিত পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদেরকেই কেবলমাত্র মৌখিক পরীক্ষা/সাক্ষাৎকারের জন্য ডাকা হবে। প্রশিক্ষকদের বেলায় ব্যবহারিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহন করতে হবে এবং মৌখিক পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রার্থীকে

যাতায়াত/দৈনিক ভাতা প্রদান করা হবে না। ১৬। নিমে উল্লেখিত জেলাসমূহের জেলা কোটা শূণ্যপদ না থাকায় প্রার্থীদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই। যথা-णका, प्रनिगक्ष, नात्रायुगगक्ष, कत्रिमभूत, त्राक्ष्यांफ़ी, कूपिल्ला, चूलना, मिनाक्षभूत, वित्रांगल, शिद्धांक्षभूत, वत्रक्षना,

শেখ আতাহার হোসেন

(Mohammad Enamul Kabir) Secretary, BCC

Leading businessman

Speakers at the discussion made some recommendations to arrest the decline in science studies. The recommendations include forming a national taskforce to address the decline, financial incentive for students and teachers, higher salary for teachers, setting up a science laboratory at every school, dedicating one-third of the TV channels' airtime to education, use of internet and other communication tools to disseminate science education, publishing science pages in newspapers with interactive content, motivation of teachers, parents and students

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through the mass media, training to the existing

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teachers and demonstrators