

3 killed, 27 hurt in Philippine bomb blast

AFP, Manila

Three people were killed and 27 injured yesterday in a bomb blast in the southern Philippine city of General Santos, police said.

They said the bomb exploded outside the main gates of a tuna canning factory just after 7:00 pm (1100 GMT) as workers were leaving to go home.

"I can confirm three people were killed and 27 injured," city police chief Roberto Go told local reporters.

"The injured have been rushed to hospitals in the area," he said, adding the bomb was home-made.

Known as the tuna capital of the Philippines, General Santos, on the southern island of Mindanao, is home to some of the biggest tuna canning factories in Southeast Asia.

Police said they had not established a motive for the bombing. Local media described scenes of panic after the blast, with the dead and injured littering the street.

ABS-CBN television network said on its website that most of the victims were employees of the Philbest Canning factory who were changing shifts.

"Investigators said that the explosive may have been attached on a motorcycle parked just outside the factory," the website said.

Philbest Canning was not commenting on the bombing.

LTTE accuses govt troops of targeting civilians

Protest lodged with UN

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels yesterday lodged a formal protest with the United Nations alleging that security forces bombed a school bus and killed 18 civilians, mostly children, and accused them of targeting non-combatants.

Among those dead on the bus were 12 children between the ages of eight and 16, the head of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) political wing, B Nadesan said in a letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

A similar roadside bomb, packed with steel balls, hit a minibus in November wounding six children, the rebels alleged.

The Tigers also accused the Sri Lankan air force of dropping bombs on villages in the rebel-held areas in the north, killing and wounding scores of civilians.

"Since the present president of Sri Lanka took office in November 2005, 2,056 Tamil civilians, including 132 Tamil children, have been massacred by Sri Lankan state forces," Nadesan said.

Iran vows to win nuclear tussle with West

AFP, Tehran

A defiant President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said yesterday that Tehran was close to its target of producing nuclear energy and launched a new tirade against Israel as world powers seek to impose new sanctions on Iran.

"The nuclear issue was the most important challenge since the (1979 Islamic) revolution but with the help of God and your resistance, it is ending in favour of the Iranian nation," Ahmadinejad told cheering crowds.

"We are moving towards the summit on the nuclear path," he said.

"Iranians... will not back down one iota in defence of their rights," he said in a speech in Bushehr, the site of Iran's first nuclear power plant which Tehran said on Wednesday is to be commissioned in October.

Iran has been slapped with two sets of UN sanctions for its refusal to halt uranium enrichment and a third package is currently being



President Ahmadinejad

considered by the Security Council. The West fears that Iran is using its nuclear drive to try to build atomic weapons, a charge Tehran has consistently denied, saying it is aimed at generating electricity.

Uranium enrichment is a process which makes nuclear fuel but can also be diverted to produce the fissile core of atomic bombs.

The Security Council on Monday held informal talks on a third sanctions resolution, a draft of which was agreed by the five veto-wielding permanent members -- Britain, China, France,

Russia and United States -- plus Germany.

The proposed new measures include an outright travel ban by officials involved in Tehran's nuclear and missile programmes and inspections of shipments to and from Iran if there are suspicions of prohibited goods.

Ahmadinejad also renewed his verbal attack on arch-foe Israel, saying its days are numbered and predicting that the "filthy Zionist entity" will fall sooner or later.

Widely considered to be the Middle East's sole if undeclared nuclear power, Israel accuses the Islamic republic of trying to develop atomic weapons under the guise of its nuclear programme.

"I advise you to abandon the filthy Zionist entity which has reached the end of the line," Ahmadinejad told world powers of the Jewish state which Tehran does not recognise.

"It has lost its reason to be and will sooner or later fall," he predicted. "The ones who still support the criminal Zionists should know

that the occupiers' days are numbered."

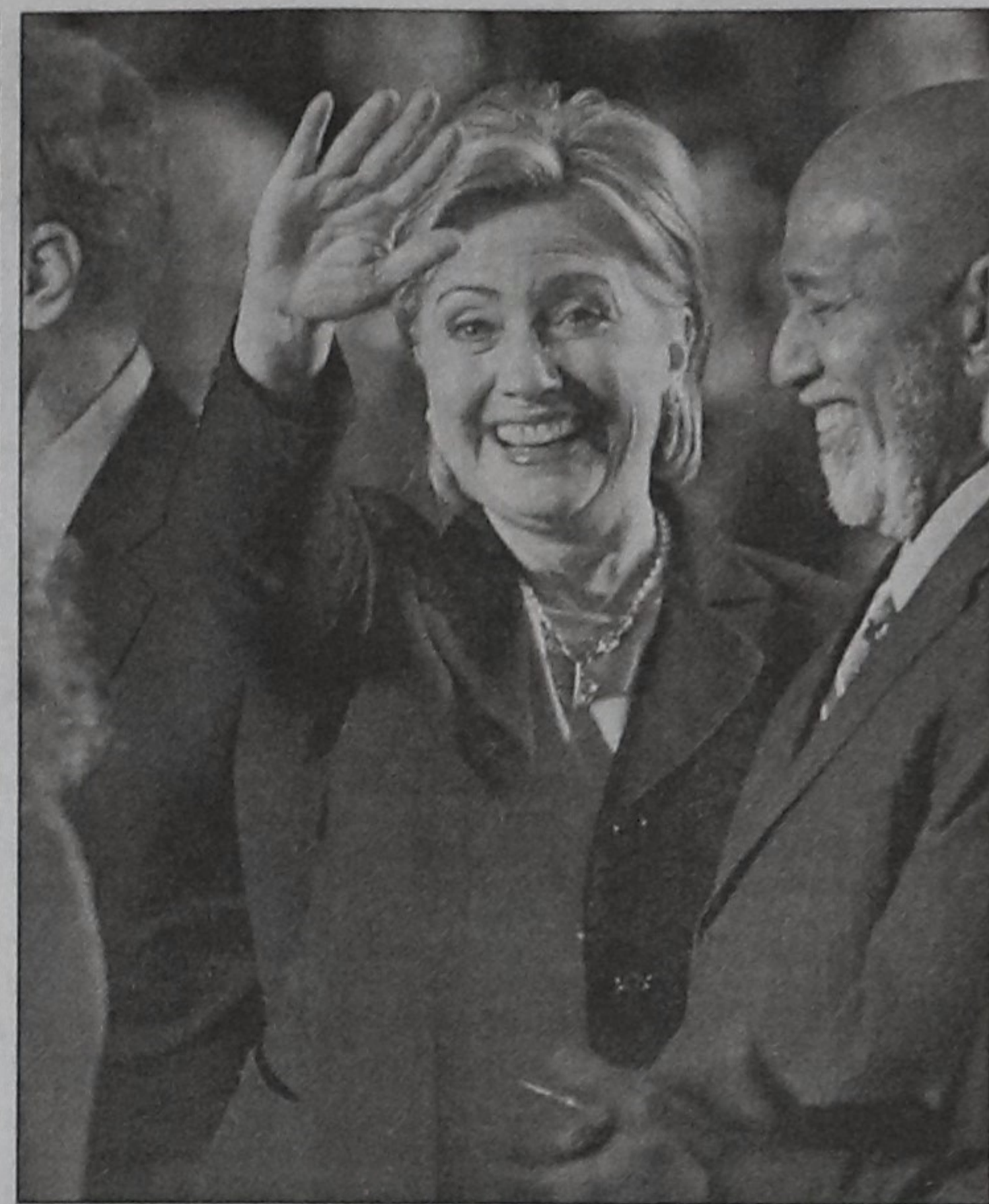
Israel has called for tougher sanctions on Tehran and its Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has said all options are on the table to prevent "an Iranian bomb."

Diplomats in New York, meanwhile, said approval of the sanctions package, presented to the council's 10 non-permanent members on Friday, was likely to take several weeks.

Iran insists the International Atomic Energy Agency, whose board of governors meets in March, will confirm that its nuclear activities have not deviated toward weapons development.

Despite a four-year probe into Tehran's atomic drive, the UN nuclear watchdog has so far been unable to certify whether it is peaceful.

But in January 13, the IAEA announced that Iran had agreed to clear up remaining questions on its nuclear programme -- including any military activity -- by mid-February.



New York Senator and Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton waves to supporters during a rally after winning the Florida primary on Tuesday at the Signature Grand Ballroom in Davie, Florida.

Suu Kyi not satisfied with her talks with junta: spokesman

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi said yesterday that she was "not satisfied" with her talks with the junta, a spokesman for her party said after meeting with her.

"Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is not satisfied with her meetings with the relations minister, mainly because there is no time frame" to the process, spokesman Nyan Win told reporters, using an honorific before her name.

The junta appointed Labour Minister Aung Kyi as a "relations minister" to coordinate contacts with the Nobel Peace Prize winner in the wake of a deadly crackdown on pro-democracy protests in September.

She met with him for the fifth time yesterday, but there is no schedule for future talks. She was also allowed to speak with Nyan Win and other top members of her National League for Democracy (NLD) party.

Nyan Win read out a statement from Aung San Suu Kyi, who told her supporters that she cherished their sacrifices.

"I always cherish the efforts of the NLD members. I ask you to remain united as a party," the statement said.

She also quoted her father, liberation hero Aung San, telling the public to "Hope for the best, and prepare for the worst."

"We have to be patient, as we have sacrificed for many years," she said in the statement.

"I don't want to give false hopes to the people. I will tell the people more when the time comes."

"So far we have not received any clear message from the government," she said.

15 dead in Shanghai boat collision

AFP, Shanghai

Fifteen people died and one was missing after two cargo vessels collided near Shanghai yesterday, causing one of them to sink, state media reported.

The collision occurred in pre-dawn darkness near the mouth of the Yangtze River, China's most heavily travelled waterway, Xinhua news agency said.

One person was rescued, the agency reported, offering no other details on the circumstances of the collision.

The sunken ship was hoisted out of the water as rescue operations continued, according to Xinhua.

It said local authorities had started an investigation into the cause of the accident.

Officials were not immediately available to comment.

W Bengal seeks foreign help in bird flu battle

AFP, Kolkata

India's bird-flu hit state of West Bengal appealed to New Delhi to allow the United States and China to come to its aid in battling the disease, an official said yesterday.

The deadly H5N1 strain of bird flu has now been found in 13 of 19 districts in the eastern Indian state of 80 million people since the outbreak began two weeks ago and bird deaths in new areas have been

reported in the last day.

"We need foreign help to stem the deadly virus, which is spreading at an alarming rate," said West Bengal animal resources minister Anisur Rahaman, who has also expressed fears the disease could soon show up in humans.

"I have urged the chief minister to have talks with the federal government so that we can approach the United States and China for help."

UNSC drops plans to adopt Gaza statement

AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council on Tuesday abandoned efforts to adopt a compromise statement on the crisis in the Gaza Strip after failing to reach consensus on last-minute amendments offered by Libya.

"Unfortunately, the Security Council has decided to stop the discussion on the issue," Libya's UN envoy Giadalla Etrahli, the council chair for this month, told reporters.

A week after the council began discussing a draft statement on the humanitarian crisis sparked by the crippling Israeli lockdown of Gaza, Etrahli said the 15 members realized that "they cannot reach a consensus."

He blamed the United States for rejecting amendments presented by Libya on behalf of Arab UN ambassadors.

The non-binding statement required the approval of all 15 members.

"We regret that the Council was not able to adopt a declaration," France's UN Ambassador Jean-Maurice Ripert said in a statement.

"It is even more regrettable that the Council was close to an agreement, which would have enabled us to react on the gravity of the situation and for the first time to condemn the increasing violence in particular terrorist attacks against Israel," he added.

Last Friday, 14 council members agreed on a compromise text that would have called for an end to the Israeli blockade of Gaza as well as to the rocket strikes on the Jewish state. But Etrahli then said he needed to consult with his government on how to proceed.

European leaders call for end to Kenya violence

Annan launches formal crisis talks

AFP, London

Five European leaders called Tuesday for an end to mounting violence in Kenya, saying the African country's leaders need to talk to each other "for the good of the Kenyan nation."

"We urge all leaders to act urgently to ensure the cycle of violence is quickly brought to an end and security is established for all Kenyans -- for the good of Kenya and the region," the European leaders said in a statement.

"We urge both sides to engage fully and constructively, in a spirit of compromise for the good of the Kenyan nation and the Kenyan people," the leaders of Britain, France, Germany, Italy and the European Commission said.

The call came after former United Nations chief Kofi Annan launched formal crisis talks between Kenya's president and main opposition leader on Tuesday as 22 died in fresh clashes stoked by the slaying of an opposition lawmaker.

"We fully support Kofi Annan's efforts, and those of (former Tanzanian president) Ben Mkapa and Graça Machel (wife of former South African president Nelson Mandela)," said the statement, issued after a mini-summit hosted by British premier Gordon Brown, focused on recent global financial turmoil.

"We call on Kenya's leaders to pursue this dialogue urgently, including in addressing the underlying issues -- as they have committed to do -- in order to resolve Kenya's problems and put in place the basis of governance that is

representative of the democratic will of the Kenyan people."

Speaking in Nairobi earlier, Annan said he hoped the immediate political issues could be resolved within four weeks and gave Kenya a year to resolve damage inflicted by a month of chaos in which almost 1,000 people have died.

The Kenyan crisis was triggered by disputed ballots which left a standoff between President Mwai Kibaki who claims he was re-elected and main opposition leader Raila Odinga.

Report from Nairobi adds: Kenyan police have been ordered to shoot to kill looters, arsonists, people carrying weapons or blocking roads, a commander said Wednesday, in a bid to stem violence sparked by disputed elections.

The order, made for the second

time since President Mwai Kibaki's widely-contested reelection last month, followed the formal launch of crisis talks between Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga, who claims he was robbed of the presidency.

It also came amid increasing international condemnation of the spiral of violence in which almost 1,000 people have died and more than a quarter million have been displaced.

There are four categories of people who will face tough police action: Those looting property, burning houses, carrying offensive weapons, barricading roads, the police commander told AFP, a day after military helicopters fired above ethnic fighting in the lakeside town of Naivasha, the latest flashpoint.



A supporter of Kenya's opposition leader Odinga Raila shows a sign near a burning tyre barricade in the Western Kenyan town of Kisumu on Tuesday.



A senior Pakistan Supreme Court lawyer shows a copy of a letter written by deposed chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry at a press conference in Islamabad yesterday. Pakistan's deposed chief justice attacked President Pervez Musharraf in a smuggled statement as an "extremist general" for keeping him and his family under detention

Pakistan pledges fair vote despite US fears

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's government is committed to free and fair elections, the foreign ministry said yesterday, following remarks by a top US diplomat that next month's vote could be tainted.

US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher Tuesday told a congressional hearing on Pakistan's February 18 elections that "some" fraud should be expected during polling.

Asked about Boucher's comments, foreign ministry spokesman Mohammad Sadiq told reporters that there was nothing to say about them as the government had already committed itself to hold fair elections.

"The government of Pakistan at the highest level has committed to the people of Pakistan that the elections will be free and fair."

Sadiq told a weekly briefing.

"And I think that is the most important commitment, the government of Pakistan will keep that commitment."

Opposition parties have accused President Pervez Musharraf's regime of trying to rig the vote, which has already been delayed by six weeks following the assassination of former premier Benazir Bhutto on December 27.

The credibility of the vote has further been cast into doubt by Musharraf's use of a state of emergency in November to seize a contested second term in office, sack hostile judges and impose harsh curbs on the media.

Unrest in the wake of Bhutto's killing and an ongoing wave of Islamic militancy have deepened the sense of crisis in the nuclear-armed nation of 160 million people.



An Indian boy sits next to portraits of 'father of the nation' Mahatma Gandhi, outside Rajghat after a function to mark his sixtieth death anniversary in New Delhi yesterday. Gandhi was shot dead by a Hindu hardliner on January 30, 1948 at a prayer meeting in New Delhi.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
 স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর
 সম্প্রসারিত টিকাদান কর্মসূচি (ইপিআই)
 মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।
 স্মারক নং বাঃ অবিঃ/ইপিআই/ GAVI-00৫/২০০৭/২৮৬
 তারিখঃ ২৮/০১/২০০৮ইং।
 নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের 'সম্প্রসারিত টিকাদান কর্মসূচি (ইপিআই)', স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা এর আওতাধীন সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) অর্থায়নের টিকাদান কার্যক্রম সৃষ্টি বাস্তবায়নের লক্ষ্যে ১২,০০০/- (বার হাজার) টাকা (প্রতিমাসে) সাকুল্যে বেতনে মার্চ পর্যায়ের ০৭ (সাত) টি গাড়ী চালক পদ পূরণের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হতে স্ব-হস্তে লিখিত দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা

- কম পক্ষে অষ্টম শ্রেণী পাশ হতে হবে;
- গাড়ী চালক হিসাবে কম পক্ষে ৫ (পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;
- হালকা যানবাহন চালানোর লাইসেন্স থাকতে হবে;
- লগ বই ব্যবহারের পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;
- গাড়ী চালানোর আইনগত নিয়ম কানুন সম্বন্ধে সম্যক ধারণা থাকতে হবে;
- প্রতিদিন তৈল, মবিল, পানি যাচাই সহ গাড়ী মেরামত ও রক্ষাবেক্ষণের জন্য বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে;
- বয়স অবশ্যই ২৫ হতে ৪০ বছরের মধ্যে হতে হবে;
- বিআরটিএ কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত যে কোন ড্রাইভিং স্কুল/কলেজ হতে গাড়ী চালক হিসেবে প্রশিক্ষণ সনদপত্র থাকা অতিরিক্ত যোগ্যতা হিসেবে গণ্য হবে।

আম্রী প্রার্থীদেরকে এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ২১ (একুশ) দিনের মধ্যে স্ব-হস্তে লিখিত আবেদন করতে হবে। আবেদন পত্রে নাম, পিতার নাম, বর্তমান ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা, মূল জেলা, জন্ম তারিখ, বয়স, জাতীয়তা, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা উল্লেখসহ "প্রোথাম ম্যানেজার, শিখ বাহা ও সীমিত প্রতিবেদক সেবা, ইপিআই সদর দপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২" বরাবরে ডাক যোগে অথবা সরাসরি অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ের মধ্যে জমা দিতে হবে। নির্ধারিত তারিখের পরে কোন আবেদন পত্র গ্রহণ যোগ্য হবে না। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, অভিজ্ঞতা ও সম্প্রতি তোলা ২ কপি (রবিন) পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি এবং ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স এর সত্যায়িত এবং চরিদপত্র সনদ পত্রের মূল কপি দরখাস্তের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে। সরকারী চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীদের অবশ্যই যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে দরখাস্ত করতে হবে। বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়স শিথিল যোগ্য, ইহা ছাড়া জেলা ভিত্তিক কোঠা অনুসরণ করা হবে। বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত পদের জন্য নিয়োগকৃত জনবল জনস্বার্থে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন সময় বাংলাদেশে যে কোন স্থানে বদলী করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন। স্বাক্ষরকারে উপস্থিত হওয়ার জন্য কোনরকম অমল জাতা ও আনুসঙ্গিক জাতা প্রয়োজ্য নহে। অসম্পূর্ণ দরখাস্ত বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। নির্ধারিত প্রার্থীদেরকে ৬ (ছয়) মাস পর্যবেক্ষণে থাকাকালীন সময়ের পর কাজের মূল্যায়নের ভিত্তিতে মোট ২ (দুই) বছরের জন্য নিয়োগ দেয়া হবে। যে কোন ধরণের সুপারিশ প্রার্থীর অযোগ্যতা বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

(ডাঃ মোঃ আব্দুল করিম মিয়া)
 প্রোথাম ম্যানেজার
 শিখ বাহা ও সীমিত প্রতিবেদক সেবা
 স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা।

BIRDEM
 (An Enterprise of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh)
 Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre
 122, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000

Employment Notice

Applications are invited from the citizen of Bangladesh for the following posts.

Sl#	Name of the post	Qualifications
01	Senior Consultant (Surgery) Pay Scale: Tk 16800-20700/-	1 MBBS or Equivalent and Registration with BMDC. 2 Five years experience in the relevant field as Consultant/Associate Professor with any of the following post-graduate degrees recognized by BMDC: Ph.D./D.Sc./D.Phil./FCPS/MS/FRCS or equivalent in relevant subject. 3. Five scientific publications in journals recognized by BMDC.
02	Deputy Director (Procurement) Pay scale: Tk 13750-19250/-	2nd class Master Degree with 2nd class Hons. with ten years experience or MBA with eight years experience in relevant field. In both cases four years service shall be in the equivalent post of Assst. Director in a large organization.
03	Senior Research Officer (Microbiology) Pay Scale: Tk 11000-17650/-	1. (a) MBBS from a recognized institution or an equivalent academic qualification as recognized by BMDC, and Registration with BMDC. (b) Any of the following postgraduate degree recognized by BMDC: Ph.D., D.Sc., D.Phil., FCPS, MD, MS, M.Sc., M.Phil. or equivalent in relevant subjects. (c) Preference will be given to candidates having teaching experience & publication.
04	Procurement Officer Pay Scale: Tk 6800-13090/-	2nd class Master Degree with five years experience in relevant field in a large organization.
05	Sub-Asstt-Engineer (Civil) Pay Scale: Tk 5100-10360/-	Diploma in Civil Engineering.

For all posts other allowances will be admissible in addition to pay scale mentioned. Age limit for serial 2-3 is 40 yrs and serial 4-5 is 30 yrs as on 30.06.2008. Applications to be submitted in prescribed form, obtainable from Room No. 208, BIRDEM, 122, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000, on all working days (from 9.00am to 12-30pm). The price of each application form is Tk 40/-.

Name of the applied post to be clearly written on the envelope. One copy of money receipt must be attached with the application form. The application along with required papers (as per instruction on the application form) should reach on or before 10.02.2008 either dropped in the box placed in front of Room # 230 or sent by post. Only shortlisted candidates will be called for interview. Incomplete applications may be rejected.

D-96 **Director General**