

Egypt closes border with Gaza

AP, Rafah

Egyptian troops closed the last breach in Egypt's border with the Gaza Strip on Sunday morning...

The troops were allowing Gazans and Egyptians to cross the border to return to their homes on the other side but prevented any new cross-border movement...

armoured personnel carriers and stood in sandbagged emplacements on nearby rooftops...

About 100 Egyptian police formed a human cordon at the border wall's main gate...

Three Palestinians tried to jump over the border wall to enter Egypt to retrieve some merchandise they had stored there...

Hamas militants blew up section of the Gaza-Egypt border wall

on Jan. 23 in an attempt to end a seven-month blockade imposed on Gaza by Israel with Egypt's cooperation...

Aisha Abu Jazar, a 65-year-old Egyptian woman who was waiting to leave Gaza on Sunday...

"I am so happy because I saw my children and I enjoyed the warmth of the family gathering with them after so many years..."

A senior Hamas leader said Saturday after meeting with

Egyptian officials that Egypt would close the border in coordination with the militant group...

But Mahmoud Zahar said the closure would be temporary while the Egyptians search for a way to reopen the border...

Any role for the Islamic militants on the border would be sure to anger the international community and Hamas' archival...



Egyptian and Hamas forces keep watch at the newly erected border fence between Egypt and the southern Gaza Strip town of Rafah...

34 dead in Rwanda after earthquake

AFP, Kigali

At least 34 people died Sunday in western Rwanda after a strong earthquake shook several countries in Africa's Great Lakes region...

Twenty people were killed "straight away when a church collapsed" in the Rusizi district of Southern Province...

Fourteen others were killed in Rusizi and Nyamweke districts and some 250 wounded were transported to various regional hospitals...

Public buses were used to transport the wounded, a witness in Rusizi district told AFP.

The epicentre of the quake, which struck at 0735 GMT and measured six on the open-ended Richter scale...

At least two people were killed and dozens injured in Bukavu, hospital sources said there.



PHOTO AFP

Handout photo released by the ECPAD/French Defence Ministry shows a group of French and foreign nationals being evacuated by the French army from Ndjamena Saturday...

Foreigners flee as more battle rocks Chad capital

AFP, Ndjamena

New heavy fighting rocked the Chad capital yesterday as rebels surrounded President Idriss Deby Itno in his palace...

With international aid organisations reporting bodies in the streets and looting in the capital...

French Defence Minister Herve Morin said the new fighting could be "crucial" in the battle for control of the former French colony in West Africa.

The rebel campaign has opened up a new conflict next to Sudan's strife torn Darfur region and the deployment of a planned European peacekeeping mission to Chad...

France airlifted 397 French, Germans, Belgians, Spanish, Portuguese, Egyptian and Armenian nationals out of Ndjamena in a series of night-time military flights...

About 560 foreigners were still at three emergency assembly points in the city, a top military official in Paris added...

Military sources said Chadian army helicopters had taken off from their airport base and attacked a rebel column attempting to make a breakthrough...

China, a major investor in Chad's growing oil industry, was organising an airlift for 210 Chinese and two Taiwan nationals to Cameroon...

But Deby refused a French offer to help him leave the country, though French officials insisted the offer would remain open.

France sent an extra 150 troops

to help with the evacuations and French President Nicolas Sarkozy broke off from celebrating his wedding on Saturday to twice telephone Deby.

No death toll from the fighting has been given but a UN security official said there were a lot of bodies in the streets...

Military sources said Chadian army helicopters had taken off from their airport base and attacked a rebel column attempting to make a breakthrough...

French Mirage jets were also flying over the city.

"We did not take the airport so as not to hinder the evacuation of foreign nationals and now the French army is letting these helicopters take off and attack us..."

Hillary, Obama virtually tied in new poll

AFP, Washington

Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama were virtually tied in their race for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination...

The Washington Post-ABC News poll has Clinton, the senator from New York, with 47 percent support against Obama...

The difference was within the poll's plus or minus four-point margin of error.

Neither Clinton nor Obama seem to have clearly benefited from Democrat John Edwards' dropping out of the campaign...

However, McCain, senator

from Arizona, had a commanding lead -- 48 percent against 24 percent -- over former Massachusetts governor Mitt Romney...

Former Arkansas governor Mike Huckabee is a distant third among Republicans with 16 percent...

The poll appears two days before "Super Tuesday", in which voters in 24 states cast ballots for their candidates ahead of each party's respective nominating convention.

Once formally nominated, the Democratic and Republican candidates will face off in the November 4 general election.

বিজ্ঞাপন চিত্র (TVC) ও বিলবোর্ড স্থাপনের জন্য প্রস্তাব আহ্বান

সোস্যাল ইনভেস্টমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর পক্ষে একটি হাইপ্রোফাইল বিজ্ঞাপন চিত্র (TVC) ও বিলবোর্ড স্থাপনের জন্য শুধুমাত্র খ্যাতনামা বিজ্ঞাপনী সংস্থাসমূহ থেকে প্রস্তাব আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

- প্রস্তাবদাতাগণকে নিম্নলিখিত শর্তাবলী পালন করতে হবে:
জনসম্মুখে স্বল্পতম সময়ে ব্যাংকের একটি সুন্দর চিত্র যাতে ফুটে উঠে তার ভিত্তিতে স্বল্প দৈর্ঘ্যের (আনুমানিক ৫০ সেকেন্ডের) একটি বিজ্ঞাপন চিত্র তৈরী করতে হবে।
পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতার বিবরণসহ কোম্পানী প্রোফাইল দাখিল করতে হবে।
ঢাকা ও তৎসংলগ্ন এলাকা, চট্টগ্রাম, বগুড়া, সিরাজগঞ্জ, রাজশাহী, সিলেট, খুলনা ইত্যাদি প্রনিধানযোগ্য স্থানে বিলবোর্ড স্থাপন করতে হবে।
প্রস্তাবের সঙ্গে হালনাগাদ টিন, ভ্যাট রেজিস্ট্রেশন, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ইত্যাদি দাখিল করতে হবে।
যাদের নামে সিটি কর্পোরেশন, পৌরসভা বা অন্য ভূমি মালিকদের অনুমতিপ্রাপ্ত আছে বিলবোর্ড স্থাপনের ক্ষেত্রে শুধু তাদের প্রস্তাবই গ্রহণযোগ্য।
বিলবোর্ড স্থাপনের প্রস্তাব প্যাকেজ আকারে বা খন্ড খন্ডভাবে হতে পারে।
যে কোন ধরনের তথ্যের জন্য ব্যাংকের জনসংযোগ বিভাগে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।
এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি কাজ পাওয়ার কোন নিশ্চয়তা প্রদান করে না।

Social Investment Bank Limited logo and contact information: 15 Dilkusha B/A, Dhaka-1000.

Millions battle for tickets as China struggles with weather

AFP, Guangzhou

Millions of Chinese workers battled for a precious train ticket home yesterday as authorities struggled to keep order here following a stampede for seats that left a woman trampled to death.

The savage winter snows and freezing temperatures that have brought much of the nation to a standstill have transformed the southern city of Guangzhou into a seething mass of frustrated humanity.

Hopelessly outnumbered, some 2,000 riot and army police fought to hold back crowds of hundreds of thousands of mainly migrant workers surging forward at the merest hint of an opening to a train platform.

For many, the Lunar New Year holiday is the only chance to escape to their families from their toil in the factories of southern China.

As Premier Wen Jiabao urged people to be brave amid the worst winter in 50 years, they waited exhausted and desperate amid growing piles of rubbish and human waste.

Li Kuochun, a 28-year-old trying to reach Hunan province, said people were pushing out of sheer frustration.

"I'm quite worried there will be a stampede," he said. "I just try to walk slowly but people keep pushing. You're squeezed between people and can hardly move or breathe."

5 women shot dead at Chicago store

AP, Tinley Park

A gunman fatally shot five women in a robbery at a store in a suburban Chicago strip mall before fleeing Saturday, leading police to sweep through neighbouring shops as terrified customers watched.

The victims, including at least one employee, were killed at a Lane Bryant clothing store at the Brookside Marketplace, police Chief Mike O'Connell said.

Officers found the victims at the back of the store after getting a 911 call around 10:45 am. Police said a bystander told them that a man came out of the store and gave them a description.

A global development firm based in the U.S. seeks qualified candidates for an anticipated donor-funded project in Bangladesh. This project seeks to promote and institutionalize an integrated protected area co-management system for sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation...

- Policy and Governance Coordinator
Sustainable Finance Specialist
Policy Analysis Specialist
Forestry Expert
Climate Change Expert
Wetlands Expert
Community Outreach Coordinator
Executive Training Coordinator
Curriculum Development Coordinator
Site Level Capacity Building Coordinator

TENDER NOTICE

INTERIOR WORKS DESIGN & BUILD For the NSU Campus @ Bashundhara

Sealed tenders are invited from specialized interior fit-out firms or joint ventures for the design and construction of interior fit-out Works for the following listed areas in North South University Campus at Bashundhara, Dhaka

- Foundation floor, Administration building
Office of the Vice Chancellor, Administration building
Syndicate Hall and Faculty lounge area, Administration building
Ground floor Lobby, Reception and Atrium space, Administration building
Students' Cafeteria, Ground Floor Podium

The intending bidders shall apply in their letterheads to the undersigned along with the following documents in support of their eligibility to obtain tender documents.

- 1) Attested copies of documents evidencing minimum 5 (five) years experience in interior fit-out works for reputed corporate offices, Shopping Mall, Hospital, University Campus, Air port or any high rise commercial building.
2) Attested copies of satisfactory completion certificates from the Employer for interior fit-out works of minimum Taka 1.0 crore in one single project in the last 3 years.
3) Attested copies of the up to date Trade License, Income Tax certificate and VAT registration certificate.

Tender document shall be available from the office of the undersigned on payment of non-refundable cash of Tk. 5,000 (Taka Five Thousand) between 4th February 2008 and 7th February 2008, and is to be submitted by 16.30 hours on 7th March 2008. A Pre-bid meeting shall be held on 9th Feb 2008 at 10.30 AM at the project site office in Bashundhara.

Project Director North South University, 12 Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka-1213. Bangladesh, Phone: 9885611-20

Candidates should send chronological CV and short cover letter to info@ipac-bangladesh.org by February 13, 2008. Final candidates will be contacted.