

# 23 killed in Afghan clashes, Kabul suicide attack

AFP, Kabul

A suicide attack near a German diplomatic convoy in Afghanistan's capital Kabul left three Afghan civilians dead yesterday as 20 other people, most of them insurgents, were reported killed in other unrest.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the suicide bomb, the second in Kabul in three days, but similar ones have been claimed by Taliban-led extremists waging an insurgency.

A German foreign ministry spokesman in Berlin said a vehicle belonging to its embassy in Kabul had been targeted.

"The sole occupant of the vehicle, an Afghan employee of the embassy, was injured," the spokesman said.

President Hamid Karzai's office said in a statement three civilians were killed and six wounded in the blast, which it described as a "barbaric terrorist action".

The attacker was on foot when he blew himself up in front of a boys' high school

and about 200 metres (660 feet) from parliament, police said.

At least one of the dead was a municipal worker who had been cleaning the road, another worker named Waheedullah told AFP.

"I was standing here at the corner when I heard a big explosion," he said. "I went to the main road and saw one of our friends lying on roadside, covered in blood, near his wheelbarrow. His belly was badly wounded and was open."

"I saw another civilian dead nearby and I saw two civilians wounded."

It was the second suicide attack in Kabul since Thursday, when a car bomb outside the heavily barricaded US embassy killed four Afghan civilians and wounded nearly 20. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the Thursday blast.

Also Sunday, a remotely detonated bomb killed an Afghan guard for the US security company in the southern province of Kandahar, provincial government spokesman Zalmay Ayoubi told AFP.

Meanwhile, the US-led coalition announced it killed 17 militants on Saturday as part of its operations helping the Afghan government fight an insurgency led by the extremist Islamic Taliban, who were in government between 1996 and 2001.

Sixteen were killed in an operation against a "terrorist network" in Sarobi, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) east of Kabul in an area where 10 French soldiers were killed in an ambush in August.

The operation was against a commander of the Hizb-e-Islami faction, led by former Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, said to be involved in kidnappings and bomb attacks.

"As coalition forces approached the targeted buildings, 16 armed militants exited the buildings and began manoeuvring on the force."

"The militants engaged the force with small-arms fire. The force responded with small-arms fire and precision munitions and killed the militants," it said.

## Iran proposes N-plants with Arab countries

AP, Tehran

Iran's official news agency says Tehran has proposed building joint light-water nuclear power plants with neighbouring Arab countries.

Sunday's IRNA report quotes the head of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran, Gholam Reza Aghazadeh. He says Iran is ready to offer a proposal to Arab countries if they are interested.

Iran's Arab neighbours have been suspicious of the Persian country's controversial nuclear programme, and several Arab countries have announced plans to develop their own nuclear programmes.

The US and some of its allies claim Iran is secretly seeking to develop nuclear weapons a charge Tehran denies.



Pakistani firefighters attempt to extinguish a fire after rioters set ablaze several shops at a timber market in Karachi yesterday. At least 13 people were killed and more than 70 injured after activists from rival political parties clashed across Pakistan's largest city Karachi.

PHOTO: AFP



Anti-government protesters evacuate an injured woman after the bomb exploded at Government House in Bangkok yesterday. Explosions at sites occupied by anti-government protesters injured at least 51 people, further raising tensions as police struggle to end a paralysing blockade of Bangkok's airports.

## Foreign govts race to pull nationals from Thailand

AFP, Bangkok

Foreign governments were racing yesterday to evacuate tens of thousands of visitors stranded in Thailand after anti-government protesters occupied Bangkok's airports, throwing travel plans into chaos.

About 30,000 travellers have missed their flights each day since demonstrations forced the closure of the Thai capital's main Suvarnabhumi airport on Tuesday and the domestic hub Don Mueang two days later.

With protesters vowing to stay at Suvarnabhumi until Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat resigns, airlines and charter jets have begun picking up travellers from the one-runway U-Tapao naval base 190 kilometres

(118 miles) from Bangkok.

China had arranged for seven charter flights to retrieve its stranded nationals, believed to number 2,000-3,000 people, by Saturday and had further flights planned for Sunday, Xinhua news agency said.

The first of the flights bringing home Chinese citizens arrived in Shanghai early on Sunday, to the relief of worried families.

"My family were deeply concerned about my daughter's safety after learning the Thailand airport was closed," Xinhua quoted one man, named Zhou, whose daughter had been stranded in Bangkok as saying.

"We felt a great relief that she could take the charter flight and finally got back safe."

## New Gaza clashes as Israel keeps borders sealed

AFP, Gaza City

Pre-dawn clashes erupted in Gaza yesterday, leaving three militants wounded according to the Palestinians, as Israel said it was keeping all border crossings with impoverished territory sealed.

"Following mortar and rocket fire, the border crossings we had expected to open will remain closed," defence ministry spokesman Shlomo Dror said.

President-elect Barack Obama planned to nominate Sen Hillary Rodham Clinton as his secretary of state today, transforming a once-bitter political rivalry into a high-level strategic and diplomatic partnership.

Obama will name the New York senator to his national security team at a news conference in Chicago, Democratic officials said Saturday. They requested anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly for the transition team.

To clear the way for his wife to take the job, former President Bill Clinton agreed to disclose the names of every contributor to his foundation since its inception in 1997. He'll also refuse donations from foreign governments to the Clinton Global Initiative, his annual charitable conference, and will cease holding CGI meetings overseas.

## Obama to name Hillary secy of state today

Deal on donors paves way for her post

AP, Washington

President-elect Barack Obama planned to nominate Sen Hillary Rodham Clinton as his secretary of state today, transforming a once-bitter political rivalry into a high-level strategic and diplomatic partnership.

Obama will name the New York senator to his national security team at a news conference in Chicago, Democratic officials said Saturday. They requested anonymity because they were not authorised to speak publicly for the transition team.

To clear the way for his wife to take the job, former President Bill Clinton agreed to disclose the names of every contributor to his foundation since its inception in 1997. He'll also refuse donations from foreign governments to the Clinton Global Initiative, his annual charitable conference, and will cease holding CGI meetings overseas.

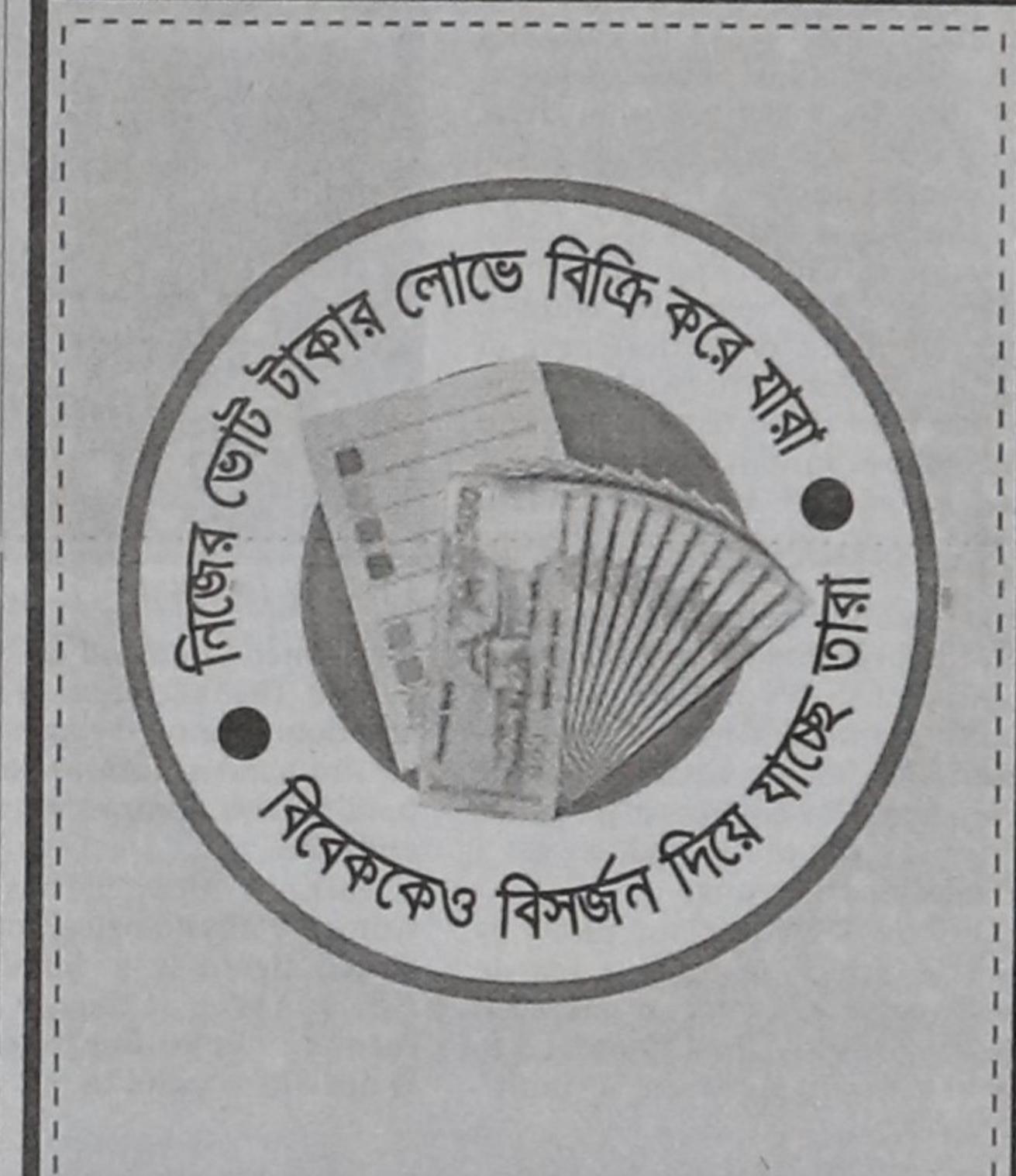
## Lanka resumes advance on rebel HQ

AFP, Colombo

and also left nearly half a million people homeless in the island's north.

Tiger rebels have admitted that their mini-state has shrunk under the ongoing military onslaught but their leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, has vowed to fight on.

The guerrillas, who took up arms in 1972, are facing the Sri Lankan army's biggest ever offensive.



আমার ভোট আমি দেবো  
দেখে শুনে জেনে দেবো



তিএফপি-১১৭-২৫/১১/০৮

## Job in Call Center

**Microtouch-An International Call Center** : Seeking skilled, smart, Fluent in English spoken/ understanding individuals for our Uttara Location as below categories very attractive salary, incentives, free transport, world class working environment.

### 1. Call center agents for outbound/ inbound - 300

Masters/ Bachelor from any university/ A-level Pass with computer skill.

### 2. Posts for IT in charge - 2

Knowledges should be:

Installation of services.

Managing services.

Configuring MS windows 2003 server software.

Configuring MS IIS.

Configuring active directory services.

Configuring DNS.

Creating and managing E-mail Server (Should outsource email services).

Expertise in TCP/IP networking Protocol.

Expertise in ISA/Fire wall services.

Medium skills in managing Routers.

Desktop issues and printing management skills.

Overall good documentation skills must.

Ideally 2 years of experience in network management with Microsoft certification.

### 3. Telecom dialer operation - 2

Knowledges should be:

Skills in understanding of Dialer and operation IT day to day basis as per campaign requirements understanding and above average knowledge of Asterisk software and Linux operating system.

Knowledge of installation of Digium Telephony cards in Asterisk environment.

### 4. Power Management skills (Electrical) - 2

Power management skills and understanding to work with online UPS, DG set substation.

### 5. Managerial - 2

Knowledge of office management skill, licensing knowledge's establishment acts, Telecom company license, call Center license etc, manage to different Vendors for Equipments of call center, approval from labor ministry for employment Provident Fund, Employee customs insurance.

### 6. Finance & Accounts - 2

Billing, invoicing, payment collection from abroad, accounting.

### 7. Human Resources - 2

Resourcing of agents via different media, interviewing and filtering, managing interviews, letter of offer appointment, confirmation induction, payroll salary management, Exit management (Resignation management).

### 8. Team leader for agents - 10

Motivating and positive attitude, ability to understand performance and manage performance, target oriented discipline of highest order.

### 9. Quality Controller - 5

Best Skill in Listening & understanding English.

Interested candidates who fulfill the above requirements are requested to submit their complete resume with 2 (two) copies of recent passport size photograph, academic & experience certificate by the following address on or before 15 December, 2008 for interview date.

Patwary Group, 15 Dilkusha C/A, (7th Floor), Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.



## Do you have what it takes?

Gulf Air, the national carrier of the Kingdom of Bahrain, is in search of highly motivated, talented individuals with a penchant for excellence. At Gulf Air, we endeavour to provide outstanding in-flight service and traditional Arabic hospitality in the same way we have been doing for more than 55 years.

As a new recruit to our Cabin Crew or Sky Chef team, you will enter our world-class facilities and be trained in all aspects of in-flight safety and service. You will become part of our Gulf Air family, made up of recruits from over 70 nations around the globe - the best in the airline industry.

We offer an impressive tax-free salary, accommodation in a fully-furnished shared apartment, 36 days annual leave, excellent travel industry concessions and full medical coverage.

If you would like to become part of the Gulf Air Cabin Crew or Sky Chef team, please apply online at [www.gulfaircareers.com](http://www.gulfaircareers.com) before Wednesday 17 December 2008.

All suitable applicants will be shortlisted and invited to meet with us in Dacca for an interview as part of the selection process.