

American, Iraqi troops kill 38 militants

AP, Baghdad

American and Iraqi troops killed 38 militants in the fiercest clashes with militants in weeks in Baghdad, including 22 who attacked a military checkpoint in a Shia militia stronghold, the US military said Monday.

Suspected Shia extremists, apparently taking advantage of a sandstorm that blanketed the capital, attacked several checkpoints and hammered the US-protected Green Zone in the fiercest salvo in weeks on Sunday. The sandstorm had grounded the American aircraft that normally prowled for launching teams.

Attacks continued Monday morning as insurgents lobbed more rockets or mortar shells toward the Green Zone, which

houses the US embassy and much of the Iraqi government on the west side of the Tigris River, benefiting from continued limited visibility that gave cover to the launching teams. Alarms could be heard and the public address system in the area warned residents to take cover and stay away from windows.

The US Embassy on Monday confirmed the area was hit by indirect fire, the military's term for rocket or mortar attacks, and said there were "no reports of serious injury or deaths at this time."

The fighting escalated as anti-US cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, rejected terms set by the Iraqi government for lifting a crackdown against his Mahdi Army militia.

The clashes Sunday were concentrated in Sadr City, the stronghold of the Mahdi Army, where US

soldiers used Abrams main battle tanks to repel the attackers.

The American and Iraqi soldiers came under attack "by a large group of criminals," the US military said in a statement.

Fifty-eight people, including five children and eight women, were also injured in clashes in Sadr City since Sunday, local health officials said Monday.

On Sunday, the US military claimed success with operations that have effectively sealed off the southern section of Baghdad's Sadr City, a militia stronghold that is believed to be one of the prime launching sites for the Green Zone attacks.

The Green Zone has been regularly shelled since fighting broke out over a US-backed government crackdown against militias that began in late March. American

commanders have blamed what they call Iranian-backed Shia factions they say have broken with a cease-fire imposed by al-Sadr in late August.

On Sunday, al-Sadr's spokesman in the holy city of Najaf called the Shia-led government's terms for ceasing the crackdown against the militias "illogical."

Salah al-Obaidi accused Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, himself a Shia, of wanting to resolve the problem by force instead of dialogue. Chief among al-Maliki's demands announced Friday were that the militias surrender heavy weapons and hand over all wanted people.

Brig. Gen. Qassim al-Moussawi, the Iraqi military spokesman for Baghdad operations, on Sunday said the government would maintain the crackdown.

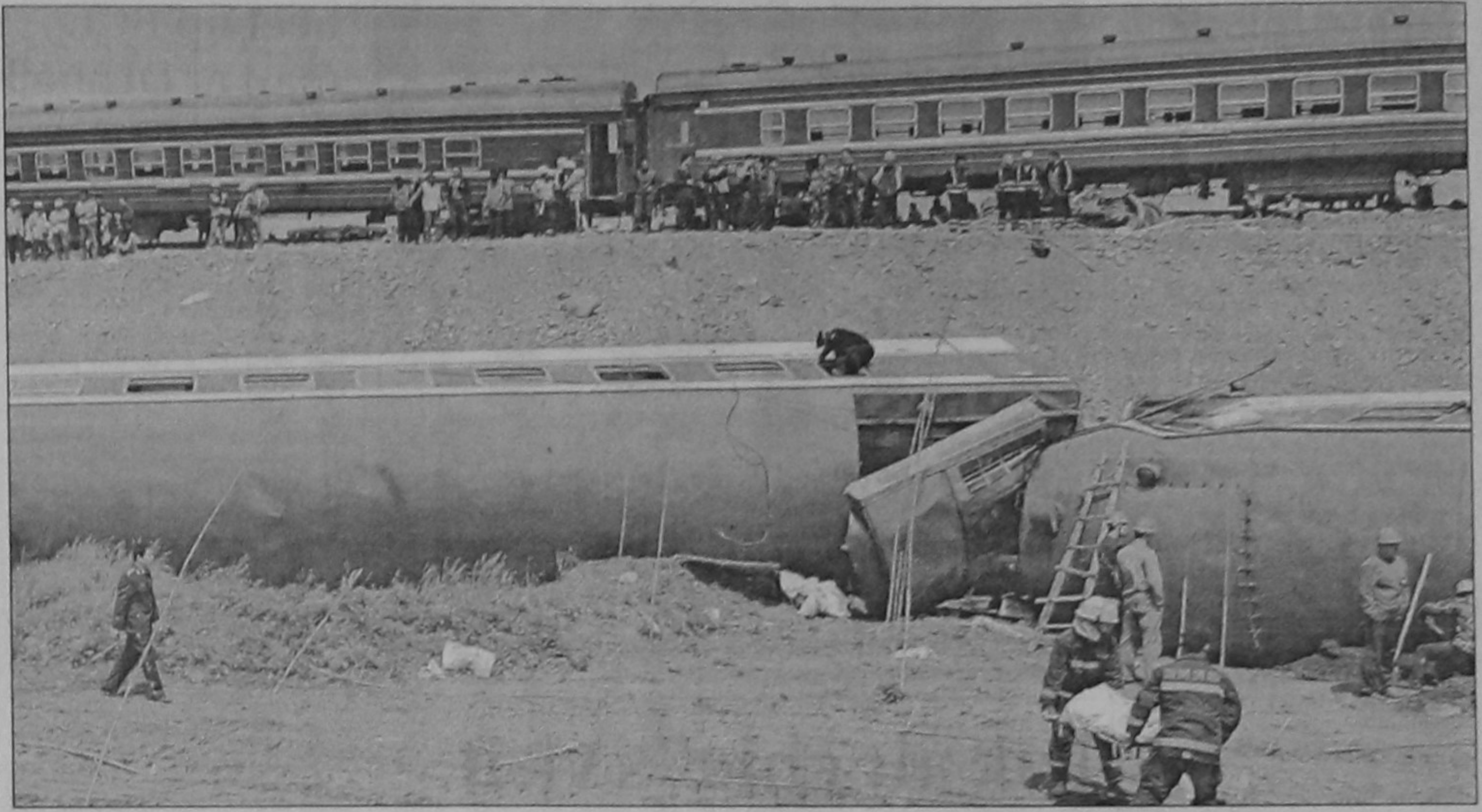


PHOTO: AFP

Rescuers work at the site where two trains collided in an early morning accident in Zibo in eastern China's Shandong province yesterday. At least 70 people were killed and nearly 250 injured when a passenger train from Beijing slammed into another train in eastern China.

Big bomb defused in Lanka

AFP, Colombo

A ball-bearing packed bomb capable of causing devastation was defused at a crowded bus station in northwestern Sri Lanka yesterday, just minutes before it had been set to explode, police said.

The device, equipped with a timer, was discovered in Galmuwa, 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of the capital Colombo.

Passengers alerted the police and the bomb was defused just in time," a police official said. "There were ball bearings packed into the bomb and they could have caused

a lot of casualties."

It was similar to a device which went off in an overcrowded bus on Friday just outside Colombo, killing 26 people and injuring 63. The attack was blamed by authorities on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

Meanwhile, Sri Lankan warplanes Monday bombed a building complex next to a rebel airstrip in guerrilla-held territory in the north, the defence ministry said, inflicting severe damages, but no details of casualties were given.

The air sorties came a day after LTTE separatists flew two light

fixed-wing planes which dropped three bombs on two military bases in the island's north-eastern Weli Oya region.

Sunday's pre-dawn air raid by the Tigers using Czech-built Zlin-143 aircraft came despite new anti-aircraft defences put up by the security forces. One soldier was injured in the attacks on sites used as ground troop bases.

Elsewhere, security forces killed seven LTTE combatants in ground battles in the northern district of Vavuniya on Sunday, the ministry said putting military losses at two soldiers dead and four wounded.

Hindus vow to protect Nepali king

AFP, Lucknow

Hardline Hindus have vowed an "armed struggle" to save Nepal's King Gyanendra from losing his throne after former Maoist rebels swept elections in the home of the world's last Hindu monarchy.

Dozens of Hindu leaders who met in northern India for the annual conference of the Kathmandu-based World Hindu Federation pledged to protect King Gyanendra "at all cost," a Hindu leader told AFP on Monday.

"He is worthy of worship by all Hindus and we will protect him and bring him back to power at all cost," said Yogi Kaushalendranath, head priest of the Devi Patan temple in Uttar Pradesh state where the weekend meeting took place.

"Ending the kingship is like defeating Hinduism."

The World Hindu Federation, which has close ties to fundamentalist Hindu groups in India, was founded in 1981 by Nepal's former King Birendra, who was slain in a 2001 palace massacre that wiped out much of the royal family.

King Gyanendra was enthroned after the death of his brother Birendra and the organisation, which says it has chapters in 100 countries, has called him the "emperor" of all Hindus.

Followers of the faith believe Nepal's monarch is an incarnation of Vishnu, the "preserver," one of the most revered Hindu deities.

Scores of Nepalis, including former army chief and federation head Bharat Keshar Singh, crossed the border to attend the meeting and to elect a new head -- also from the Himalayan country's royalist army.

The conference listened to a message from Nepal's King Gyanendra, whose hold on power has become increasingly tenuous in the wake of an upset victory by former Maoist rebels who have long called for a republic.

The Maoists, who fought a bloody insurgency that ended in 2006 with 13,000 dead, have won over a third of the seats in a new assembly that will draft a fresh constitution -- double the number of seats of their nearest rivals.

Last week, the former rebels reiterated their pledge to abolish the monarchy as soon as a new interim government sits.

But the Indian priest said Hindus could not allow that to happen.

"We cannot tolerate this and will start an armed struggle against the Maoists," he said, without providing details on what the groups planned to do.

Pak coalition leaders meet in Dubai to settle judges impasse

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani coalition leaders will hold crucial talks in Dubai yesterday to finalise a draft on the restoration of judges sacked by President Pervez Musharraf, party officials said.

Shahbaz Sharif, brother of former premier Nawaz Sharif will meet with Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of slain opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz party spokesman Siddiqui Farooq told AFP.

Zardari, who is in the Gulf emirate where his family lived for much of the previous decade, has already summoned law minister Farooq Naek to hammer out details of the plan which is to be endorsed by the parliament.

They will discuss a draft prepared by a committee of the coalition partners last week, the spokesman said.

The committee was set up after reaching an impasse last week over the reinstatement of

dozens of judges, including chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, who were deposed by Musharraf under a state of emergency in November.

Musharraf took the unprecedented decision when it appeared the Supreme Court was about to overturn his re-election as president in October.

The coalition partners who defeated Musharraf's political allies in February elections, signed a pact in March pledging to restore the judges within 30 days of the new government taking power.

The deadline expires at the end of this month, Farooq said adding that "we want to implement the pact in letter and spirit."

"We have full confidence in Zardari. He is a man of commitment," Farooq said amid speculation that Bhutto's party had some reservations.

Party insiders say the main division is over whether to leave Chaudhry out of the plan to restore the judges.

If the chief justice is restored

he could take up fresh challenges to Musharraf's position, risking further instability in the military-hit, nuclear-armed nation.

Another possibility is that he could also seek to overturn an amnesty deal made late last year that cleared Zardari of graft charges.

The deal allowed Bhutto and Zardari to return home from exile last year. Bhutto was assassinated in an attack in December.

New prime minister Yousaf Raza Gilani, a key aide of Bhutto, who freed Chaudhry and other judges from house arrest last month, reiterated on Sunday that all judges will be restored.

The judges issue has become very important and nobody can oppose their reinstatement," Farooq said. "Any deviation would be political suicide," he added.

He said if an accord is reached in Dubai the prime minister may ask Musharraf to convene the parliament to adopt a resolution on the issue.



PHOTO: AFP

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (2-L) walks with Pakistani Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani upon arrival at the Prime Minister's House in Islamabad yesterday. Ahmadinejad arrived in Pakistan for a brief visit to meet the country's new government and his Pakistani counterpart Pervez Musharraf.



PHOTO: AFP

Afghan President Hamid Karzai (R) and his Turkmenistan counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov leave after a press conference at the Presidential Palace in Kabul yesterday. Turkmenistan and Afghanistan signed deals on energy, transport and culture on Monday, days after agreeing with Pakistan and India to push forward a multi-billion-dollar gas pipeline.

US working to link subcontinent with Central Asia

THE DAWN, Washington

Pakistan and Afghanistan enjoy a pivotal role in US policies which also envisage India playing a key role in the region.

"Everybody (benefits) from India with a potential new source of energy and a place to export to, Pakistan, which becomes a logical port and hub for a lot of this trade," says US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher.

"Afghanistan, which becomes a transit point and contributor to the trade, or Central Asia which in addition to their ties to Russia, China, and Europe gets to open up another set of export routes and avenues," he added.

But a transcript titled "The year ahead in South and Central Asia" released at the weekend, acknowledges that this goal cannot be achieved unless there's stability in both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Interestingly, there is no mention of Iran, an oil-rich country with borders and influence in both South and Central Asia.


Boucher, however, does talk

about a US suggestion to Indian leaders that they should ask Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to abandon Iran's nuclear programme when he visits New Delhi on Tuesday.

Boucher also failed to mention the Iran-Pakistan-India gas project Mr Ahmadinejad hopes to finalise during his visit.

The US opposes any major investment in an Iranian project. Instead, Mr Boucher underlined US efforts to link Central and South Asia through Afghanistan. He pointed out that the US, Japan, China, the Asian Development Bank and others were building roads between Central and South Asia, including one that links the Kazakh city of Almaty to Karachi.

"That's new. That's different. That's good. And that's an opportunity," he said. The US, he said, was working with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan to develop electricity lines for Afghanistan and with Tajikistan to help bring electricity to Pakistan.



জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর

নাগরিক সেবাসনদ

- জনসাধারণের মধ্যে বিজ্ঞান সচেতনতা, বিজ্ঞান সাক্ষরতা ও বিজ্ঞান অনুরাগ সৃষ্টি করা।
- বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তিকে জনপ্রিয় করা এবং বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তির ইতিহাস তুলে ধরা। সে লক্ষ্যে ছাত্রছাত্রীদের মধ্যে বিজ্ঞান শিক্ষায় উৎসাহ সৃষ্টি করা।
- জাদুঘরে স্থায়ী প্রদর্শনীর মাধ্যমে বিজ্ঞান সচেতনতা সৃষ্টি করা। (বৃহস্পতিবার, শুক্রবার ও সরকার ঘোষিত ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত সকাল ১০-০০ টা থেকে বিকাল ০৫-০০ টা পর্যন্ত ৫ টাকা টিকিটের বিনিময়ে)
- বিজ্ঞান মেলা, বিজ্ঞান প্রদর্শনী এবং বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ক নানাবিধ প্রতিযোগিতার আয়োজন করা।
- শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের বিজ্ঞান শিক্ষার পরিপূরক হিসেবে কাজ করা।
- শিশু-কিশোর ও তরুণদের মধ্যে বিজ্ঞানধর্মী ও উদ্ভাবনমূলক কাজে উৎসাহ প্রদান করা।
- জাদুঘরের উন্নয়নে প্রদর্শনী বস্তুসমূহের সাহায্যে গবেষণামূলক কর্মকাণ্ডের ব্যবস্থা করা।
- বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তির বিভিন্ন বিষয়ে প্রকাশনার ব্যবস্থা করা।
- নিয়মিত বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি বিষয়ক জনপ্রিয় বক্তৃতা, ভিডিও-শো, সেমিনার ও সম্মেলনের ব্যবস্থা করা।
- মানব কল্যাণ ও সভ্যতার বিকাশে বিজ্ঞানী এবং বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তির অবদান জনসমক্ষে তুলে ধরা।
- দেশের নিবন্ধনকৃত বিজ্ঞান ক্লাবগুলোকে সাহায্য, সহযোগিতা ও উৎসাহ দান এবং তাদের পরস্পরের মধ্যে সমন্বয় সাধনের মাধ্যমে বিজ্ঞান আন্দোলনকে জোরদার করা।
- ছাত্রছাত্রীসহ শিক্ষানুরাগী পাঠকদের জন্য এ প্রতিষ্ঠানের গ্রন্থাগার ব্যবহারের সুযোগ দেয়া।
- জ্যোতির্বিজ্ঞানে আগ্রহ সৃষ্টির জন্য জাদুঘরে/আকাশ মেঘমুক্ত থাকা সাপেক্ষে ১০ টাকা দর্শনীর বিনিময়ে প্রতি শনিবার ও রবিবার সন্ধ্যা থেকে এবং বহিরাঙ্গণে টেলিস্কোপের সাহায্যে জ্যোতির্বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ক প্রদর্শনীর ব্যবস্থা করা।
- জাতীয় দিবসসমূহে আকাশ পর্যবেক্ষণের বিশেষ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ।

GD-2034

বাংলাদেশ কম্পিউটার কাউন্সিল

“৬৪টি জেলায় ১২৮টি শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানে কম্পিউটার প্রশিক্ষণ কর্মসূচী বাস্তবায়ন” প্রকল্প
বিসিসি ভবন, প্লট ই-১৪/এক্স, আগারগাঁও, শের-ই-বাংলা নগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭

Invitation for Tenders (Single Lot)

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

1	Ministry/Division:	Ministry of Science and Information & Communication Technology
2	Agency:	Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC)
3	Procuring Entity Name:	Implementation of Computer Training Programme in 128 Educational Institutions in 64 Districts
4	Procuring Entity Code:	Not used at present
5	Procuring Entity District:	Dhaka
6	Invitation For:	Goods
7	Invitation Ref No.:	বিসিসি/৬৪ জেলা-০৪/কম/২০০৭-৬০
8	Date:	28-April-2008

KEY INFORMATION

9	Procurement Method:	NCT, Open Tendering Method (OTM)
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FUNDING INFORMATION

10	Budget and Source of Funds:	Development Budget (GOB)
11	Development Partner:	N/A

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

12	Project/Programme Code:	2605-7000
13	Project/Programme Name:	Implementation of Computer Training Programme in 128 Educational Institutions in 64 Districts
14	Tender Package No.:	02 of FY 2007-08
15	Tender Package Name:	Supply of UPS & Voltage Stabilizer
16	Tender Publication Date:	28-April-2008
17	Tender Last Selling Date:	14-May-2008
18	Tender Closing Date and Time:	15-May-2008 at 3:00 PM
19	Tender Opening Date and Time:	15-May-2008 at 3:15 PM
20	Name & Addresses of the Offices:	<p>Selling Tender Document: CTP128EI Project Office, 3rd Floor, BCC Bhaban, E-14/X, Agargaon, Shere Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207</p> <p>Receiving Tender Document: CTP128EI Project Office, 3rd Floor, BCC Bhaban, E-14/X, Agargaon, Shere Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207</p> <p>Opening Tender Document: Conference Room, 3rd Floor, BCC Bhaban, E-14/X, Agargaon, Shere Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207</p>
21	Place/Date/Time of Pre-Tender Meeting (Optional):	N/A

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

22	Eligibility of Tenderer:	Renowned Manufacturer/Distributor/Agent
23	Brief Description of Goods or Works:	Supply of 388 nos. UPS (1000VA) & 96 nos. Voltage Stabilizer (1000VA)
24	Brief Description of Related Services:	N/A
25	Price of Tender Document:	Tk. 1000.00 (One Thousand) in cash (Non-Refundable)

26	Lot No.	Identification	Location	Security Amount (Tk.)	Completion Time
1		Supply of 388 nos. UPS (1000VA) & 96 nos. Voltage Stabilizer (1000VA)	District Level	60,000.00	4 weeks

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

27	Name of Official Inviting Tender:	Md. Sarwar Mostafa Chowdhury
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tender:	Project Director, CTP128EI
29	Address of Official Inviting Tender	BCC Bhaban, E-14/X, Agargaon, Shere Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
30	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tender	Phone: 8144792, Fax: 9124626

31 The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any/all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

BID-2056