



People cheer as Democratic presidential nominee US Sen Barack Obama (D-IL) speaks during a campaign rally at Canton Civic Centre on Monday in Canton, Ohio. Obama continues to campaign with less than a week before the election on November 4.

## Obama, McCain battle to attract Hispanic voters

AFP, Washington

Some nine million US Hispanics are eligible to vote in the November 4 presidential election and both Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain are pulling out all the stops to gain their support.

Both campaigns have tried to forge a closer relationship with the country's largest minority group, especially in the key swing states of Florida, Nevada, Colorado and New Mexico -- places where the outcome could be determined.

Nationally, Latino support for the Republicans reached some 44 percent when President George W. Bush ran for re-election in 2004, when some 7.6 million Hispanics were eligible to vote.

Today only 23 percent of Hispanics support McCain, while

two-thirds support Obama, according to a recent Pew Hispanic Centre study.

Party loyalty in the swing states however is not always clear. "There are many Latino voters in these states," Jorge Mursulli, director of the advocacy group Democracia USA, told AFP. "What's more, one cannot firmly place these states in either the Republican or Democratic column."

Mursulli, who leads one of the largest voter registration drives in the country, said the Hispanic population has grown significantly over the past years in those four states.

In Florida, where both campaigns are spending heavily, polls show that Hispanic voters "will be very divided," Mursulli said.

Attitudes towards Cuba are expected to swing some voters.

Jorge Mas, the head of the fiercely anti-Castro Cuban American National Foundation (CANF) wrote a recent Washington Post opinion piece in which he described current US policy towards Cuba as "at best static and at worst counterproductive."

Obama's "forward-looking and proactive approach toward empowering the Cuban people is more in line" with proposals that he outlined "than John McCain's vow to continue the Bush administration's policy."

But like other voters, Hispanics are primarily concerned about the country's troubled economy, health care and education.

"That does not mean that people are no longer concerned about the war in Iraq," Mursulli said. "The issue of the war remains very high on the list of Latino priorities."

Immigration, however, "is the issue that sets Hispanics apart from the rest of the population," Mursulli said.

Immigration was debated during the primaries, but is so controversial it has been largely ignored by both candidates during the general election campaign.

Proposals to introduce immigration reform, both times supported by McCain, were defeated in the US Congress in 2006 and 2007 in the face of opposition from conservative Republicans.

Since the reform proposal failed, polls show Hispanics increasingly supporting the Democrats. The move coincides with an increase in high-profile roundups of undocumented workers, with thousands arrested by the federal authorities since December 2006.

## Alaska Republican Senator found guilty of corruption

AFP, Washington

Veteran Republican lawmaker Ted Stevens was convicted Monday of corruption charges, putting his once-secure US Senate seat in jeopardy and improving Democrats' chances of reaching the all-important political threshold of 60 seats in the chamber.

A US court on Monday found Stevens of Alaska, the longest serving Republican senator with some 40 years in the Senate, guilty of corruption one week before he is up for reelection in the narrowly-divided US Senate.

Stevens, 84, was convicted on all seven counts of making false statements on mandatory financial disclosure forms he filed between 1999 and 2006, a court source told AFP.

The Alaska senate seat, long considered safely Republican, now seems vulnerable: Democrats are banking on big gains in the Senate in the November 4 election, where five or six Republican seats in the 100 strong-chamber are likely to change hands.

## Peace talks in doubt as Israel prepares for polls

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli political parties yesterday launched talks to set a date for snap elections to replace scandal-plagued Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, with the Middle East peace process at a standstill.

Both Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni's centrist Kadima party and the right-wing Likud party of hawkish former premier Benjamin Netanyahu, the two frontrunners in the coming vote, favour holding elections as soon as possible.

Senior Kadima MP Tzachi Hanegbi told military radio that February 3 would be a "good date"

while the head of Likud's parliamentary bloc Gideon Saar said elections should be held "as soon as possible to minimise the interim period."

President Shimon Peres formally initiated the process of holding new elections on Monday after Livni, who last month was elected to succeed Olmert at the head of Kadima, failed to assemble a coalition to replace him.

MPs now have three weeks to agree on a date for the election, after which parliament will be automatically dissolved and a vote held three months later in February 2009.

A poll released Monday by Israel's mass-selling Yediot Aharonot newspaper said if the vote were held today Kadima would win the most seats with the Likud coming in second place and the centre-left Labour coming in a distant third.

Meanwhile two Israeli ministers called for a freeze on already stalled talks with Syria and the Palestinians until a new government is sworn in.

"(Negotiations) cannot advance during the election period with us and the United States," said Interior Minister and Kadima MP Meir Sheetrit.



A group of Sri Lankan activists burn an effigy of the rebel Tamil Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran in Colombo yesterday. The demonstrators urged neighbouring India to stay away from meddling in the government's military drive to crush the Tamil Tiger rebels.

## Heavy fighting on northern fronts in Lanka

Four ex-rebels killed

AP, Colombo

Government forces and Tamil Tiger separatists fought pitched battles in the rain and mud in a ring of villages outside the rebel administrative capital in northern Sri Lanka, the military said yesterday.

"Heavy clashes" broke out throughout the day Monday in the village of Pallawarankatu near rebel headquarters in Kilinochchi, the military said in a statement. Separate fighting erupted in the villages of Akkarakulam and Kakkavil.

The military did not provide casualty details in line with a new government policy, but said troops inflicted "heavy losses" on the rebels.

Fighting also broke out Monday in nearby Mullaitivu district, the

military said.

The government has vowed to destroy the rebel group by the end of the year and has pushed deep into the rebels' de facto state in the north in recent months. Several weeks ago, the military said it was just outside Kilinochchi and was poised to seize the town from the rebels.

Meanwhile, police said unidentified gunmen fatally shot four members of a pro-government militia in the volatile east Monday night.

The shooting took place at a political office of the Tamil Makkal Viduthala Pulikal near the town of Batticaloa, said police spokesman Ranjith Gunasekara.

The militia broke away from the Tamil Tigers and has formed an alliance with the government.

## Musharraf to face 'consequences' if he destabilises govt: PPP leader

PTI, Islamabad

Former president Pervez Musharraf will have to face "dire consequences" if he hatches any plan to destabilise Pakistan's new democratic government, a senior leader of the ruling Pakistan People's Party has said.

Raza Rabbani, the leader of the House in the Senate or upper House of Parliament, also warned Musharraf that if he planned to enter the political arena, he should be prepared to face the consequences of "constitutional and human rights crimes" committed by him.

Speaking in the Senate yesterday during a debate, Rabbani said there was speculation that some elements were striving to rehabilitate Musharraf politically.

"The decision given by the people of Pakistan (during the general election) on February 18 was not against the PML-Q but the policies of President Pervez Musharraf," Rabbani said.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

## Raid into Syria complicates Iraq's ties

AP, Baghdad

The deadly US raid into Syria may complicate efforts to win approval for a new US-Iraq security deal by drawing attention to a fact many Iraqis detest: that they can't control everything American forces might do.

Syrian officials say US troops and helicopters launched the raid Sunday inside Syrian territory close to the Iraqi border, killing eight people.

The US command in Baghdad

would not comment, but a US military official said American special forces targeted the network that smuggles fighters and weapons into Iraq. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the raid was classified.

In a sign of how sensitive such attacks can be for Iraq's government, Syria summoned the top Iraqi diplomat in Damascus and demanded that Iraq "shoulder its responsibilities" and prevent the use of Iraqi territory "for aggression against Syria."

That strikes at the heart of Iraqi criticism over the security agreement that Iraqis cannot take control of their own country so long as big US military forces remain on their soil.

The raid could also encourage Syria and Iran to step up pressure on Iraqi lawmakers to reject the deal. Parliament must approve the measure before the UN mandate expires Dec. 31, and Iraqi Shia lawmakers have expressed doubts the current version would pass.

## Soldiers, UN retreat as rebels advance in DR Congo

AP, Kilimanyoka

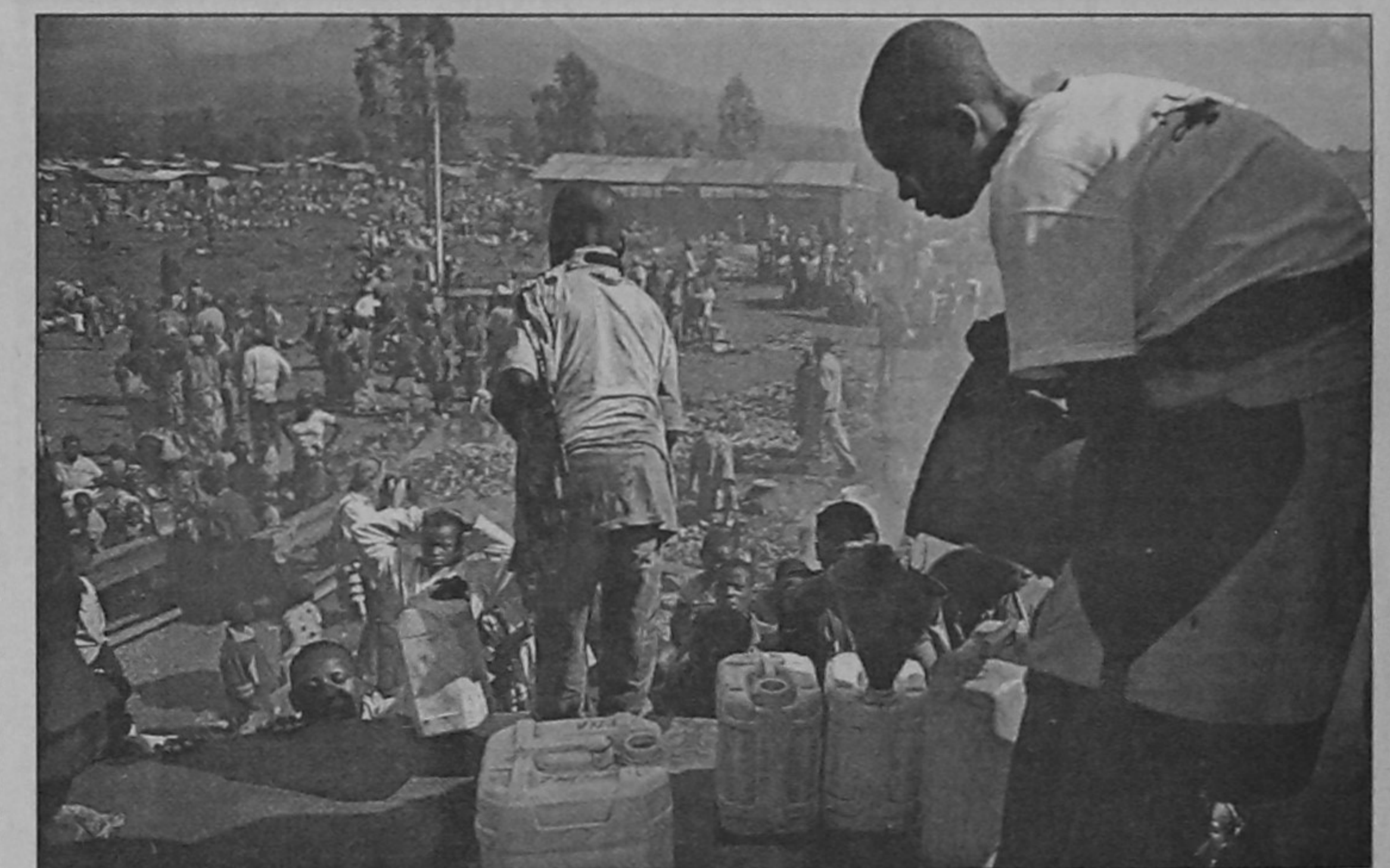
Congo rebels closed in relentlessly on the provincial capital of Goma on Tuesday, despite being attacked by UN peacekeepers in helicopters. Government troops scrambled, fleeing in tanks, trucks and on foot.

Adding to the melee, tens of thousands of civilians jammed the roads, fearing the rebel army that has a reputation for brutality. Many were carrying huge bundles of clothes, pots and bedding on their heads and swaddled infants on their chests. Even young children balanced sacks of food on their heads, walking along rutted roads in bare feet.

Thousands spent the night sleeping on the muddy ground, with no protection from tropical showers.

Peacekeepers in attack helicopters fired at the rebels Monday trying to stop them taking Kibumba, a village on the main road 30 miles (48 kilometers) north of Goma. But fleeing civilians say the fighters overran Kibumba anyway.

On Tuesday, a UN helicopter gunship patrolled the sky at Kilimanyoka, seven miles (12 kilometers) north of Goma. Rebel spokesman Bertrand Bisimwa said he expected the helicopters to soon attack their front line, which he said is within 20 kilometers (12 miles) of Goma.



A Democratic Republic of Congo man fills a container with potable water as they stay in an improvised Internally Displaced People (IDP) camp in Kibati, about 25km north of the provincial capital of Goma yesterday.

## Nepali PM vows to integrate ex-rebels

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's Maoist prime minister pledged on Tuesday to rehabilitate 19,000 former rebel fighters confined to UN-monitored camps since a 2006 peace deal.

After waging a bloody civil war for a decade, the Maoists gained power in landmark polls in April

and threw out the monarchy.

"A special committee has been established to reintegrate and rehabilitate the Maoist army," Prachanda told reporters.

The official Nepal Army -- seen as being close to the Himalayan country's deposed monarch -- has repeatedly said there was no place in its ranks for former guerrillas.

### LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH

HIGH COURT DIVISION

(ORIGINAL CIVIL JURISDICTION)

COMPANY MATTER NO. 23 OF 2007

An application under Section 59 read with Section 60 of the Companies Act, 1994

AND

IN THE MATTER OF:

Shahmowaz Khan Chowdhury

Managing Director

Ali Agri (Pvt) Ltd.

50/F, Inner Circular Road

V.P. Road, Dhaka.

-----Petitioner

-----VERSUS

The Registrar of Joint Stock Companies & Firms

-----Respondent

Notice is hereby given that an application under Section 59 read with Section 60 of the Companies Act, 1994 was moved in the High Court Division of Supreme Court of Bangladesh by the petitioner for confirmation of the Reduction of Share Capital of Ali Agri (Pvt) Ltd. Hon'ble Company Judge has admitted the said application on 12.02.2007 and fixed for hearing on 13.03.2007 and further Hon'ble Company Judge was pleased to extend the time on 16.10.2008 and fixed for hearing on 06.11.2008. Any person interested in the said application may appear on the date fixed for hearing either himself or through his Advocate. A copy of the said application may be obtained from the undersigned on payment of charges.

(Jashimuddin Ahmed)

Advocate

Supreme Court of Bangladesh.

Ga - 165/1, Mohakhali, Dhaka - 1212

**NATIONAL TUBES LIMITED**  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation)  
131-142 TONGI INDUSTRIAL AREA  
GAZIPUR-1710  
**API LICENSEE AND ISO-9001 : 2000 CERTIFIED COMPANY**

আদমজী পাইপ নামে খ্যাত এনটিএলের জিআই/এমএস/এপিআই পাইপ ব্যবহার করুন যা দীর্ঘস্থায়ী, পুনঃ ব্যবহারযোগ্য, নির্ভরযোগ্য ও নিরাপদ।

### INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Sealed offers are invited by Managing Director, National Tubes Ltd. for supply of Hot Rolled Steel Strips for manufacturing of Water Line Pipe, or. C&F(C) Chittagong & C&F(C) Benapole basis :

Reference No.	Quantity and description of goods	Earnest Money	Price of Tender documents	Closing/opening date and time	Source of finance
COM(1) STRIPS-1000/Tender-03/08	1000 M/Tons 'A' Class Hot Rolled Steel Strips (Quantity may be increased or decreased)	US\$ 15,000.00 or Tk. 10,50,000/-	Tk. 1000.00 (Taka One thousand) only (non-refundable)	Closing 17-11-2008 at 11-00 A.M. Opening on the same day at 11-15 A.M.	Cash/Any unfin Credit

In case of unavoidable circumstances the offer will be received on the next working day and opened on the same place and time. Tender documents may be obtained during working hours (excepting on opening date) on cash payment from the following offices & the offers will also be received and opened in the Purchase Dept. of the same offices :

- 1) Controller of Accounts, Bangladesh Steel & Engineering Corporation, "BSEC BHABAN", 102 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.
- 2) Dy. Chief Accounts Officer, National Tubes Ltd., Tongi, Gazipur.

**Kazi Farukuzzaman**  
Deputy General Manager (Commercial)  
Phone : 9802737

বাংলাদেশ লোকপ্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র  
সাতার, ঢাকা-১৩৪৩  
নং-বিপিএটিসি/কতাপ/১৭-৫৪০/২০০১-(অংশ-১)-৩২০ তারিখঃ ২৬/১০/০৮ইং

**পুনঃ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

অত্র কেন্দ্রের গত ১৩ আগস্ট ২০০৮খ্রিঃ তারিখে "The Daily Star" ও ১৬ আগস্ট ২০০৮খ্রিঃ তারিখে "দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক" পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তির ১নং ত্রিমকে উল্লিখিত উপ-পরিচালক পদের পদনাম নিরূপণ সংশোধনক্রমে অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছেঃ

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম ও বেতন স্কেল (জাতীয় বেতন স্কেল ২০০৫ অনুযায়ী)	পদের সংখ্যা	বয়স	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১	উপ-পরিচালক (প্রশিক্ষণ/গবেষণা) টাঃ ১১০০০-১৭৫৬০/-	২ (দুই)টি	অনুর্ব ৩৫ বছর	ক) পদের সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়ে (রাষ্ট্রবিজ্ঞান/অর্থনীতি/সমাজবিজ্ঞান/সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান শাখার অন্য কোন সংশ্লিষ্ট বিষয়) কোন স্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে পিএইচডি ডিগ্রি। সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন প্রার্থীকে অগ্রাধিকার দেয়া হবে; অথবা খ) সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে কমপক্ষে ৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ কোন বিদেশী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে মাস্টার ডিগ্রি; অথবা গ) সংশ্লিষ্ট ক্ষেত্রে কমপক্ষে ৭ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতাসহ কোন স্বীকৃতিপ্রাপ্ত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় থেকে ১ম শ্রেণীর মাস্টার ডিগ্রি কিংবা অনার্স ডিগ্রিতে ১ম শ্রেণীসহ ২য় শ্রেণীর মাস্টার ডিগ্রি।

আবেদনের শর্ত ও নিয়মাবলীঃ

- অগ্রহী প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা/স্বামীর নাম, মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী এবং যোগাযোগের ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ, ধর্ম, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা, নাগরিকত্ব সনদ, চারিত্রিক সনদ ও অভিজ্ঞতার বিবরণ সম্বলিত সাদা কাগজে যথেষ্ট লিখিত আবেদনপত্র সদ্য তোলা ৩ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি ও সকল সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপিসহ আগামী ২০ নভেম্বর ২০০৮ তারিখের মধ্যে পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), বাংলাদেশ লোক-প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, সাতার, ঢাকা-১৩৪৩ এই ঠিকানায় পৌছাতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের সাথে পরিচালক (প্রশাসন), বিপিএটিসি, সাতার, ঢাকা বরাবরে এবং সোনালী ব্যাংক, বিপিএটিসি শাখার অনুকূলে ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত সকল কাটা (মুক্তিযোদ্ধা, মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের পুত্র ও কন্যা, শহীদ মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের পুত্র ও কন্যা, মহিলা, উপজাতীয়, আনসার ও গ্রাম প্রতিরক্ষা সদস্যদের, এতিম ও শারীরিক প্রতিবন্ধী) প্রচলিত নিয়মে সংরক্ষিত থাকবে। কোন বিশেষ কোটার অগ্রাধিকার পাওয়ার স্বপক্ষে আবেদনকারীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক ইস্যুকৃত প্রমাণপত্র আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্র এবং বামের উপর বিশেষ কোটার নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- আবেদনকারীকে বামের উপর স্পষ্ট অক্ষরে পদের নাম উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
- চাকরীর প্রার্থীকে যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- নিয়োগকৃত কর্মকর্তার চাকরী বাংলাদেশ লোক-প্রশাসন প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র-এর কর্মচারী চাকরী প্রবিধানমালা-১৯৯২ দ্বারা নিয়ন্ত্রিত হবে।
- নাগরিকত্ব সনদ প্রার্থীর নিজ ইউনিয়ন পরিষদের চেয়ারম্যান/পৌরসভা/সিটি কর্পোরেশন কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত হতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্র দাখিলের শেষ তারিখে প্রার্থীর বয়স বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে উল্লিখিত নির্ধারিত বয়সসীমার মধ্যে হতে হবে।
- প্রার্থী কর্তৃক দাখিলকৃত/প্রদত্ত কোন তথ্য/সনদপত্র/কাগজপত্র ভুয়া প্রমাণিত হলে তাঁর বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। চাকরী প্রাপ্তির পরও যে কোন পর্যায়ে তাঁর প্রদত্ত তথ্য/সনদপত্র ভুয়া প্রমাণিত হলে তাঁকে চাকরী থেকে তৎক্ষণিকভাবে বরখাস্ত করা হবে এবং তাঁর বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হবে।
- মৌখিক পরীক্ষার সময় শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা এবং অভিজ্ঞতা ইত্যাদির মূল সনদপত্র প্রদর্শন করতে হবে।
- কারণ যাই হোক না কেন ২০ নভেম্বর ২০০৮ তারিখ অফিস সময়ের পরে প্রাপ্ত কোন আবেদনই গ্রহণযোগ্য হবে না।
- অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদন সরাসরি বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক সংরক্ষিত।
- ইতিপূর্বে উপ-পরিচালক পদে যারা আবেদন করেছেন তাঁদের শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা উল্লিখিত পদে চাহিত যোগ্যতা/অভিজ্ঞতার সাথে সংশ্লিষ্টপূর্ণ হলে পুনরায় আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নেই।

পরিচালক (প্রশাসন)  
বিপিএটিসি, সাতার, ঢাকা

ক্রিঃ ৪৯২১