

Lanka war cannot be won, say peace monitors

AFP, Colombo

Nordic peace monitors pulled out of Sri Lanka yesterday following the collapse of a ceasefire, and warned that the war between the island's government and Tamil rebels cannot be won by either side.

The Norwegian-led Sri Lankan Monitoring Mission (SLMM) was to shut down its operations late Wednesday, after Colombo decided two weeks ago to scrap a truce with the Tamil Tigers, put in place by Oslo in 2002.

"We are absolutely convinced that this complex conflict cannot be solved by military means,"

SLMM chief Lars Jon Solberg told reporters hours before the 31-member Norwegian and Icelandic team were to leave the island.

"I find it's my duty to come to this conclusion as we terminate our operations, although it is not a task for the SLMM to advise the parties to the ceasefire agreement or other actors on how to find a solution," he said.

Sri Lanka has been at war for decades with the Tamil Tigers, who are fighting to carve out an independent state in the north and east of the ethnic Sinhalese-majority island.

Fighting between government forces and Tamil Tiger rebels has intensified since 2005 and some 5,000 people have died, which left the SLMM watching a slideback into war, not monitoring a truce.

Late last year the teams said they had lost count of ceasefire violations, and the SLMM has also come in for rabid criticism from both sides -- accused by Colombo of being pro-rebel and by the Tigers of being inactive.

In a parting shot, Sri Lanka's defence spokesman Keheliya Rambukwella on Wednesday described the SLMM as "a futile organisation."

The Nordic monitors have also been accused of being "on holiday".

Solberg, a retired Norwegian army general, brushed off the criticism.

"We have been hated over the past six years. People have called us inefficient, powerless and biased. But that's the nature of our job, we tried to be neutral in every single incident," said Solberg.

He said his team was "disappointed" over the island's return to war, and said he hoped there would be a return to talks "sooner rather than later."



Sri Lankan army soldiers stand alert at the site of a roadside bomb attack on a bus in Butlala, some 235 km from Colombo yesterday. At least 26 civilians were killed and dozens wounded in a suspected Tamil Tiger bomb attack on a crowded bus in southern Sri Lanka, officials said, as the island's ceasefire was set to end.

Severe cold, snow claim 120 lives in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

Two weeks of heavy snowfalls, avalanches and severe cold in Afghanistan have killed 120 people and tens of thousands of domestic animals, government officials said Wednesday.

Parts of northern Afghanistan are under 3.5 metres (11 feet) of snow with several roads blocked, cutting off scores of remote villages and districts that are home to thousands of people, the disaster management department said.

In two weeks to Tuesday, 106 people were recorded dead and 134 wounded, it said. Nearly 30,000 animals were also killed and more than 50 districts cut off, it said in a statement.

The hardest-hit province was Herat in the west, where 60 people were confirmed dead and 17 missing, it said.

US restricts staff after Lebanon blast

AP, Beirut

The US Embassy restricted the movement of its staff Wednesday and urged Americans to be vigilant a day after a bomb hit one of its vehicles in the first attack in more than two decades targeting American diplomats here.

Two Lebanese and a Syrian were killed in the bombing, which took place as President Bush was touring the Middle East. The attack highlighted the growing chaos in Lebanon, which has descended into violence over the last three years after almost a decade of calm following its long civil war.

US diplomats are deeply involved in the country's fractured politics, supporting the government against the Syrian-backed opposition. The sides have been deadlocked over choosing a new president.

The armour-plated embassy car was damaged in the bombing on a north Beirut highway, and its Lebanese driver and an American teacher at a nearby church were among 26 people wounded. Two Lebanese and a Syrian bystander were killed.

Lebanese troops set up checkpoints and diverted traffic Wednesday near the north Beirut seaside highway where the bomb exploded, a road that embassy staff would have had to take to attend a farewell reception for the departing US ambassador scheduled later Tuesday. It was cancelled.



Pakistani commuters pass billboards of general election candidates along a street in Rawalpindi yesterday. Pakistani security forces have arrested eight suspected Islamic militants accused of involvement in a recent wave of suicide and terrorist attacks, the interior ministry said on Tuesday.

Bird flu cull begins in West Bengal

AFP, Kolkata

Health officials in eastern India began the slaughter of tens of thousands of chickens yesterday, a day after New Delhi confirmed an outbreak of the deadly avian flu in the region.

Anisur Rahman, animal resources minister of West Bengal state, told AFP that 55 rapid response teams had fanned out from "core areas like Margram where the disease was first detected," intending to kill more than 400,000 chickens.

The slaughter started a day after India's agriculture ministry confirmed poultry deaths due to avian flu last week in densely-populated West Bengal, which borders Bangladesh, where authorities

have struggled to contain an outbreak of the virus.

The birds slaughtered Wednesday were being put into sacks and would be buried, a health official told AFP at Margram village, 125 kilometres (75 miles) from the state capital Kolkata.

But villagers in Margram said they had sold sick and dead birds for human consumption.

"Most of the chickens (in Margram) died in the past fortnight," Mohammed Jinnah, a resident of Margram village, told an AFP photographer. "People here sold the dead chickens as meat for 10 rupees (25 cents) a kilo (2.2 pounds)."

"There are very few chickens left, most of the birds killed by the officers are ducks," he added.

New Israeli strike kills 3 Gaza civilians

AFP, Gaza City

An Israeli air strike killed three civilians including a teenager in the heart of Hamas-run Gaza Strip on Wednesday, a day after the deadliest day of violence in the territory in more than a year.

The victims -- a 13-year-old boy, his father and uncle -- were killed when a missile slammed into their car as it drove through Gaza City, medics said.

Israeli-Palestinian fighting has escalated since the two sides revived peace talks in November, overshadowing US President George W. Bush's prediction of a deal by the time he leaves office in January

2009. Wednesday's Gaza strike followed the killing of a top commander of the radical Islamic Jihad in the occupied West Bank and the death of 19 Palestinians in Israeli raids on Gaza on Tuesday.

Another three people were seriously wounded in the Gaza City strike, while another four Palestinians were wounded in two Israeli raids in the north of the impoverished territory, medics said.

Islamic Jihad said in a statement that the Gaza City strike had targeted but missed a group of its fighters.

The Israeli army had no immediate comment.

Foreign intervention an 'enemy act': Pak govt

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's foreign ministry warned yesterday that any unauthorised military strike by international forces against al-Qaeda militants on Pakistani soil would be considered an "enemy act."

The warning came days after President Pervez Musharraf said in a newspaper interview that an incursion by the US-led coalition in Afghanistan without permission would be treated as an invasion.

Growing Islamist militancy in Pakistan's tribal areas has raised concerns in the United States, with reports that Washington is considering giving the Pentagon and the

CIA new authority to conduct covert operations.

"Without Pakistan's permission, without Pakistan's involvement, any action by a foreign government on Pakistan's territory will be an enemy act," foreign ministry Mohammad Sadiq told weekly briefing.

Sadiq said Pakistan welcomed any international help in the fight against terrorism, but would not allow foreign troops to take direct action on its territory, he said.

"We have cooperation with the international community in (the) war on terror and in... intelligence sharing, training, technical cooperation and provision of equip-

ment and armament," he said.

"So that is the area of cooperation, where we allow the international community to help us and support us because that facilitates our war on terror."

Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked militancy has intensified in the tribal areas since Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf ordered troops to crush an uprising at a radical mosque in Islamabad in July.

Hundreds of Islamist militants attacked and captured a Pakistani paramilitary fort near the Afghan border on Wednesday, leaving seven troops and up to 50 rebels dead, the army said.

Female bomber kills 8 in Iraq

AP, Baghdad

A woman wearing a suicide vest blew herself up near a popular market and a Shia mosque in restive Diyala province north of the capital Wednesday, killing eight civilians and wounding seven others, police said.

The attack took place in Khan Bani Saad, a town nine miles south of Baqouba, Diyala's provincial capital. Police spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to release information to the media.

The province has defied the trend toward lower violence over the past six months in Baghdad and much of central Iraq. Insurgents who were pushed out of the western province of Anbar and out of Baghdad have

shifted their operations into the farming region of palm and citrus groves, where Shia and Sunni communities press up next to each other as if on a checkerboard.

Diyala has been a major focus of a nationwide campaign the US military launched last week against al-Qaeda in Iraq and other extremists. Six US soldiers were killed and four were wounded as they searched a booby-trapped house in Diyala just days into the military operation.

At least 273 civilians were slain in Diyala last month, compared to at least 213 in June, according to an Associated Press count. Over the same span, monthly civilian deaths in Baghdad dropped from at least 838 to at least 182.

But after several months of relative quiet in Baghdad, fighters

believed allied with Iran have resumed mortar and rocket attacks, with several big blasts heard shortly after dawn on Wednesday as well as a few more later in the morning.

On Tuesday, at least five mortars crashed into the fortified Green Zone, site of the American Embassy and Iraqi government on Tuesday night, not long after Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice held a news conference after making an unannounced visit.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

সমুদ্র পরিবহন অধিদপ্তর
১৪১-১৪৩, মতিঝিল বা/এ
ঢাকা

নং: শিপিং/০৩৮/প্রশিক্ষক নিয়োগ/৯৯/অংশ-৭/১৯১

তারিখ: ১৪-০১-০৮ইং

জরুরি নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

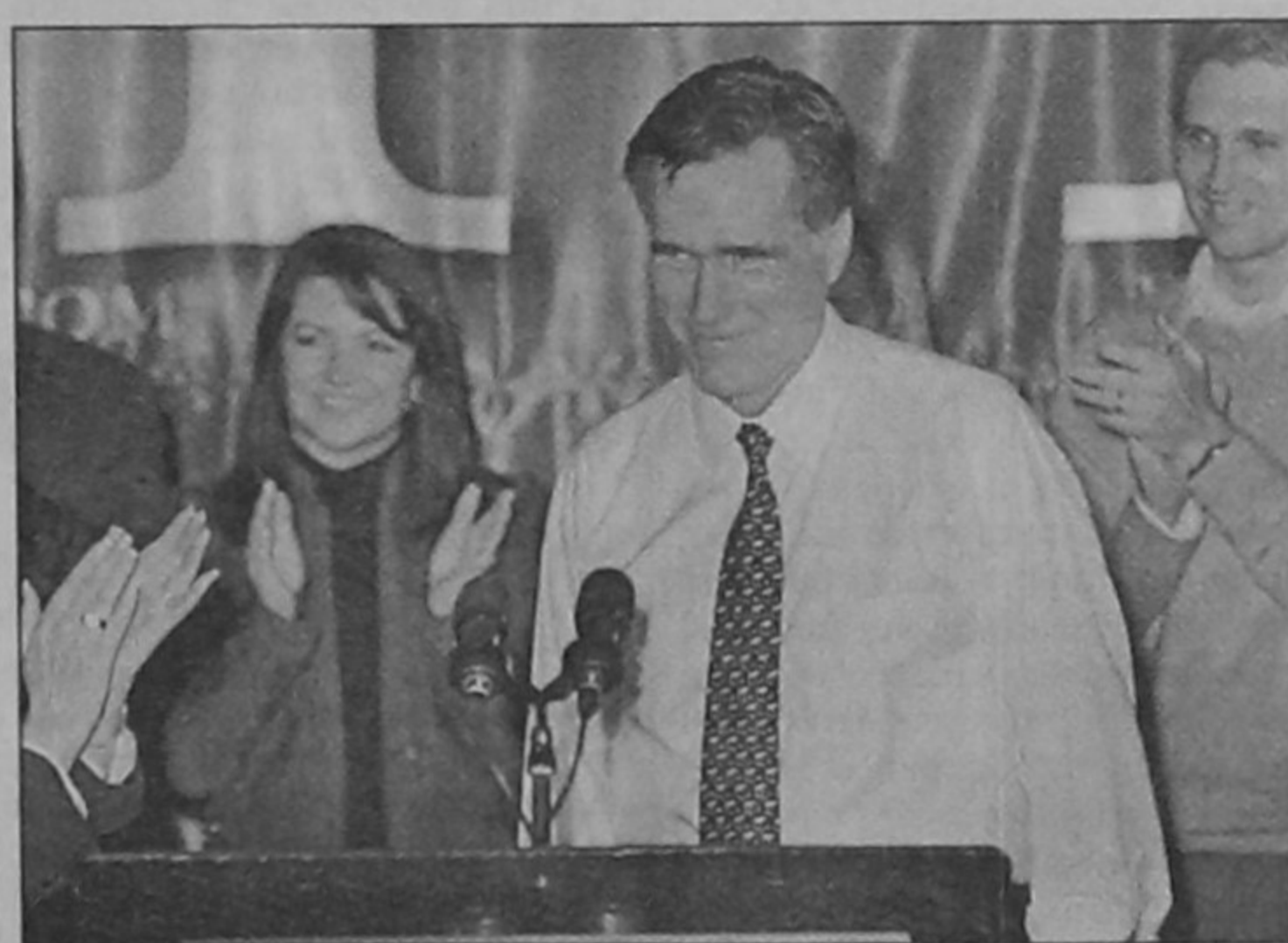
১। নৌ-পরিবহন মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীনস্থ মেরিন একাডেমী, চট্টগ্রাম এর নিম্নলিখিত পদে অস্থায়ীভাবে চুক্তিভিত্তিক নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের মধ্যে থেকে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে:

পদের নাম	পদের সংখ্যা	নির্ধারিত বেতন সর্বসাকুল্যে (মাসিক)	চুক্তিভিত্তিক নিয়োগের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
(১)	(২)	(৩)	(৪)	(৫)
নৌ-প্রশিক্ষক (Nautical Instructor)	০২	টাকা ৩৪,০০০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৬০ বৎসর	(১) বাংলাদেশ কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত মাস্টার মেরিনার সার্টিফিকেট এবং মেরিন ডিসিপ্লিনে যে কোন ডিগ্রিসহ বা সমমানের সার্টিফিকেট ও ডিগ্রিসহ বিদেশগামী জাহাজে নায়ক (ক্যাপ্টেন) হিসাবে কমপক্ষে ২ বৎসরের চাকুরী; অথবা (২) বাংলাদেশ কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত মাস্টার মেরিনার সার্টিফিকেট বা সমমানের সার্টিফিকেটসহ সার্টিফিকেট প্রাপ্তির পর ৩ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা তন্মধ্যে বিদেশগামী জাহাজে নায়ক (ক্যাপ্টেন) হিসাবে কমপক্ষে ২ বৎসরের চাকুরী; অথবা (৩) বাংলাদেশ কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীর ডেক যোগ্যতা সনদসহ ৫ বৎসরের চাকুরী।
প্রকৌশলী প্রশিক্ষক (Engineering Instructor)	০১	টাকা ৩৪,০০০/-	অনুর্ধ্ব ৬০ বৎসর	(১) বাংলাদেশ কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত প্রথম শ্রেণীর প্রকৌশল সার্টিফিকেট এবং মেরিন ডিসিপ্লিনে যে কোন ডিগ্রি বা সমমানের সার্টিফিকেট বা ডিগ্রিসহ বিদেশগামী জাহাজে প্রধান প্রকৌশলী হিসাবে কমপক্ষে ২ বৎসরের চাকুরী; অথবা (২) বাংলাদেশ কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত প্রথম শ্রেণীর মেরিন প্রকৌশলী বা সমমানের সার্টিফিকেটসহ সার্টিফিকেট প্রাপ্তির পর ৩ বৎসরের অভিজ্ঞতা, তন্মধ্যে বিদেশগামী জাহাজে প্রধান প্রকৌশলী হিসাবে কমপক্ষে ২ বৎসরের চাকুরী; অথবা (৩) বাংলাদেশ কর্তৃক স্বীকৃত দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণীর মেরিন প্রকৌশল বা সমমানের সার্টিফিকেট (মোটরসহ) সহ ৫ বৎসরের চাকুরী।

- ২। পদটির চুক্তিভিত্তিক নিয়োগের সময়সীমা : ক) ২ (দুই) বৎসর;
খ) শারীরিকভাবে উপযুক্ত থাকা সাপেক্ষে ২০১০ সন পর্যন্ত নবায়নযোগ্য।
- ৩। জাতীয়তা : বাংলাদেশী।
- ৪। মহাপরিচালক, সমুদ্র পরিবহন অধিদপ্তর, ১৪১-১৪৩, মতিঝিল বা/এ (৮ম তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০ এর বরাবরে সাদা কাগজে (নাম, পিতার নাম, বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, ফোন, জাতীয়তা, জন্ম তারিখ, বয়স, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা) লিখিত দরখাস্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময় ২৭-০১-২০০৮ইং তারিখের মধ্যে প্রেরণ/জমা করতে হবে।
- ৫। চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীদেরকে তাদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন দাখিল করতে হবে।
- ৬। প্রার্থীকে অবশ্যই তাদের দরখাস্তের সাথে নিম্নোক্ত দলিলাদির সত্যায়িত কপি দাখিল করতে হবে-
(ক) সার্টিফিকেট অব কম্পিটেন্সি;
(খ) ৩ (তিন) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজ ছবি;
(গ) বয়স প্রমাণের জন্য এসএসসি/সমমানের পরীক্ষার সার্টিফিকেট;
(ঘ) সিভিসি এবং টেনিসমেনিয়ারাল;
(ঙ) বিপত্ন ৫ বৎসরের চাকুরীর বিবরণ।
- ৭। কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন আবেদনপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

তারিখ-২৬১

ক্যান্টন একেএম শফিকউল্লাহ
মহাপরিচালক (চলতি দায়িত্ব)



Republican presidential hopeful former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney addresses supporters during a post-primary results rally at the Embassy-Suites Hotel Tuesday in Southfield, Michigan, after winning the Michigan primary.

Romney keeps hopes alive as Democrats call truce in race row

AFP, Detroit

Republican Mitt Romney has revived his flickering White House hopes, powering to a Michigan primary victory as worries about the US economy increasingly define the 2008 election battle.

"Tonight marks the beginning of a comeback, a comeback for America," the former Massachusetts governor told cheering supporters after his win late Tuesday, which left the Republican presidential nomination race wide open.

"Only a week ago a win looked like it was impossible, but then you got out and told America what they needed to hear," the multi-millionaire Mormon businessman told some 300 delirious supporters, his wife Ann just next to him.

"Let's take this campaign to South Carolina and Nevada and Florida and all over the country, and let's take it all the way to the


White House."

Meanwhile, in the unpredictable Democratic battle, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama came together for a face-to-face debate in gambling paradise Las Vegas, after carefully smoothing over a bitter race dispute.

Romney, who was born in Michigan, beat his nearest rival, Senator John McCain, by 39 percent to 30 percent, with ex-Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee coming in third with 16 percent of votes.

But with three different Republican winners in the three main nominating contests held so far in the roller-coaster White House race ahead of the November elections, everything was still left to play for.

"I think we've shown them we don't mind a fight. We don't mind a fight, and we're in it," McCain, a Vietnam war veteran who spent five and a half years as a prisoner of war, told supporters.



Institutionalising the Department of Women's Studies of University of Dhaka

An ISS-DU Collaborative Project

Job Opportunity

Applications are invited from Bangladeshi nationals for the following (project based) positions in the Department of Women and Gender Studies, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh.

- Professor (1)**
The applicant must be a renowned scholar in the field of gender and women's studies with PhD degree in Social Sciences. S/he must have original research based publications on gender and women's issues in the form of books and articles in journals at both home and abroad. Expertise in feminist studies, women's movement and women's development issues, as well as knowledge of developments in national and international field will be considered as added qualifications. The applicant must at least 15 years experience in teaching at university or similar institution of higher learning. Salary to be discussed.
- Associate Professor (2)**
Candidates must have high academic qualifications preferably a PhD or equivalent degree. They should have at least 7 years of teaching and research experience in a recognised university or Institute of Advanced Research. They should have original research work published in recognised journals. Candidates with higher degree and/or research and publications in women and gender studies will be given special consideration. Experience and performance as a teacher as well as significant contribution to different areas of university activities especially in guiding the overall educational and cocurricular activities of students will also be treated as qualification. Salary to be discussed.

Applicants should provide eight copies bio-data and full particulars in line with the qualification asked for all applications should be accompanied by passport size photographs, attested copies of all relevant certificates and testimonials etc. Incomplete application will not be considered. Any undue pressure will be considered as disqualification. Only those applications selected for interview will be individually notified. All applications are therefore requested to provide their present contact address (including telephone, e-mail, fax, if any). Applications must reach the office of the Chairperson, Department of Women and Gender Studies, 4th Floor, Arts Building, Dhaka University by 7 February 2008. The positions for which applications are submitted should be clearly marked on the top of envelop.

Ayesha Banu
Chair
Department of Women and Gender Studies
Dhaka University

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