

2 CAMBODIAN SOLDIERS KILLED

Fighting breaks out at Thai-Cambodia border

AP, AFP, Phnom Penh

Two Cambodian soldiers were killed and two injured, while five Thais were wounded when fighting broke out yesterday over a patch of land near the Thai-Cambodia border, officials on both sides said.

The armed clash resulted in two dead and two wounded on the Cambodian side, "Cambodian foreign minister Hor Namhong told foreign diplomats in Phnom Penh, in a meeting attended by media."

"On our side we have five soldiers wounded," Thai Lieutenant General Wiboonsak Neeparn, in charge of the border area, earlier told Thailand's Channel 3 television.

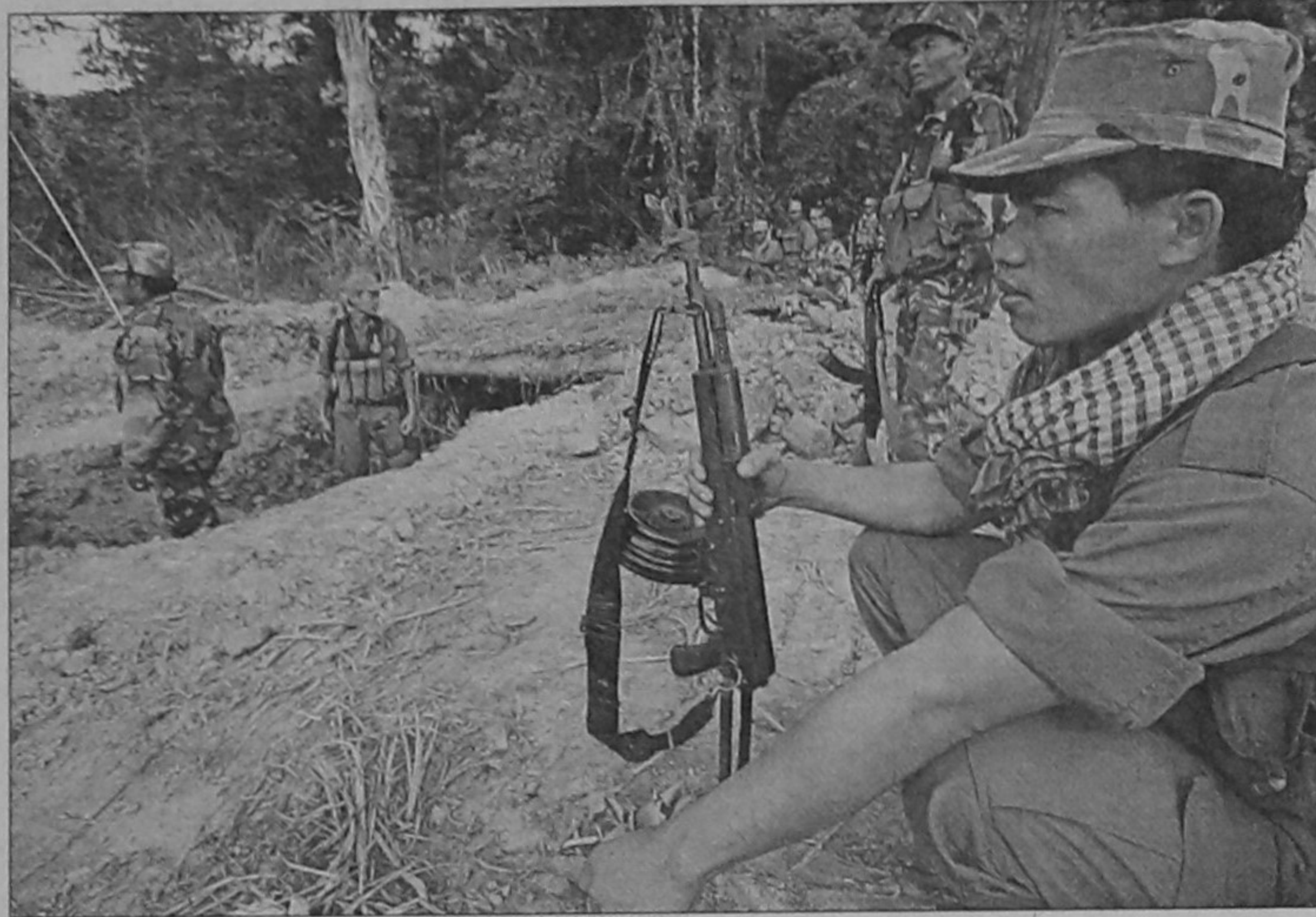
The gunfight broke out between Thai and Cambodian troops at a disputed border zone, escalating a conflict that officials from both sides fear could result in a war between the neighbors.

"Fighting is going on," said Maj Prum Saroun, a Cambodian police official. "Soldiers in the field say that Thai troops fired first and our troops fired back."

Thailand's army spokesman Sansern Kaewkumnerd said Cambodian troops fired the first shot.

The clash came a day after Cambodia's prime minister issued an ultimatum to Thailand to pull back its soldiers from disputed territory near the 11th century Preah Vihear temple.

Thailand's Foreign Ministry said it had prepared aircraft in case an order comes down to evacuate its citizens from Cambodia. There are an estimated 1,000 Thais in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh, and 500 in the city of Siem Reap.



Cambodian soldiers guard after a firefight broke out with Thai soldiers near Preah Vihear temple in Preah Vihear province, some 543 kilometers north of Phnom Penh yesterday. Thai and Cambodian troops exchanged fire along the border killing two Cambodian soldiers, officials said, as a dispute over land near an ancient temple turned deadly.

Earlier yesterday, Thailand put jet fighters on alert at air force bases nationwide and C-130 transport planes on standby at a base in the capital, Bangkok, to evacuate Thais living in the border area "if the tension escalates to a military confrontation," Thai air force official Group Capt Montol Satchukorn said.

Cambodia's deputy defense minister, Gen Neang Phat declined to say how many Cambodian troops had been deployed in the area.

The conflict is the latest flare-up

in a decades-long dispute over a contested stretch of jungle near the Preah Vihear temple. The World Court awarded the temple to Cambodia in 1962, but sovereignty over some surrounding land has never been clearly resolved.

Tensions flared July 15 after UNESCO, the UN agency, approved Cambodia's bid to have the Preah Vihear temple named a World Heritage Site, leading some in Thailand to fear that its claims over the nearby land would be undermined.

Cambodia deployed about 800

troops to the border after the UNESCO decision, and Thailand sent some 400 soldiers. Both sides pulled back most of their troops in late August, but passions flared again recently.

A brief gunfight broke out between the sides earlier this month, with one Cambodian and two Thai soldiers wounded. Both sides claimed the other fired first and blamed each other for being on the wrong side of the border. Three days later, two Thai soldiers lost legs when they stepped on land mines in the area.

Four die in Kashmir attacks

AFP, Srinagar

Two Indian soldiers and two Muslim militants were killed in separate attacks in revolt-hit Kashmir, police said Wednesday. The soldiers died in two separate ambushes by militants in southern Poonch and northern Baramulla districts late Tuesday, a police statement said.

It said soldiers retaliated in Poonch, killing two militant attackers while in Baramulla searches were on to track down militants.

The attacks came hours after India's election commission on Tuesday deferred state polls in the Kashmir region, which has been hit by a resurgence of protests against New Delhi's rule in recent months.

Kashmir has been ravaged by insurgency against Indian rule since 1989.

Bomb scare grounds plane in Pakistan

AFP, Karachi

A bomb scare forced a plane to make an unscheduled landing at Karachi airport in Pakistan yesterday after a passenger said he had found a threatening note in the toilet, officials said.

"According to the information we have received, a passenger went into the toilet and found a note and started shouting that there was a bomb on board," a Pakistan civil aviation official told AFP.

The Etihad Airlines flight was carrying 190 passengers and seven crew from Dubai to Islamabad when it was diverted.

Passengers were searched as they were taken off the plane, which was then searched by a bomb disposal team, but no explosives were found.

The plane was expected to resume its journey to Islamabad shortly.

Dalai lama hospitalised till weekend

AFP, New Delhi

Tibet's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, is to stay in hospital for several more days to undergo checks following keyhole surgery last week to remove gallstones, a doctor said yesterday.

"The Dalai Lama will be released not before Saturday as he prefers to stay here rather than check into a hotel and then report to us for periodic checks," a doctor from the Sir Ganga Ram hospital told AFP.

The 73-year-old underwent surgery on Friday after he was admitted to the New Delhi hospital with abdominal pain.

Melamine found in Thai milk

AFP, Bangkok

High levels of the industrial chemical melamine have been found in condensed milk produced in Thailand, the public health ministry said yesterday.

"Milk" has already been ordered off the shelves, it said, in the wake of a melamine scandal in China that has killed four children and sickened thousands.

"According to the Food and Drug Administration, yesterday tests showed there was a very high concentration of melamine found in a sample of Thai condensed milk made with palm oil," Deputy Public Health Minister Wicharn Meenchainan said in a statement.

S Korea urges N Korea to stick to disarmament

AP, Seoul

South Korea's chief nuclear negotiator urged North Korea yesterday to stick to its pledge to give up its atomic ambitions, as Pyongyang resumed a stalled disarmament process following a breakthrough deal with the United States.

The appeal came as Pyongyang ended a two-month boycott of the disarmament deal after the United States removed the communist regime from a terrorism blacklist as a reward.

"North Korea, which has been accused of repeatedly backing out of promises or demanding more than what it should get, can prove its denuclearization commitment only with actions, not with words," envoy Kim Sook said in an article in the mass-circulation Chosun Ilbo newspaper.

Later Wednesday, Kim told opposition lawmakers that North Korea has "commenced the disarmament work," but he did not elaborate, according to the main opposition Democratic Party.

Troops kill 70 Taliban in Afghanistan

AP, AFP, Kandahar

An Afghan government official said yesterday that international war planes had bombed a gathering of Taliban and other militants on the southern border with Pakistan and killed up to 70.

The International Security Assistance Force however could not immediately confirm its involvement in the strike and the separate US-led coalition said it was not involved.

Intelligence reports had indicated that a "big number" of militants, including Arabs and Pakistanis, had gathered in Bahram Chah in southern Helmand province, provincial government spokesman Daud Ahmadi told AFP.

The men were being watched by international troops who then sent in aircraft, he said.

"The foreign forces bombed the Taliban gathering overnight in Bahram Chah and killed up to 70 Taliban who were mostly foreign fighters," Ahmadi said.

The area, on the border with

Pakistan's Baluchistan region, is extremely remote and it was impossible to verify the account.

The vast province of Helmand is the main producer of illegal opium in Afghanistan, which produces more than 90 percent of the drug, according to the United States.

The border town of Bahram Chah has a drugs bazaar that is reputed to be one of the biggest in the country for the transit of opium and heroin into Pakistan and Iran, from where the drugs are smuggled to Europe.

It is also said to be a gateway into Afghanistan for militants and weapons for an Taliban-led insurgency against the Afghan government, which is backed by thousands of US, British and other international troops.

Ahmadi described it as place of "smuggling, drugs business and other illegal activities" and acknowledged that the government had no control of the area.

Meanwhile Taliban militants attacked police checkpoints ringing a key provincial capital in

southern Afghanistan for the second time in a week, sparking a battle in which 18 insurgents were killed, an official said yesterday.

The late Tuesday attack came only two days after hundreds of militants gathered on the horizon of Lashkar Gah for an apparent large-scale assault on the capital of Helmand province. NATO called in fighter aircraft and 60 militants were reported killed.

The second attempt on the capital of the world's largest opium producing region would appear to signal the Taliban's interest in disrupting a major government center.

Large-scale Taliban attacks on major Afghan towns have been rare since the 2001 US-led invasion, and the latest push on Lashkar Gah could be a worrying development for NATO and US-led troops. Fighting typically takes place in small villages and rural areas.

Tuesday's battle killed 18 militants and wounded three police, said provincial police chief Assadullah Sherzad.

Heavy fighting kills 49 rebels in Lanka

AP, Colombo

Government forces pounded rebel defences with airstrikes and ground assaults as heavy fighting across northern Sri Lanka killed 49 Tamil Tiger fighters and seven soldiers, the military said yesterday.

The new fighting came as soldiers closed in on the rebels' administrative capital of Kilinochchi in a campaign aimed at routing the guerrillas and ending a 25-year-old war that has killed more than 70,000 people.

Out of the newly reported battles, the worst took place Tuesday in Kilinochchi where 39 rebels and six soldiers died, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.

The army has said its forces are

about 1 mile from the outskirts of Kilinochchi.

Scattered battles in Vavuniya, Mannar and Mullaitivu killed 10 rebels and a soldier Tuesday, Nanayakkara said.

Air force jets yesterday bombed a group of rebels who were building an earthen embankment as a defense against advancing government forces in Mullaitivu, said air force spokesman Wing Commander Janaka Nanayakkara.

He said the attacks were successful, but details of damage and casualties were not immediately available.

With nearly all communications to the north severed, a rebel spokesman could not be contacted

for comment.

Independent verification of the military's claims is nearly impossible because most journalists are banned from the war zone. Both sides routinely exaggerate enemy losses and underreport their own.

Fighting has escalated in recent months, with the military capturing a series of rebel bases and large chunks of territory. Officials have pledged to crush the guerrillas by the end of the year.

The rebels have been fighting since 1983 to create an independent homeland for the country's ethnic minority Tamils, who have faced marginalisation by successive governments controlled by ethnic Sinhalese.

Indian Tamil MPs pressure govt over Sri Lanka 'atrocities'

AFP, Chennai

A group of MPs from southern India have threatened to quit unless the government intervenes to halt "atrocities" against fellow Tamils in nearby Sri Lanka.

The 38 deputies from Tamil Nadu are allies of India's ruling Congress party and their resignations could threaten the stability of the national government.

"If the government of India does not come forward to halt the war in Sri Lanka within two weeks, then the MPs from Tamil Nadu would be constrained to give up their posts," the deputies said in a statement issued late Tuesday.

It urged the government to take "immediate steps to stop the war ravaging the island nation for three decades and claiming several thousand lives including innocent children".

al-Qaeda's Iraq number two killed: US army

AFP, Baghdad

The US military said yesterday that a foreign insurgent killed in main northern Iraqi city of Mosul this month has been identified as Abu Qaswarah, al-Qaeda's number two in Iraq.

"Abu Qaswarah, also known as Abu Sara, was the al-Qaeda in Iraq senior leader of northern Iraq," a military statement said.

It said that Abu Qaswarah, a native of Morocco who was killed in a raid in Mosul on October 5, had ties to al-Qaeda in Iraq's founder Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was killed in a US air strike in Iraq in June 2006.

Azerbaijan goes to polls

AFP, Baku

Azerbaijan voted in a presidential election yesterday with incumbent Ilham Aliyev all but certain to maintain his family's long grip on power in the strategic oil-rich former Soviet republic.

Indeed the only suspense surrounding the vote is how Aliyev will navigate the increasingly choppy waters between Russia and the United States as they vie for the Caspian state's allegiance.

Leading opponents were boycotting the vote, accusing Azerbaijani authorities of persecuting the opposition, muzzling the media and fixing previous polls.

Pakistani troops kill 10 rebels linked to al-Qaeda

AP, AFP, Khar

Pakistani troops pounded militant hideouts in a tribal region near the Afghan border yesterday, killing at least 10 rebels with links to al-Qaeda and the Taliban, officials said.

Meanwhile, Pakistani lawmakers again gathered in the capital, Islamabad, for the latest round of a private briefing on the militant threat facing the US-allied country.

That threat is strongest in the northwest, where al-Qaeda and Taliban militants have established bases from which to plan attacks on American and NATO forces across the border in Afghanistan.

The attacks took place in the Bajaur tribal district, where Pakistani security forces launched a major offensive against Islamic fighters in August.

"Troops fired artillery and mor-

tars onto hideouts of rebels in Loisam, Rashakai, Chinar and Babra areas, killing 10 militants and wounding eight others," a security official told AFP.

There was no way to independently verify the toll.

The official also said a curfew was imposed yesterday in Khar, the main town in Bajaur, as part of the ongoing military operation.

All shops and offices were closed, the roads were empty, and all residents were ordered to remain indoors.

The military launched its offensive in early August in the Bajaur tribal region, which it has termed a "mega-sanctuary" for militants.

In other violence, militants fired rockets late Tuesday at a security post near Darra Adam Khel, another area of the northwest, killing two paramilitary troops and wounding three others, said Rashid Khan, a local

government official.

The troops responded with artillery fire, but it was unclear if there were any militant casualties.

The military said in late September that the fighting in Bajaur was some of the heaviest since Pakistan joined the US-led "war on terror."

It said more than 1,000 rebel fighters have been killed since it launched the offensive, including al-Qaeda's operational commander in the region, Egyptian Abu Saeed al-Masri.

Pakistan's tribal regions have been wracked by violence since thousands of Taliban and al-Qaeda rebels fled to the country after the US-led invasion of Afghanistan in late 2001.

Violence linked to Pakistan's role in the "war on terror" has claimed the lives of more than 1,300 people in suicide and bomb attacks in the past year.



US soldiers patrol the site of an explosion in a Christian market in Baghdad's Dora district yesterday. Two bombs exploded near a Sahwa (Awakening) building during a meeting between Sahwa members and Iraqi police.



PHOTO: AFP

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (L) embraces South African President Kgalema Motlanthe after a joint press conference and signing ceremony in New Delhi yesterday. Leaders from emerging economic powers India, South Africa and Brazil slammed rich nations over what they said is a self-made financial crisis. Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is hosting Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and South African President Kgalema Motlanthe for the third annual India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) conference in the Indian capital.



THE PEOPLE'S UNIVERSITY OF BANGLADESH

(Govt. Approved under the Private University Act, 1992)

3/2, Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications are invited from bonafide Bangladeshi Nationals for the following posts in the People's University of Bangladesh. The applicants must have the following qualifications and experiences:

Name of the Post	Qualification & Experience
Associate Professor (Accounting), Associate Professor (Finance) & Lecturer (Finance) for School of Business Administration.	Associate Professor: Qualification & Experience: Candidates should have 1st class in Hons. or in Masters degree and higher degree, foreign training in their respective discipline. Preference will be given to candidates having Ph.D or equivalent degree. The candidates must have at least 07 years teaching experience of which 03 years as Assistant Professor & 1 year as Associate Professor in any other accredited University home & abroad.
Associate Professor (English)	Assistant Professor: Qualification & Experience: Candidates must have 1st class in both Hons. and Masters in their respective discipline. Preference will be given to candidates having Ph.D or equivalent degree. The candidates must have 03 years teaching experience as Lecturer in any other accredited University home & abroad.
Lecturer, Hotel Management & Tourism.	Lecturer: Qualification & Experience: Candidates must have 1st class in both Hons. & Masters in their respective discipline. Preference will be given to candidates for all categories having publications in recognized foreign journals with academic qualification from any North American/European countries. No third class/3rd division at any level is acceptable.
Assistant Professor and Lecturer for Computer Science and Engineering.	Candidates must have B.Sc./Diploma in Computer Science & Engineering and 1 year experience in related field.
Lab Assistant for Computer Science and Engineering.	

Applications must reach to the Registrar, The People's University of Bangladesh, 3/2, Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207 by 30th October, 2008. Those who are in-service should apply through proper channel.

Registrar, PUB.