

## Tigers kill 9 Lankan soldiers

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels yesterday claimed they had killed nine soldiers and repulsed an army advance in areas controlled by the guerrillas to the north of the island.

The pro-rebel, Tamilnet.com website reported that the army faced stiff resistance when it launched twin attacks to break through guerrilla-held areas in Mannar on Tuesday.

"An armoured personnel carrier was destroyed by an LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) mine, killing at least nine soldiers and wounding many," the website said, quoting rebel officials.

There was no immediate comment from the defence ministry, but the military accused the rebels of setting off a roadside mine in Vavuniya on Tuesday, killing two civilians.

Casualty figures cannot be independently verified, as the government prevents journalists and rights groups from travelling into rebel-held areas.

Fighting has intensified since the government in January pulled out of a six-year truce with the Tamil Tigers.

Tens of thousands have died since the rebels launched an armed struggle in 1972 to carve out an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the island's north and east.

## 11 hurt in Israeli raid in Gaza

AFP, Gaza City

Eleven Palestinians, including 10 Hamas fighters, were wounded during a pre-dawn incursion into the Gaza Strip by Israeli troops, Palestinian rescue workers and witnesses said.

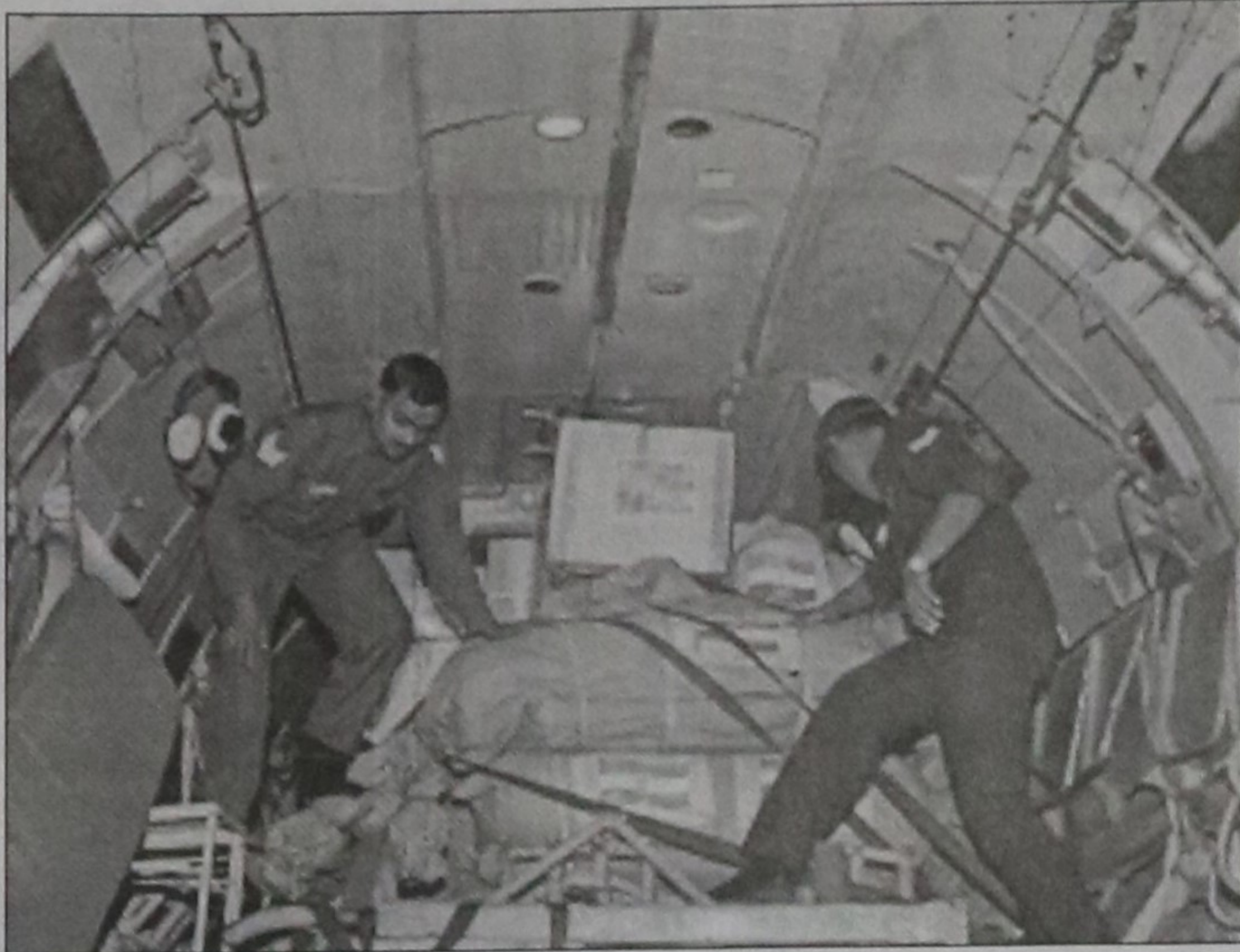
Israeli armoured vehicles and bulldozers, backed by a drone, entered the region east of the city of Khan Yunis in southern Gaza, they said.

The Palestinians were injured by Israeli fire and during two raids by the drone, one of which targeted a house containing armed men, they said.

Hamas, which seized control of Gaza nearly a year ago, confirmed that 10 of the wounded were fighters from the Islamist movement, and that they had fired mortars and rocket-propelled grenades at the Israeli forces.

An Israeli army spokeswoman said troops "had opened fire near Khan Yunis against armed Palestinians... The soldiers said that some of them had been hit."

She said she had no information on the reported air raids by the drones.



Indian air force officials load relief material for cyclone-affected Myanmar on board an aircraft in New Delhi yesterday. Many aid agencies are still awaiting travel visas to enter the country

# Myanmar's generals shun US aid, see risk to political power

AFP, Washington

Tsunami-hit Indonesia and earthquake-jolted Pakistan once risked a backlash from their predominantly Muslim populations and allowed in US military forces to help in relief operations. But cyclone-ravaged Myanmar's ruling military junta is suspicious of any US aid.

As the cyclone's official death toll soared to 22,000, two US Navy ships are standing by off Thailand awaiting the green light from the junta -- which may never come -- to enter the exclusive nation for evacuation and other critical relief activities.

The southeast Asian state's generals, worried any high profile international relief operations could threaten its iron clad rule, are reluctant to allow in the US military despite a hugely desperate need for help.

"The generals have a choice to make between helping the Burmese people -- who are in dire need of help -- or, out of fear of losing their total grip on power and spoils, effectively turning away international assistance," said Walter Lohman, a southeast Asia expert at the Washington-based Heritage Foundation.

"There could not be a more stark

choice than that," he said. "It illustrates the real human cost of the isolation the regime has brought about."

As Myanmar's military rulers laid out stringent conditions for foreign relief groups to get into the battered country, President George W. Bush told them Tuesday: "Let the United States come to help you, help the people."

Washington, which has imposed heavy sanctions on the regime, has emphasized that this should not hinder humanitarian aid -- citing the US response to a December 2003 earthquake that devastated Iran's southeast city of Bam.

Even as US response teams remained barred, the White House announced it would send three million dollars into Myanmar through response teams currently working out of Bangkok.

Myanmar's unbending response to the US offer to help was in stark contrast to that of Indonesia, where a tsunami in 2004 left 168,000 people dead and 600,000 people homeless, and of Pakistan, which was devastated by a powerful earthquake killing 74,000 people and displacing 3.5 million a year later.

The US military was welcomed despite the battered American

image in the two countries following the 2003 Iraq invasion.

Shaken by the tragedy just two months after taking power, Indonesia's first fully elected president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono gave the thumbs up to the United States to send its military relief juggernaut to the archipelago.

Before the disaster it would have been unthinkable for a US aircraft carrier to dock in Indonesia's waters, or US Marines to rub shoulders with troops from the world's most populous Muslim nation.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf also allowed American relief workers on the ground within 48 hours after the earthquake struck northwestern Pakistan and Kashmir.

The giant US military twin-rotor Chinook helicopters that plucked survivors to safety were welcomed as "angels of mercy" in Pakistan, where some militants had previously termed America the "Great Satan."

The irony is that unlike in Myanmar, where people are mostly pro-US, those in Indonesia and Pakistan were largely anti-American prior to the natural disasters that occurred, and the massive US aid partly restored Washington's image.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

# Cyclone could spark fresh protests in Myanmar

AFP, Bangkok

The junta's slow response to the death and destruction wrought by Cyclone Nargis and soaring prices for food and fuel could foment fresh unrest in military-run Myanmar, analysts say.

At least 22,000 people are dead and nearly twice as many missing, and aid workers are struggling to get visas to bring life-saving supplies into the country.

Food, water and fuel are scarce in storm-ravaged areas including the economic hub and former capital Yangon. Where they are available, prices are beyond the reach of most people in the impoverished country.

"The people I've talked to, they are angry," said Ruth Bradley-Jones, a political officer at the British embassy in Yangon.

"There is a general feeling of

anger that more could have been done both before and immediately after by the authorities to both prevent the extent of the damage in Yangon and to help clear it up in the immediate aftermath."

Sean Turnell, an expert on Myanmar's economy at Macquarie University in Australia, said there had been persistent rumours of renewed protests since street demonstrations were quashed in Yangon last September.

Those rallies were sparked by a rise in fuel prices. Now tripling costs and four-hour queues for food and petrol after the storm could prove to be a tipping point if inflation is not reined in, he said.

"People are going to be scrambling for basic survival. But I think beyond the immediate term... one would expect the anger to mount," he told AFP.

"(Unrest) is a real possibility,

particularly given the regime is almost completely out of goodwill because of the events of last year."

Myanmar is already one of the poorest countries in the world, with a succession of military juntas running the country's once-promising economy into disrepair since they seized power in 1962.

A crippling fuel price rise in August last year spurred protests against the military government which eventually snowballed to become the biggest challenge to junta rule in nearly two decades.

Up to 100,000 people, led by highly-revered Buddhist monks, poured onto the streets of Myanmar, sparking a violent crackdown by the military authorities.

At least 31 people were killed, the United Nations has said, while 700 people are still detained.

In a bid to placate an irate public, the junta in January announced

a freeze on oil prices, but limited the supply instead, analysts say.

Meanwhile, rice prices have risen around the globe. Myanmar had stood to benefit with export deals with Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, but now the cyclone has ravaged the nation's rice bowl and cast doubt on whether there will be enough rice for its own people.

Win Min, a Myanmar analyst attached to Chiang Mai University in Thailand, said the junta's decision to plough on with a referendum on its much-derided constitution despite the cyclone would also lose it goodwill.

Most of the balloting -- the first in Myanmar in 18 years -- will proceed as scheduled on Saturday, while voting in 47 townships worst hit by the cyclone will be postponed by two weeks.

"They focus on the referendum rather than the relief," he said.

## Buddhist monks clearing streets of cyclone-hit Yangon

AFP, Yangon

Hundreds of Buddhist monks were on the streets of Yangon yesterday helping residents clear roads of fallen trees and other debris caused by killer tropical cyclone Nargis.

The gathering of cinnamon-robed monks was one of the largest groups seen in Myanmar's main city since September when they led mass anti-government protests that were violently put down by security forces.

"We are now relying on monks to clear this road," said one middle-aged woman who lived in the neighbourhood of western Yangon.

"Of course we were hoping the authorities would come, but they haven't shown up yet. These monks came after the storm to help the people to clear the streets and to remove the trees," she told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisal from the military government.

The streets of Yangon are still strewn with hulking trees that were uprooted by the storm and thrown into cars and buildings. Chunks of roofs ripped off homes lie on the pavements, draped by downed power lines.

Witnesses have reported seeing few soldiers or police joining the relief effort after the weekend cyclone, which killed 22,000 and left 41,000 missing.

## Nine million Iranians illiterate: report

AFP, Tehran

Nine million Iranians cannot read or write out of a population of at least 71.5 million, a newspaper reported yesterday, quoting the state-run literacy organisation.

"At the moment, there are 9.45 million people who are completely illiterate in the country," the deputy head of the Literacy Movement Organisation, Parviz Kosari, was quoted as saying in the Kayan newspaper.

The organisation was set up after the 1979 Islamic revolution as the successor of other such bodies that already existed in Iran, in a bid to reach out to adults in remote areas deprived of regular education.

"The highest illiteracy rate is in the Sistan-Baluchestan province and Tehran has the highest literacy rate," Kosari said.

The southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan is one of the most deprived areas of the country, stricken by poverty and a lack of water.

The statistics underline that illiteracy remains an issue in Iran despite successive efforts by governments under the shah and then after the revolution to eradicate the problem.



A Lebanese soldier guards a position behind burning tires and burnt vehicles during a demonstration for wage increases in Beirut yesterday. Anti-riot police and the army were out in full force throughout the capital as protesters blocked roads and burned tires to press their demand for wage increases amid a tense political situation.

# Gorbachev fears new cold war over US missile shield

AFP, London

The United States risks starting a new cold war by proposing to build a missile shield in central and eastern Europe, former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev said in comments published here yesterday.

Washington claims that the anti-missile system for Poland and the Czech Republic is aimed exclusively at countering the threat from so-called "rogue states" like Iran, but Gorbachev said those assertions could not be trusted.

Instead he said the military build-up -- plus the eastward

expansion of NATO into Russia's traditional sphere of influence -- was aimed at containing a resurgent Russia, where Dmitry Medvedev is inaugurated as president Wednesday.

"The United States cannot tolerate anyone acting independently," he told the Daily Telegraph in an interview conducted in Paris. "Every US president has to have a war."

Ex-president Vladimir Putin, who will be Medvedev's prime minister, possibly with a role in directing Russian foreign policy, was "not going to start a war with the United States or any other

country for that matter", he added.

"Yet we see the United States approving a military budget and the defence secretary pledging to strengthen conventional forces because of the possibility of a war with China or Russia," he said.

"I sometimes have a feeling that the United States is going to wage war against the entire world."

Gorbachev's position stands at odds with recent comments by the Kremlin. It initially held the same view but has significantly softened opposition and now appears to be focusing on getting security guarantees.

## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST



### THE WORLD BANK

The World Bank is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from qualified consultants to undertake assignments "Baseline Survey for Secondary Education Quality and Access Enhancement Project". The task will involve a comprehensive child, household, community, and school-level baseline survey in a sample of upazilas before any changes in the existing project modalities takes place. This requires the services of a survey firm with considerable experience in conducting panel surveys - longitudinal surveys of same set of pupils, households, communities, and schools.

The World Bank invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services for this survey. Interested firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services. The firm will be selected based on Firm's Qualifications as set out in the World Bank Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants, May 2004, revised on October 2006.

For further information and online submission of Expression of Interest, please visit [wbgeconsultant.worldbank.org](http://wbgeconsultant.worldbank.org) for selection number 100016770. Last date for submission of this EOI is May 21, 2008.

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ICDDR,B invites applications from suitable candidates for the position of **Senior Medical Officer (Radiologist)** with the Dhaka Hospital under Executive Director's Division at Dhaka. Appointment will be made on a fixed-term basis for 1 year.

Salary - Annual Salary - Tk.-726,450/- inclusive of house rent and conveyance allowances with other admissible benefits.

**Benefits/facilities** -14.8% retirement fund contribution by the Centre, Children allowance @Tk.1,420/- per child per month, medical facilities for dependent spouse and children, free group life insurance, and subsidized transport, canteen and daycare facilities.

### Job Profile:

- Reports all plain films
- Performs USS/Echo and write reports
- Advise Medical staff on the significance and relevance of reports
- Deliver graduate medical education in radiology
- Supervise radiology technical staff
- Ensure appropriate standard of safety, quality and patient care
- Assist Hospital Administrator in improving the quality and range of radiology services
- Review requests for x-ray, ultrasound and other diagnostic imaging procedures and determine applicability of requested procedures

- Instruct radio logic personnel on desired techniques, positions and projections

### Requirement:

- MBBS Degree with DMRD or FCPS in Radiology and Imaging or equivalent
- 3 years experience as a Specialist Radiologist
- Must have registration as a Radiologist in Bangladesh
- Must be competent in x-ray, ultrasound and other diagnostic imaging procedures
- Must have an active role in a broad spectrum of diagnostic reporting including pediatrics

Interested candidates who fulfill the requirements should submit online applications using ICDDR,B website; however, candidates may also submit applications with bio-data detailing experience and other particulars along with a recent passport size photograph to **Manager, Human Resources, Box No. A-85, C/O. The Daily Star, 19, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215** by **May 14, 2008**. Internal candidates must mention their ID number in the application.

### Special information

ICDDR,B is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from women candidates. Any persuasion will disqualify the candidature. Only short listed candidates shall be invited for the interview. Please write the position applied for at the top of the envelope. Applicants who are interested to work on a part-time basis may also apply.

Visit ICDDR,B website on: [www.icddr.org](http://www.icddr.org)

## Career Opportunity

PeoplesTel, a well established PSTN operator is looking for some energetic, dynamic & experienced professionals for the following positions:

### GM (Sales & Marketing) - 04

- **Qualification:** Master degree in any discipline, preferably MBA (Major in Marketing).
- **Experience:** Minimum 10 years proven experience in the field of Sales & Marketing.
- **Age:** Not below 35 years.
- **DGM (Sales & Marketing) - 04**
- **Qualification:** Master degree in any discipline, preferably MBA (Major in Marketing).
- **Experience:** Minimum 07 years proven experience in the same field.

### AGM (Sales & Marketing) - 08

- **Qualification:** Master degree in any discipline, preferably MBA (Major in Marketing).
- **Experience:** Minimum 05 years proven experience in the same field.
- **Age:** Not below 30 years

### Candidate Should Have

\* The quality to analyze customers need and design product to fulfill the market need in the competitive environment \* Personal connection to better place the company and its products \* Good knowledge and experience in supply and Chain Management system \* The ability to create honest and dedicated sales force and take accountability to achieve Company target. \* Must be highly motivated in supporting field sales team with documental support \* Ability to forecast market \* Good interpersonal & communication skill \* Must be a good administrator & perfect team player \* Ability to work under pressure \* Ability to manage critical situations and crisis \* Should have excellent knowledge over computer operation especially Windows, MS Word, Excel, Power point etc.

### Sales & Marketing Representative - 300

- **Qualification:** HSC/Graduate
- **Experience:** N/A. Preference will be given to experienced candidate in the same field.
- **Age:** 20-30 years.

### Remuneration: Negotiable

Only the devoted and ambitious candidates who want to build excellent career can apply with full confidence along with complete CV with 02 recent passport size photographs to appear Walk in Interview on May 13-17, 2008. Time for interview: Sales & Marketing Representative: 1000hrs - 1200hrs, AGM: 1200hrs - 1500hrs, DGM: 1500hrs - 1700hrs, GM: 1700hrs - 1900hrs.

N.B. In case of highly experienced candidate in the sales & marketing field qualification may be relaxed.



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