

## Storm sinks Philippine ferry: 11 killed

AP, Manila

A passenger boat that capsized during a storm, drowning 11 people just 200 yards offshore, left a port in the central Philippines without clearance, the coast guard said yesterday.

Half an hour into a short journey Thursday afternoon, the engine failed, then strong winds and high waves caused the boat to break up and overturn, within the sight of its destination at Bagongon islet, the coast guard said in a statement.

Eleven people died and rescuers pulled out 30 survivors, while three remained missing, the statement said. Search and rescue operations resumed early Friday after the storm cleared, and a notice was sent out to all vessels in the area to be on the lookout for survivors.

The coast guard said the motorised outrigger left Concepcion Feeder port in Iloilo province Thursday ignoring a ban on sailing imposed because of the approaching storm.

## Heavy fighting as Lanka troops near rebel capital

Pro-LTTE party protests military operation

AFP, PTI, Colombo

Intense battles gripped Sri Lanka's northern Wanni region as government forces stepped up pressure on the Tamil rebel political capital, the defence ministry said yesterday.

Scores of rebels were killed and many more wounded in Thursday's fighting west of Mankulam, a key town on the road to the rebel political headquarters at Kilinochchi, further north, the ministry said in a statement.

It did not give military casualties, but said the bodies of seven members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were captured by security forces following Thursday's battles.

Government forces have been fighting for months to take

Kilinochchi, 330 kilometres (just over 200 miles) north of the capital Colombo. Heavy monsoon rains and intense rebel resistance had slowed the military onslaught.

President Mahinda Rajapaksa, who is also the defence minister, asked the Tigers on Thursday to lay down arms and surrender.

"My earnest plea to the terrorist is to lay down arms and join the democratic process, even at this late stage," the president said while unveiling a war-budget in parliament.

"If not, they would be militarily defeated. We have come to a stage in which we believe that we should and we can eradicate terrorism," he said.

Tens of thousands of people have died on both sides since 1972, when the LTTE launched its campaign to carve out an independent state in the Sinhalese-majority

island of 20 million people.

Meanwhile, a pro-LTTE political party in Sri Lanka has protested the ongoing military operations in the north, even as the government hiked defence spending to a record USD 1.6 billion to fund the campaign against the Tigers.

The pro-Tiger Tamil National Alliance (TNA) stayed away from the budget presentation as a mark of protest against the military campaign in the north, as President Mahinda Rajapaksa warned the LTTE to surrender or face defeat.

The TNA, which staged a walk out, has 22 representatives in the 225 member Sri Lankan Parliament.

Besides announcing plans to raise defence spending by seven per cent to a record figure of USD 1.6 billion in 2009, Rajapaksa, in his

capacity as the finance minister, also proposed to spend Rs 3000 million (Sri Lankan rupees) to rehabilitate LTTE members joining the democratic stream.

He also announced a one per cent tax on most goods and services to "rebuild communities and infrastructure facilities affected by terrorism," while downgrading the economic growth of the country reeling under a double-digit inflation.

"My earnest plea to the rebels is to give up arms and join the democratic process, even at this late stage. If not, they will be militarily defeated," said Rajapaksa, who also spoke in Tamil on two occasions, amidst applause.

The hike in defence budget accompanies an estimated budget deficit of over USD 3 billion or 6.5 per cent of the GDP.



An armoured tank belonging to the Sri Lankan Army drives towards a Catholic church dedicated to the Virgin Mary in the war-hit northern town of Madhu yesterday. The Ave Maria church in Madhu is synonymous among Christians who account for seven per cent of Sri Lanka's 19 million population, for its alleged miraculous healing powers. Sri Lanka's military captured the church area in April after fierce battles with Tamil Tiger rebels.



Bhutan's King, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, walks during a public ceremony in Thimphu yesterday. Bhutan's new king vowed to shield his remote and traditionally insular Himalayan nation from the negative forces of globalisation. In a speech the day after his lavish coronation ceremony, 28-year-old Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck said he would protect the landlocked country's unique culture and traditions by pursuing the principle of 'Gross National Happiness.'

## New king vows to shield Bhutan in globalised world

AFP, Thimphu

Bhutan's new king vowed yesterday to shield his remote, staunchly traditional and insular Himalayan nation from the negative forces of globalisation.

In a speech the day after his lavish coronation ceremony, 28-year-old Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck said he would protect the landlocked country's unique culture and traditions by pursuing the principle of 'Gross National Happiness.'

"My deepest concern is that as the world changes we may lose these fundamental values on which we rest our character as a nation and people," King Wangchuck, now the world's youngest reigning monarch, said in a speech to tens of thousands of people.

"Henceforth, even as more

dramatic changes transform the world and our nation, as long as we continue to pursue the simple and timeless goal of being good human beings... we can ensure that our future generations will live in happiness and peace," he said.

"Ultimately without peace, security and happiness we have nothing. That is the essence of Gross National Happiness."

The crowning of the new king Thursday capped a year of sweeping changes for the Buddhist country, which is sandwiched between Asian giants India and China but has never been colonised.

Bhutan held its first democratic elections for a new parliament and prime minister in March, as part of a plan by the former king to modernise the country by relinquishing the Wangchuck dynasty's absolute power.

## 37 civilians killed in US airstrike

Confirms Afghan probe

AFP, Kandahar

An Afghan investigation has found that 37 civilians were killed in US airstrikes that hit a wedding party, along with 26 Taliban, the Kandahar provincial government said yesterday.

President Hamid Karzai had said "around 40" civilians were killed in the strike in the province's Shah Wali Kot district on Monday that followed an ambush on international soldiers.

The Kandahar government sent a team of officials and police to Wacha Bakhta village to investigate the incident, the latest in a series that have caused friction between

Kabul and its international allies.

"Our investigations show that 37 civilians and 26 Taliban were killed in the airstrike and another 31 civilians and seven militants were wounded," the government said in a statement.

It was not clear how many were women and children, it said.

The militants had left 15 bodies at the scene and took the remainder and the wounded with them, the statement said.

The troops had been on patrol around the village, which is about 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Kandahar, when they came under attack by militants, the investigation found, confirming a statement by the US military.

The forces responded with ground and air fire which also hit a wedding party, it said.

The US force in Afghanistan said earlier this week it could not confirm civilian casualties but was investigating.

Villagers said a wedding lunch had just ended and the bride was preparing to say farewell to her family when the fighting started, lasting for several hours until midnight.

The government has given 2,000 dollars to families for each person killed and 160 dollars for those wounded, the statement said.

Karzai also spoke by telephone Friday to the bereaved families and extended his condolences, his office said separately.

## Hamas threatens to boycott Palestinian talks

AFP, Jabalya Jerusalem

Hamas threatened on Friday to boycott next week's Palestinian reconciliation talks, accusing president Mahmoud Abbas of arresting hundreds of members of the Islamist movement.

"We will not go to the Palestinian dialogue as long as this massacre against Hamas continues in the West Bank," Hamas MP Musharraf Masri told a crowd in the

northern Gaza Strip city of Jabalya.

He said Hamas would decide within hours whether to take part in the talks scheduled to start in Cairo on Monday.

He accused Abbas, who also leads the Fatah movement, of arresting hundreds of Hamas members in the West Bank to please Israel and the United States.

"If you persist with your injustice and your repression, Hamas and the people of the West Bank

will trample you," Masri shouted.

The two factions have been bitterly divided since Hamas violently seized power in Gaza in June 2007, confining Abbas's rule to the Israeli-occupied West Bank and cleaving Palestinians into two hostile camps.

Representatives from all major Palestinian political movements have been invited to Cairo to discuss the reconciliation plan, which has been welcomed by Fatah and 11 other factions.

## NOTICE FOR New Enlistment & Renewal of Suppliers

Applications are invited from the bonafide suppliers for enlistment with Pan Pacific Sonargaon. 107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka in the following categories for the period of one year from 1st January to 31st December 2009.

- Food Stuff
- General Materials Supplies
- Engineering Supplies & Maintenance and
- Printing Materials Supplies

The following documents are requested to be furnished with the application :

- Valid Trade License, Up-dated Income Tax Certificate with TIN, VAT Registration Certificate and Current Bank solvency Certificate from any Schedule Bank. For Printing Materials Supplies, valid "Declaration Letter" must be submitted alongwith the application.
- Experience Certificate in support of good performance as Supplier for the last three consecutive years from responsible executives of two reputable organizations having business in the related fields.
- Name of the Establishment and the proprietor with Telephone/Mobile Number, Fax Number, E-mail etc. and complete Mailing Address.

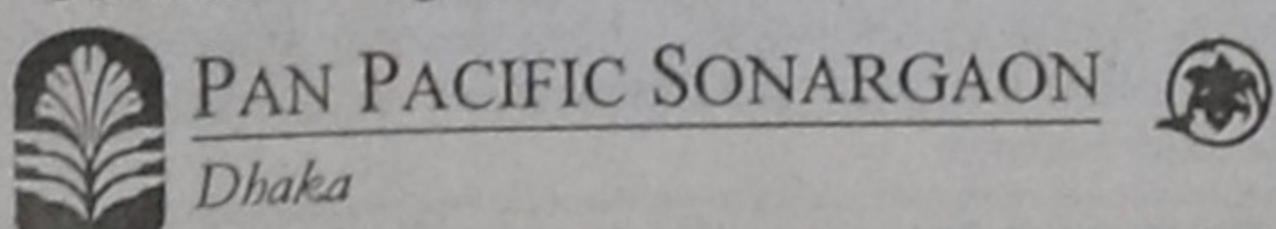
Application addressed to the Purchase Manager, Pan Pacific Sonargaon in the respective letterhead pad will be received up to November 30, 2008 during office hours.

All successful applicants will be required to pay an amount of Tk. 2,000.00 (Taka Two thousand) only as a New Enlistment Fee (non-refundable) and Tk. 25,000.00 (Taka Twenty Five Thousand) only each category for new suppliers enlistment as Security Deposit (Refundable) per year in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any schedule Bank in favour of Pan Pacific Sonargaon, 107 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.

Renewal fee Tk. 2,000.00 & additional Tk. 5,000.00 as security deposit for existing enlisted suppliers will be received based on their current documents as per Sl. No. 1 & 3.

Authority reserves the right to accept/reject any or all the applications partially or whole without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Purchase Manager, Tel. (880) 28111005, (Extn: 4164)



## Nepal climbing season claims 5 French lives

AFP, Kathmandu

Five French trekkers and mountaineers were among six foreigners killed during the autumn climbing season in Nepal, the French embassy and Nepalese officials said yesterday.

October and November offer prime conditions for trekking and mountaineering in Nepal's spectacular Himalayan peaks, but altitude sickness and accidents cause annual fatalities.

## Soldiers try to block protest in Kashmir

AP, Srinagar

Thousands of troops in riot gear warned people to stay indoors in the Indian portion of Kashmir in an attempt to block a pro-independence rally called by separatists for a second straight day Friday, local residents said.

"Soldiers are patrolling everywhere and are telling us to stay indoors as curfew has been imposed in the city," said Shakeel Ahmed, a resident of Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state.

Officials said the government has banned any public assembly of more than five people. "There is no curfew, but yes, restrictions have been imposed to avoid any law and order situation," said B. Srinivas, a senior police officer.

Separatists called for a demonstration to honour tens of thousands of Muslims they say were killed in clashes with Hindus on Nov. 6, 1947, within months of India and Pakistan gaining independence from Britain.

## Brown gets good sign in Scottish election win

AP, Glenrothes, Scotland

An election victory in Scotland is a sign that Prime Minister Gordon Brown's Labour Party is regaining its popularity after Brown launched an unprecedented and widely praised bailout of some of Britain's leading banks.

The vote in the former coal mining town of Glenrothes is the first since the bailout began last month. Brown's governing Labour Party has lost four special elections since the prime minister replaced Tony Blair in June 2007. The win in Glenrothes breaks the losing streak

and could breathe some new life into Labour's third term.

"It is a truly a remarkable performance," John Curtice, who studies political attitudes at the University of Strathclyde in Scotland, told British Broadcasting Corp. television.

"Right at the very top of its (Labour's) expectations." Labour candidate Lindsay Roy won 19,946 votes, allowing his party to hold on to its vulnerable parliamentary seat and beating his main challenger, Scottish National Party candidate Peter Grant, by a decisive 6,000 votes, according to election results early Friday.



Kashmiri householders look from windows as unseen youths gesture towards security personnel in Srinagar yesterday. Thousands of troops were deployed in Indian-held Kashmir to prevent a protest rally called by separatist leaders against Indian rule in the Muslim-majority region.

**ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LIMITED**  
(An enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)  
Ashuganj, B.Barua-3402, Bangladesh.

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সূত্র নং-এপিএসসিএল/প্রকৃতিসংরক্ষণ-২৯/২০০৮/৩৪৬৪ তারিখ-০৫/১১/২০০৮ইং

**“দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধনী”**

অত্র দরপত্রের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-এপিএসসিএল/প্রকৃতিসংরক্ষণ-০২/২০০৮/১০৬৬ তারিখ-১৪/১০/২০০৮ইং এর ত্রুটি সংশোধন করা হয়েছে।

পাওয়ার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেডের প্রাথমিক ভাবে কর্মসূচী কমা সংক্রান্ত দরপত্রের বিজ্ঞপ্তি সংশোধন তারিখ ০৫/১১/২০০৮ইং এর পরিবর্তে ০৫/১১/২০০৮ইং এবং দরপত্র জমা দানের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ০৫/১১/২০০৮ইং এর পরিবর্তে ০৬/১১/২০০৮ইং পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হইল। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির অন্যান্য শর্তাবলীসমূহ অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে।

(মো আব্দুল সামাদ)  
আব্দুল স (প্রকৃতিসংরক্ষণ কর্মসূচী)  
এপিএসসিএল, আশুগঞ্জ, বি-বারুয়া।

**ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LIMITED**  
(An enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)  
Ashuganj, B.Barua-3402, Bangladesh.

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Memo No. APSCL/Pro-02/2008/1489 date : 05/11/2008

**“Invitation For Tender”**

01.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Power Division		
02.	Agency	Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd.		
03.	Procuring Entity Name	Convener, Procurement Committee, APSCL, Ashuganj, B-Barua.		
04.	Procuring Entity District	Brahman Barua, Bangladesh		
05.	Invitation for	A. Supply of different Type of Shafts/Rod and Plate of different materials for workshop division of APSCL, Ashuganj, B-Barua. B. Supply of Spare Parts for Dryer of 450MW Service and control Air compressor of APSCL.		
06.	Invitation Ref No	Memo No. APSCL/Pro-2/2008/1489		
07.	Date	05/11/2008		
08.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method.		
09.	Source of Funds	APSCL'S Own Fund.		
10.	Tender Publication Date	05/11/2008		
11.	Tender Last Selling Date	23/11/2008 during office hours		
12.	Tender Closing Date and Time	24/11/2008 at 12:00 Noon		
13.	Tender Opening Date and Time	24/11/2008 at 12:30 PM		
14.	Name & Address of the Office			
a.	-Selling Tender Documents.	(i) Asstt. Chief Engineer (Generation), Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Bhavan, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. (ii) Manager (Finance), APSCL, Ashuganj, B-Barua.		
b.	Receiving & Opening Tender Documents	Office of the Convener, Procurement Committee, APSCL, Ashuganj, B-Barua		
15.	Eligibility of Tenderer	Renowned Tenderer having experience of supply as specified in the Tender Document.		
16.				
Sl. No	Name of Item	Price of Tender Documents	Amount of Tender Security	Delivery time
A.	Supply of different Type of Shafts/Rod and Plate of different materials for workshop division of APSCL, Ashuganj, B-Barua	Non refundable Tk. 400/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	BDT 9,000/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	20 days from the date of contract signing
B.	Supply of Spare Parts for Dryer of 450MW Service and control Air compressor of APSCL.	Non refundable Tk.300/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	BDT 3,600/- In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft/ Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	15 days from the date of contract signing
17.	Name of official Inviting Tender	Md. Abdus Samad		
18.	Designation of official Inviting Tender	Convener, Procurement committee		
19.	Address of official Inviting Tender	Ashuganj Power Station Co. Ltd. Ashuganj, B-Barua, Bangladesh.		
20.	Contract details of official Inviting Tender	Tel: 08528-74033 Fax: 08528-74044, E-mail: proc.aps@bpb.net.bd Website: www.apscl.com		
21.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders			

(মো আব্দুল সামাদ)  
Convener  
Procurement Committee,  
APSCL, Ashuganj, B-Barua.