

Lankan military moves to take Tiger capital

Govt holds local polls

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka staged local elections under tight security yesterday as troops pushed deeper into Tamil Tiger territory, closing in on the rebel capital in the war-ravaged north, officials said.

Two out of the country's nine provinces cast ballots to elect new top local officials, without any incidents of violence reported, police said.

"We deployed about 25,000 men to guard polling booths and the reports so far suggest that the voting went off without any major



File photo shows Democratic vice presidential hopeful US Senator Joe Biden shakes hands with Gwyneth Navey, 8, of Florence, South Carolina on April 28, 2007, at the South Carolina Democratic Party Convention in Columbia, South Carolina. Democratic presidential hopeful Barack Obama yesterday named Biden as his vice presidential choice.

Biden, a national security veteran

AFP, Washington

Barack Obama's running mate, Senator Joseph Biden, 65, brings decades of national security experience to the Democratic White House ticket, an area where the presumptive nominee is seen as lacking.

As chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, the new vice presidential nominee has met many of the leading actors on the world stage, and is an outspoken critic of the Bush administration's foreign policy.

The Delaware Senator took the chance to flex his national security muscle in a just completed trip to Georgia, at the invitation of President Mikheil Saakashvili to discuss the still simmering showdown with Russia.

A Roman Catholic, with a no nonsense style, and an appeal to traditional grass roots Democrats, he will also appeal to working class

voters with whom Obama has had a hard time connecting.

claimed by the security forces, but the guerrillas earlier this week tacitly admitted the military was advancing into their areas.

The few international aid agencies operating inside rebel-held territory reported that over 112,000 people had been driven out of their homes as a result of fighting over the past two months.

President Mahinda Rajapakse announced Tuesday that troops were on a final push to dismantle the LTTE's de facto state in the north after the military ejected the rebels from the east in July 2007.

Train catches fire after derailment in Oklahoma

AFP, Oklahoma City

A train derailment in central Oklahoma on Friday sent firefighters into the sky but caused no injuries.

Eight cars on the 110-car Burlington Northern Santa Fe train derailed, seven of which were carrying either crude oil or ethanol, company spokesman Joe Faust said. He said he didn't know how many of the derailed cars had caught on fire.

He said only two people - an engineer and a conductor - were aboard the train, and neither was injured.

The derailment occurred around 3 p.m., about 30 miles northeast of Oklahoma City, close to the town of Luther. The train was traveling less than 40 mph from Tulsa to Temple, Texas, on tracks operated by Stillwater Central Railroad. A call to the railroad's office went unanswered Friday afternoon.

Study finds new quake dangers for NY City

AP, White Plains

An analysis of recent earthquake activity around New York City has found that many small faults that were believed to be inactive could contribute to a major, disastrous earthquake.

The study also finds that a line of seismic activity comes within two miles of the Indian Point nuclear power plant, about 25 miles north of New York City. Another fault line near the plant was already known, so the findings suggest Indian Point is at an intersection of faults.

The study's authors, who work at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Observatory, acknowledge that the biggest earthquakes in the 6 or 7 magnitude range are rare in the New York City region. They say a quake of magnitude 7 probably comes about every 3,400 years.

Iraqi court sentences ex-minister to death

AFP, Baghdad

An Iraqi court has condemned to death in absentia a Sunni Arab former minister for his role in the murder of a fellow Sunni politician's two sons, the court's spokesman told AFP on Saturday.

Abdul Sattar al-Byrakdar said the Central Criminal Court of Iraq had on Wednesday handed down the verdict against Assad Kamal al-Hashemi, former Iraqi minister for culture, for assassinating Mithal Alusi's sons in 2005.

Hashemi, a lawmaker with the main Sunni bloc the National Concord Front was tried in absentia. His whereabouts have been unknown since he fled Baghdad in June last year.



Georgians protest next to trenches left by Russian soldiers during a pro-Georgian demonstration near the port town of Poti yesterday. Russian forces were still deployed deep inside Georgia but Moscow brushed aside Western accusations it was failing to obey the terms of a ceasefire agreement.

Russia aims to keep control of Georgian port city

AP, Gori

A top Russian general yesterday said his country's forces will continue to patrol a main Georgian Black Sea port city even though it lies outside the 'security zones' where Russia claims it has the right to station soldiers on Georgian territory.

The statement by deputy head of the general staff Col-Gen Anatoly Nogovitsyn, reported by Russian news agencies, came a day after Russia said it had pulled back forces from Georgia in accordance with a cease-fire agreement that

US, N Korea hold talks to break nuclear impasse

AFP, New York

The United States and North Korea held talks Friday to break a deadlock over measures to verify Pyongyang's nuclear weapons programme that could pave the way for removing the 'hardline' communist state from a terrorism blacklist.

The talks in New York between Sung Kim, the State Department's top Korea expert, and North Korean officials were a follow-up to a meeting held about three weeks ago in Beijing over verification of the North's nuclear programme declared in June, officials said.

"Obviously, they are going to talk about the six-party talks, obviously recent discussions about the verification package, which we have been calling on the North Koreans to produce," said State Department spokesman Robert Wood before the talks.

Asked whether Pyongyang was set to agree on a proposed verification protocol, Wood said Sung Kim was "going to assess where things are with North Korea in his conversations with North Korean officials."

Southeast University BBA Admission Test Result

The following students have qualified for admission into the BBA program of Southeast University for Fall 2008 on the basis of results of admission test (held on 20th August 2008):

82049, 82050, 82066, 82043, 82085, 82023, 82058, 82109, 82011, 82051, 82015, 82018, 82020, 82024, 82094, 82098, 82021, 82032, 82033, 82045, 82093, 82113, 82038, 82080, 82101, 82046, 82081, 82086, 82012, 82029, 82039, 82099, 82022, 82041, 82055, 82056, 82065, 82001, 82002, 82035, 82070, 82104, 82110, 82040, 82057, 82075, 82044, 82076, 82097, 82019, 82071, 82112, 82116, 82120, 82005, 82028, 82074, 82092, 82006, 82052, 82073, 82100, 82106, 82117, 82063, 82090, 82091, 82119, 82121, 82126, 82007, 82037, 82072, 82079, 82089, 82017, 82048, 82077, 82102, 82118, 82010, 82030, 82016, 82027, 82061, 82062, 82083, 82088, 82105, 82125, 82069, 82111, 82082, 82095, 82122, 82060, 82068, 82108, 82067, 82124.

Selected students are requested to contact the Admissions Office immediately and complete all formalities by 02nd September, 2008.

REGISTRAR



A Palestinian youth uses a sling shot to throw a stone at an Israeli armored vehicle after clashes broke out between protesters and security forces during a demonstration in the West Bank village of Nilin, near Ramallah, against Israel's separation barrier on Friday.

Congratulations **banglalink**TM on achieving **1 crore** customers

Being a strategic partner of **banglalink**TM, we are proud of its success and contribution towards the growth of the telecommunications sector in Bangladesh.

Sumitomo Corporation

NEC
Empowered by Innovation