

MAID BEHEADING ROW  
Saudi recalls  
envoy from  
Sri Lanka

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi Arabia has recalled its ambassador from Colombo in a tit-for-tat move amid tensions after a Sri Lankan nanny convicted of murder was beheaded in the kingdom, the official SPA news agency reported.

"Based on the decision by the Sri Lankan government to withdraw its ambassador from the kingdom, the (Saudi) foreign ministry has recalled its ambassador in Sri Lanka for consultations," SPA reported late Tuesday quoting a ministry spokesman.

Tensions between both countries have been strained since the January 9 execution at a prison in Riyadh of Sri Lankan maid Rizana Nafik, who was only 17 when she was charged with smothering a four-month-old baby in Saudi Arabia in 2005.

Nafik was found guilty of smothering the infant in her care after an argument with the child's mother, the Saudi interior ministry said.

Last month, Sri Lanka's Information Minister Keheliya Rambukwella announced that women under 25 were now banned from going to Saudi Arabia to work as maids, adding that it was the first step towards a worldwide travel ban for low-paying jobs.

The United States and the United Nations have led international condemnation of the execution.

Rape, murder, apostasy, armed robbery and drug trafficking are all punishable by death under Saudi Arabia's strict version of sharia, or Islamic law.

In 2012, the ultra-conservative Muslim kingdom executed 76 people, according to an AFP tally based on official figures.

Colonial massacre 'shameful'

Says British PM in India, stops short of public apology

AFP, Amritsar

British Prime Minister David Cameron visited the site of a colonial-era massacre in India yesterday, describing the episode as "deeply shameful" while stopping short of a public apology.

On the last leg of a three-day trip aimed at forging deeper economic ties, Cameron took the bold decision to visit the city of Amritsar and tackle an enduring scar of British rule over the subcontinent, which ended in 1947.

Dressed in a dark suit and bowing his head, he laid a wreath at the memorial to the victims at Jallianwala Bagh where British troops opened fire on thousands of unarmed protesters in 1919.

In a message in the visitors' book, he wrote: "This was a deeply shameful event in British history and one that Winston Churchill rightly declared at the time as 'monstrous'.

"We must never forget what happened here. And in remembering we must ensure that the United Kingdom stands up for the right of peaceful protest around the world."

He later defended his decision not to say sorry, explaining that it happened 40 years before he was born and "I don't think the right thing is to reach back into history and to seek out things you can apologise for".



David Cameron

The number of casualties at the Jallianwala Bagh garden is unclear, with colonial-era records showing about 400 deaths while Indian figures put the number killed at closer to 1,000.

The incident saw soldiers under General Reginald Dyer's command open fire on men, women and children in the enclosed area in one of the most infamous episodes of Britain's colonial rule that helped spur the independence movement.

But the move to visit the site is seen as a gam-

Despite rights concern,  
UK sold arms to Lanka

TNN, London

While David Cameron faces awkward questions in India over bribe-tainted British-built helicopters, the prime minister is in a fresh storm over another set of defence deals involving Lanka's war on Tamils.

Government records, revealed by activists in London, show that UK has been supplying weapons - both small and large, worth "millions of pounds" to the Sri Lankan government even though Britain's foreign office (FO) has in the recent past expressed concern over human rights violations by the island nation.

Britain's foreign office calls Sri Lanka "a country of concern" with questionable human rights records.

However the UK based NGO Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) has sent documents to Times of India showing that between July and September 2012, Cameron's government approved export licences on military items to Sri Lanka worth over £3 million. Nearly £2m of the sales were in the category "ML1" label denoting small arms. In total, the UK government approved the sale of 600 assault rifles, 650 rifles, 100 pistols and 50 combat shotguns. The sale also included £330,000-worth of ammunition and £655,000 in body armour.

"We're told that the arms industry is essential for jobs and the economy. In the UK, the government uses grossly inflated and out of date jobs figures. We're told that we need to export arms for our national security. Yet the UK sold weapons to Argentina weeks before the Falklands War. It sold arms to Saddam Hussein months before the First Gulf War. It actively courted Gaddafi weeks before going to war with him last year," the group said.

Top US gen refuses  
Nato job, retires

AFP, Washington

US General John Allen, who just wrapped up a tour as commander in Afghanistan, said Tuesday he will retire instead of accepting the top job at Nato, citing his wife's health problems.

Allen's departure comes weeks after a Pentagon investigation cleared him of any wrongdoing in a drama over emails to a Florida socialite, and he told the Washington Post the highly-publicized case did not influence his decision.

Speculation had been rife for weeks that Allen, who led the war effort in Afghanistan for 19 months, would not take up Obama's offer to serve as Nato's supreme allied commander in Europe due to the fallout from the email episode.

In Brussels, a Nato spokesperson said the alliance fully respected the general's decision.

In a statement, the 59-year-old Allen said his decision to retire after 38 years in uniform was the "only choice" due to his wife's illness.

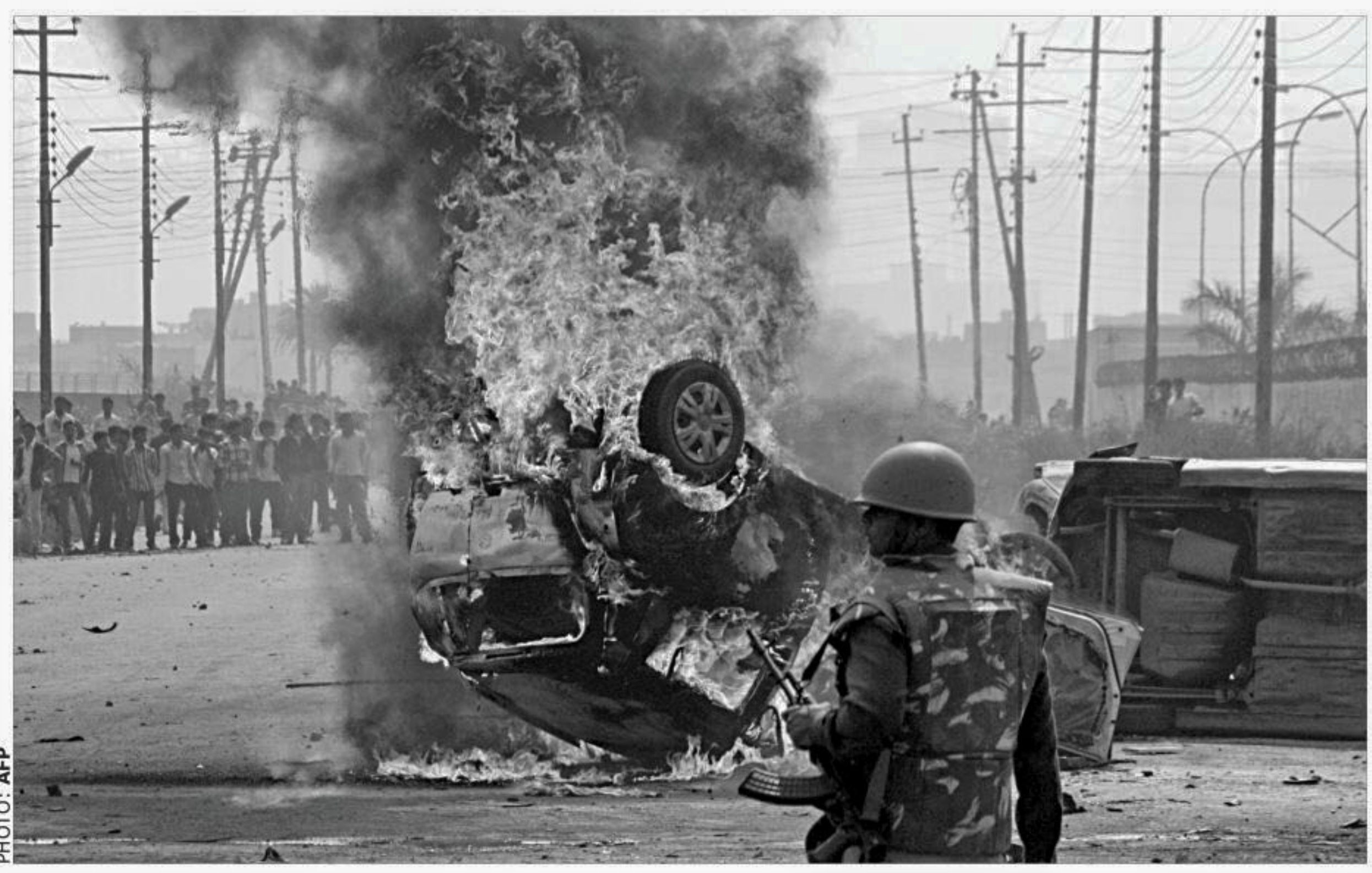
The four-star general said his family had stood by him throughout his career and now it was his turn "to be there for them when they need me most."

India stays  
executions of  
'bandit king'  
accomplice

AFP, New Delhi

India's Supreme Court yesterday extended a stay on the hanging of four death-row convicts by six months after rights groups voiced growing concern over recent executions in the country.

The lawyer for the four accomplices of slain "bandit king" Veerappan who were sentenced to death in 2004 for a deadly blast in southern India had approached the Supreme Court because he believed their executions were imminent.



An Indian policeman looks on near a burning car during a trade union strike in Nodia on the outskirts of New Delhi yesterday. Cars were burnt and factories were stoned when violence broke out at the all-India trade union strike.

Ghulam Azam incited genocide in '71

FROM PAGE 20

According to article 2 of the Geneva Convention, 1948, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, such as: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Simon said, "The incidents [killing of people] took place during the Liberation War in 1971 are genocide and he [Ghulam Azam] had direct involvement in these. It is not possible for him in anyway to avert the liabilities of it [genocide] as he had affiliation with politics and the army."

Ghulam Azam along with Jamaat's publicity secretary Moulana Nuruzzaman and another Jamaat leader Gholam Sarwar made a joint statement on April 7, 1971.

The statement reads: "India is interfering in the internal affairs of East Pakistan. Wherever patriotic Pakistanis see Indian agents or anti-Pakistan elements and infiltrators

they will destroy them."

The prosecutor explained that Ghulam Azam referred activists of auxiliary forces as patriotic Pakistanis while freedom fighters as Indian agents or anti-Pakistan elements and infiltrators.

The Daily Azad ran the statement on its April 8, 1971, issues.

Ghulam Azam gave an inciting speech before the nation at Dhaka centre of Radio Pakistan on April 10, 1971. Three dailies, Azad, Purbadesh and Pakistan, ran stories on it the following day.

In the speech Ghulam Azam threatened the leaders of India and said India had always been involved in conspiracies to destroy

Pakistan.

He also said by sending in "shoshostro onuprobeshkari (armed infiltrators)", India had in fact challenged the patriotism of East Pakistanis.

Simon said Ghulam Azam made such statement directly to incite people. "He did this on specific intention to incite people to commit genocide to destroy Hindu communities in part or as a whole," he added.

On April 22, 1971, he called upon the activists of the Peace Committee to prevent anti-state elements (freedom fighters). He also directed his men to carry the national flag (of Pakistan) and aid the

Pakistani army.

Daily Purbadesh published the news.

While placing arguments on the second charge (planning), Simon said Ghulam Azam along with like-minded leaders met then governor of East Pakistan Tikka Khan at the latter's house in Dhaka on April 4, 1971, where they proposed forming "Nagorik Committee" in order to support Pakistani occupation forces.

The committee was later formed with the name "peace committee".

Saying Ghulam Azam was aware of the March 25th mass killing, Simon argued that Ghulam Azam and the like-minded leaders had already planned to

form the peace committee even before proposing the idea to Tikka Khan.

The peace committee was formed on April 9, 1971, and among the 125 members of the central peace committee, Ghulam Azam was third in rank, Simon said.

The peace committee led their operations in upazila and thana levels according to the direction of the central peace committee, said Simon adding that formation of such committees was the evidence of proper planning.

Showing East Pakistan Police Abstract of Intelligence Report, Simon said Ghulam Azam joined in a meeting with AQM Shafiqul Islam and Khwaja Khairuddin at a

house on Elephant Road in Dhaka on May 4, 1971.

The report refers to Ghulam Azam's direct participation in planning against the Liberation War said the prosecution claiming that it had successfully proved charge-2.

The proceeding of the case was adjourned until February 24.

NIZAMI'S CASE

Defence counsel for war crimes accused Jamaat aameer Motiur Rahman Nizami yesterday cross-examined freedom fighter Zahir Uddin Jalal, who testified against him on December 18 last year.

The defence counsel asked Jalal several questions on his operations and training.

In his testimony, Jalal had said Nizami asked a Pakistani army officer to have him killed along with martyred freedom fighter Rumi, son of Shaheed Janani Jahanara Imam, and musician Altaf Mahmud when they were detained at a camp during the Liberation War.

Rumi and Altaf never returned home while the witness was lucky to have escaped death as Pakistan government official rescued him.

The proceeding of the case was adjourned until March 6. On that day, the defence would continue cross-examination of Jalal, who was popularly known then as Bichchu Jalal.

Metro rail loan deal signed

FROM PAGE 1

deal for the rest of the funding for the project would be signed at a later date, officials said.

The \$116.32 million will be provided within the current fiscal year for a detailed design of metro rail project. The 20.1-kilometre metro rail, the country's first-ever, starts from Uttara Third Phase and touches Pallabi, Mirpur-10, Khamarbari, Farmgate, Sonargaon Hotel, Shahbagh, Doel Chatter and Topkhana Road before ending at Motijheel.

A consultant will be appointed soon to prepare the design, which will take two to three years. This means construction of the metro rail will begin at the end of 2016 and take five years to complete. So, the city commuters are not going to get the service before 2021.

As per a JICA study, metro rail will operate every three minutes and

carry 60,000 passengers per hour. There will be 16 stations on the route.

Two other deals signed yesterday were on the development of power transmission network, for which Japan is providing \$208 million, and development of Bheramara combined cycle power plant, for which Japan's loan is \$460.5 million.

Japan is giving the grant of \$8 million for ground water investigation and development of deep groundwater source in urban and rural areas.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Abul Kalam Azad and Japan's Ambassador in Dhaka Shiro Sadoshima signed the agreements at the Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in presence of Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader, PM's Energy Adviser Toufique-Elahi Chowdhury and the Chief Representative of JICA

(Japan International Development Cooperation).

POWER TRANSMISSION NETWORK DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The objectives of this project are to upgrade and enhance capacity of the national power transmission network through construction and expansion of the transmission lines as well as sub-stations in Chittagong, Comilla, Lakshmipur, Mymensingh, Barisal, Shariatpur, Jessore, Bogra, Rajshahi and Nilphamari districts.

The JICA assistance will be used for installation of materials, construction and consulting services. The total cost of the project is Tk 2,426 crore and be implemented in five years. COMBINED POWER PLANT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

A 360-megawatt power plant will be set up under the project to meet

increasing demand for electricity in the country's northwest region at a cost of Tk 4,140 crore. The project was launched in 2010 with a target to complete it by next year. GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION PROJECT

The project aims at searching potential safe sources of deep aquifer in the arsenic and saline water prone areas. Big diameter production well using advanced technology will also be dug under it.

Japanese experts will train the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) staff on the use of geophysical survey equipment for their capacity development on drilling of deep well and groundwater exploration techniques. The estimated cost of the project is Tk 103 crore. The project will kick off this year and will be completed by 2019, according to official documents.

**Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations**  
Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project, Bangladesh (Component A)

**Invitation for Bids for the Procurement of Fish Feed**  
Credit No. 4507 – BD, Project ID No. UTF /BGD/ 040 /BGD, Bid Package No.4G19.F

The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Emergency 2007 Cyclone Recovery and Restoration Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the Procurement of Fish Feed. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply of 485 MT of Fish Feed. Bidders having a minimum of 3 (three) years of experience in the supply of the tendered items/similar items are only encouraged to participate. The delivery period is 8 (eight) weeks from the date of issuance of the Notification of the Award (NoA).

Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, (current edition), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the guidelines.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents from the ECRRP office of the FAO Representation in Bangladesh (Hs. # 27, Rd. # 9/A, Apt. # A -1, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka – 1209, Telephone 8130758/104 , 01761-496222) during office hours i.e. 08:00 to 16:30 Hrs. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by the interested bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 2000. The method of payment for the tender documents will be in cash against a written receipt. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security for an amount of Tk.350,000.

Bids shall be delivered to the address below by 14:00 Hrs. on 21 March 2013. They will be opened immediately thereafter, in the presence of bidder's representatives, who choose to attend, at the address below. Late bids will be rejected.

**FAO Representation in Bangladesh**  
House # 37, Road # 8  
Dhanmondi , Dhaka-1205  
Tel: 880-2-8118015  
Fax: 880-2-811 3446

The publishing of this notice and the receipt of bids does not commit FAO in any way to any party.