

Bomber kills 27 as US hands over Karbala to Iraqis

AFP, Baghdad

withdraw its forces from the country.

The US military yesterday transferred the Shia holy province of Karbala back to Iraq as a suicide bomber killed 27 policemen in an attack on their headquarters in the restive city of Baquba.

Karbala became only the eighth of Iraq's 18 provinces to be handed over to local forces by the US-led coalition.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, who addressed the handover ceremony, blamed his own military leaders for slow progress in taking back control of the country's war-ravaged provinces.

"Allow me to say that we are late, very late, to reconstruct, to rebuild our forces for reasons that I do not want to mention here," said Maliki who is under pressure from Washington to rebuild his forces faster.

The delay in rebuilding Iraqi forces has hampered US plans to

essential security responsibilities."

America's top officials in Iraq, Ambassador Ryan Crocker and General David Petraeus, said the handover of Karbala was a "positive step towards Iraq's self-reliance."

In a joint statement they said the transfer was an indication of the country's ability to "develop and assume greater responsibility for governing and providing security for the citizens."

Karbala, some 80km south of Baghdad, is relatively peaceful compared to some other central and western regions of Iraq, but is emerging as a flashpoint of Shia rivalry.

Home to the shrines of two of Shia Islam's most revered imams -- Imam Hussein and Imam Abbas -- Karbala was the site of a bloody firefght in August during a major religious festival in which at least 52 people were killed.

The report by Marine General James Jones, the former top US commander in Europe, said Iraqi forces were improving "but not at a rate sufficient to meet their

Nepali parliament resumes talks on Maoist demands

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's parliament yesterday resumed talks on Maoist demands for voter reform and the abolition of the monarchy, issues that have held up the Himalayan country's peace process.

The former rebels, who ended a decade of bloody civil war late last year, want the sweeping reforms to be implemented before national elections to appoint a body to rewrite the constitution are held.

The dispute between the Maoists and the mainstream parties has already caused the polls to be postponed twice.

"The parliament session has started, and if we fail to reach any consensus, voting will be conducted to decide on the fate of our proposals in a day or two," Dev Gurung, a senior Maoist leader, told AFP.

The special parliament session was called earlier this month, but postponed for festival celebrations after the two sides failed to resolve the deadlock.

The Maoists are calling for a vote on whether the monarchy should be scrapped immediately and to change the proposed voting system.



PHOTO: AFP
Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki laughs as he is greeted by Syrian President Bashar al-Assad (back) and other Syrian officials at al-Shaab palace in Damascus yesterday.

Iraq warns Turkey against incursion

Turkish troops surround 100 Kurdish fighters

AFP, Baghdad

Turkey celebrated Republic Day yesterday with stern warnings from Baghdad that any large-scale Turkish incursion against Kurdish rebel bases in northern Iraq would have "disastrous" results.

In stark contrast to the festive mood across most of the country, Turkish troops faced off with some 100 rebels in the Ikiyaka mountains in the southeast.

The military had surrounded the fighters from the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in a bid to prevent them escaping across the Iraqi border, the Anatolia news agency reported.

Turkey has threatened a major cross-border assault on PKK bases in northern Iraq if Baghdad and Washington fail to make good on promises to crack down on the rebels there.

Irqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari warned Monday that such a move could have "disastrous consequences" and would be met with stiff Iraqi resistance.

"They are talking about a large-scale military incursion which is getting people extremely nervous and worried," Zebari told the BBC in an interview.

Describing the increasingly tense situation on the Turkish-Iraqi border as "dead serious," Zebari complained that Turkey "was not responsive" when Iraqi officials flew to Ankara last week for talks on how to resolve the situation.

According to Turkish media reports, some 100,000 Turkish troops have been deployed along the Iraqi border over the past week.

Zebari also insisted that Turkish demands for PKK leaders in northern Iraq to be rounded up and handed over were unrealistic.

"They are not under our control in fact. They are up in the mountains, they are armed," he said.

National red-and-white, crescent and star flags flew across Turkey on Monday, marking the 84th anniversary of the secular republic's creation by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk, "father of the Turks", on the ashes of the Ottoman Empire.

50 suspected Taliban killed or wounded

AP, Kandahar

a statement from Afghanistan's Defence Ministry said.

Maj. Charles Anthony, a spokesman for Nato's International Security Assistance Force, said that "several dozen militants were killed" in the clash.

"This was a well-led and well-coordinated engagement, with the Afghan National Army and Isaf working in conjunction with each other," Anthony said.

Two policemen and an Afghan soldier were also wounded, Jumrat said.

It was impossible to immediately verify the death counts.

The clash follows a large-scale engagement in neighbouring Helmand province, where some 80 militants were killed, during a weekend operation conducted by US Special Forces.

Musharraf lawyer urges Pakistan court to uphold vote

AP, Islamabad

merited and in public interest at this juncture," Qayyum told the court.

The court ruled the day before the election that the vote could go ahead, but stipulated that no official notification of the result could be announced until after it had decided on the appeals.

Musharraf seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999.

His popularity slumped earlier this year after he tried to sack Pakistan's chief justice, and he has since faced growing militancy and political complications ahead of general elections due in January 2008.

The situation has been further destabilised by the return from exile of former premier Benazir Bhutto, with a proposed power-sharing deal between her and Musharraf being slow to materialise.

Two suicide bombers targeted her homecoming procession in Karachi on October 18, killing 139 people and prompting her into accusations that rogue elements of the government and security services were involved.

Court orders Israel to justify Gaza sanctions

Israeli soldier, 3 Palestinians killed in clashes

AP, Jerusalem

his office said. On Sunday Israel began restricting fuel shipments to Gaza as part of a series of sanctions on the face of Palestinian rocket attacks on the Jewish state that military operations alone have been unable to stop.

The move comes after Israel declared the Hamas-run territory a "hostile entity" on September 19, paving the way for further sanctions and restrictions on Gaza, where the radical Islamist movement seized control in mid-June.

Meanwhile, Three Palestinians and an Israeli soldier were killed in the Gaza Strip yesterday as ground troops backed by air support pressed campaigns against militants who fire rockets into the Jewish state.

An army spokesman confirmed that one Israeli soldier had been killed in clashes inside the walled-off coastal strip, and said that two more had been lightly wounded.

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Transcom Beverages Limited

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Transcom Beverages Limited, the franchisee of Pepsi, 7up, Mirinda, Slice, Teem and Mountain Dew beverages for Bangladesh is looking for dynamic and competent professionals to fill the following positions. The Company provides competitive remuneration, excellent job environment for career growth of individuals and practices a performance culture, where talent and creativity are recognized and rewarded.

Position: Territory Development Manager:

The role:
This is a mid level position based at any major cities of the country reporting to the Unit/Regional Sales Manager, the incumbent will be responsible for achieving company objective in relation with retail coverage, volume of the respective territory through company sales force and distributor. Company will provide a full time functional car.

Accountability:

- Plan, organize & establish retail network/coverage;
- Deliver annual targets of volume, KPI's;
- Guide and direct Customer Executives in setting up their target and ensure due compliance Through continuous supervision, monitoring and management input;
- Involve actively in the field supervision of company/distributor field forces and primary and secondary sales monitoring;
- Assist Unit Sales manager in designing different trade related activities and other issues relating to the unit;
- Handle admin related job/issues of the designated area;
- Adequate knowledge/tactics of market intelligence;

Qualifications:

- University graduate with working experience in the area of sales & distribution of a reputed FMCG company for minimum 7 years out of which 2 years in Mid management position. Preference will be given to the candidates with BBA/MBA background;
- Adequate knowledge of major/strategic markets of the country;
- Experience of appointing Distributors and developing skills to manage/handle them;
- Designing/Conducting of different types of Trade & Consumer promotions and market survey;
- Being habituated to intensive travel and spent out-stations;
- Basic/working knowledge to use computer (word, excel & power point);
- Age around 35 years.

Position: Customer /Sales Executive:

Minimum Qualification: - Graduate with minimum 2 years experience & proven record of success in selling FMCG in a well-reputed company preferably in the beverage industry.

Candidate Profile:-

- Aggressive, field oriented, professional to lead 10-20 distributor's Sales Representatives.
- Must have the ability to achieve agreed targeted volume of sales, in the designated territory, as per the monthly/annual sales plan.
- Should possess outgoing personality and willing to work with retailers in both urban and rural markets.
- Must be willing to relocate anywhere in Bangladesh and travel extensively.
- Must have the ability to communicate (both spoken and written) in English and Bangla.
- Should be well groomed.
- Age:- Should not exceed 30 years.

Position: Technician (Electrical):

- S.S.C with 2 years Vocational Training from a recognized Technical School / Institute.
- Preference will be given to candidates with working experience in a large beverage plant.

Position: Technician (Mechanical):

- S.S.C with 2 years Vocational Training from a recognized Technical School / Institute.
- Preference will be given to candidates with working experience in a large beverage plant.
- Must be willing to work in shifts.

If you think you are the right person for any of the above positions, please send your Curriculum Vitae along with a recent passport size colour photograph to the Human Resources Manager, Transcom Beverages Limited, Gulshan Tower (10th Floor), Plot # 31, Road # 53, Gulshan North CA, Dhaka-1212 by marking the name of the position on the envelope. The application should reach the office of Human Resources Manager on or before 7th November, 2007. You can also apply online to jobs@tbl.transcombd.com.

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