



This undated handout photograph released by Sri Lanka's Defence Ministry yesterday, shows government troops by a roadside in the northern Wanni region. The ministry said that troops have killed scores of Tamil Tiger rebels in the past few days and are within "kissing distance" of their political capital in Kilinochchi.

# Lankan troops in 'kissing distance' of Tiger HQ

## Troops capture part of key highway

AFP, AP, Colombo

Sri Lankan troops have killed scores of Tamil Tiger rebels in the past few days and are within "kissing distance" of their political capital, the defence ministry said yesterday.

Forces were moving towards the key town of Kilinochchi and inflicting high casualties on the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the ministry said.

"Troops are now positioned in kissing distances to the outer defence lines of the LTTE's administrative heartland and main garrison township," it said.

The government has said that the fall of Kilinochchi was imminent since September, but intense rebel resistance and monsoon rains slowed the military push.

The military "have caused great damages to LTTE leaving scores killed and as

many injured during the past few days," the defence ministry said.

It said troops found 11 bodies of Tiger cadres on Saturday.

The ministry did not give details of its casualties, while there was no comment from the guerrillas.

Earlier Sri Lanka's military captured a rebel-held village Saturday, bringing half of a main highway leading to the rebels' de facto capital of Kilinochchi under government control, the military said.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said soldiers took control of Kanagarayankulam village, creating a link with other government-captured villages and putting 48km of rebel-held highway under military control.

About 30 miles of the highway remain in rebel hands.

The road linking the northern Jaffna peninsula to the rest of the country had

been under rebel control for the past 10 years, and except for a few years under a cease-fire it has been closed for civilian use.

Nanayakkara said casualty details from the battle were not available.

Meanwhile, air force jets bombed two rebel locations in the island's north, where government troops are trying to capture Kilinochchi, the military said in a statement.

Fighter jets targeted a rebel stronghold and a mortar-launching position in the Paranthan area, four km north of the rebel headquarters, it said.

Pilots confirmed the raids were successful, the military said, without giving casualty details.

Rebel officials could not be contacted for comment because most communication lines to rebel territory have been severed.

# Iran tests medium-range missile

AFP, Tehran

Iran said that it has test fired yesterday a surface-to-surface missile during manoeuvres in the Sea of Oman, the Fars news agency reported.

A missile-launcher warship fired the medium-range, surface-to-surface Nasr 2 (victory) missile, which hit its target at a 30-kilometre (18 miles) distance, according to the report.

The news agency did not elaborate on the specific range of the missile, only adding that it was tested for the first time.

Iran has test fired missile weaponry several times in the past few years.

The country has always warned of a dire response in the event that it comes under attack by the United States or Israel.

The United States and a number of its allies, including Israel, fear that Tehran is using its civilian nuclear programme as cover for developing atomic weapons.

# Angry Greek youths wreak havoc after police kill teen

AFP, Athens

Hundreds of protesters set cars ablaze, lobbed molotov cocktails at banks and clashed with police in several Greek cities on Sunday in a night-long display of anger at the police killing of a teenager.

The death of 15-year-old Andreas Grigoropoulos late Saturday set off outbursts throughout the evening from the capital Athens to the southern island of Crete.

The clashes continued through Sunday morning in central Athens, where a group of masked youths threw stones and molotov cocktails at police officers who responded with teargas in front of a university.

Other groups held siege at the polytechnic school in the Exarchia district, where Grigoropoulos was shot by a police officer who opened fire

after youths threw objects at his car.

Demonstrators took to the streets of Athens late Saturday to protest the "arbitrary" police action, shouting slogans against the right-wing government of Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis.

Youths set fire to garbage bins in the central Exarchia district, scene of frequent clashes with police.

The anger spread to other cities as protesters set about 20 cars on fire in Athens, Greece's second largest city of Salonika and western Patras through the evening.

The facades of 17 banks in Athens and five in Salonika were damaged, while some businesses were also attacked. Demonstrators threw molotov cocktails at the police station in Patras.

# Thaksin loyalists desperate to stay in power

AP, Bangkok

Loyalists of exiled former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra tried desperately to remain in power Sunday, even offering the prime minister's job to smaller parties that have abandoned their coalition and joined the opposition.

The offer came a day after the opposition Democrat Party announced that it is ready to form the next government after mustering the support of about 250 lawmakers in the 480-member lower house of Parliament. It said enough members from the pro-Thaksin coalition have defected to give the Democrats the required number.

"The number of lawmakers that the Democrats have is

250ish," said Burana Smutharak, a Democrat Party spokesman.

He said the Democrats will ask Parliament's speaker on Monday to convene a session of the house so the party can prove its majority and choose a prime minister.

The jockeying for power has suddenly shaken Thailand out of a political paralysis which set in when the People's Alliance for Democracy, an anti-Thaksin activist group, occupied the prime minister's office six months ago. Its campaign culminated in its weeklong shutdown of the country's main international airport on Nov. 25.

Thaksin, who was ousted by a 2006 military coup for alleged corruption, remains at the centre of the country's political

turmoil. He fled the country in July and is living in the United Arab Emirates, but continues to have a heavy influence on politics and is still supported by many in the impoverished countryside.

More than 300,000 travellers were stranded by the airport shutdown, which dealt a heavy blow to the country's tourism-dependent economy.

The airport siege ended Wednesday, a day after the government made up of the pro-Thaksin People's Power Party and its five coalition partners was toppled by a court order for election fraud. The People's Power Party and two others were abolished and Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat was banned from politics for five years.



Yinglak Shinawatra (C), the younger sister of ousted Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, attends a meeting in Bangkok yesterday of the Puea Thai (For Thais) party, under which members of the ruling People Power Party (PPP) have regrouped following its dissolution by a court earlier in the week.



A child pulls containers filled with water yesterday at Kibiti camp for internally displaced people in the Democratic Republic of Congo's volatile east. The UN refugee agency said that more than 90,000 people were missing in the conflict-hit eastern DR Congo after three makeshift camps in rebel-held areas were found emptied.

# Afghanistan situation will get harder: McCain

AP, Kabul

Sen. John McCain said Sunday that the situation in Afghanistan will get more difficult before it gets easier "just like the surge in Iraq."

The former Republican presidential candidate visited the southern province of Helmand, where he said Nato forces are at a stalemate with insurgents. McCain said the US will be paying more attention to that part of the country with an influx of troops.

McCain visited the country with Sen. Joe Lieberman and Sen. Lindsey Graham, all members of the Senate Armed Services Committee. The three have also visited Iraq, India and

Pakistan in the last several days.

President-elect Barack Obama asked McCain to report back to him on what the three learn, Lieberman said.

The three senators had dinner Saturday with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his Cabinet. They also met with US Gen. David McKiernan, the commander of US and Nato troops in the country, and a newly arrived US general in Helmand, where British troops have been stationed.

"It's a tough situation there," McCain said of the country's south. "We're going to have additional troops and additional help. It's a stalemate that exists and we're going to need additional troops."

# 12 militants, 5 soldiers killed in Afghanistan

AFP, Kabul

Twelve Taliban militants and five Afghan soldiers were killed in separate violence across the country over the weekend, officials said yesterday.

Most of the militants died when they attacked a police post in Afghanistan's restive southern Helmand province late Saturday, triggering a gunbattle that also left policemen wounded.

Police arrested two militants but another two escaped, Daud Ahmadi, spokesman for the provincial governor, told AFP.

"Nine Taliban were killed and they left their bodies at the battlefield. Four Taliban and three policemen were wounded," he said.

Separately, US-led coalition forces said they killed three insurgents outside the capital Kabul on Saturday.

The Afghan army said five of its soldiers died and three others were wounded in two roadside bomb explosions on Saturday.

The Taliban, who were in power from 1996 to late 2001, have waged a bloody insurgency against Afghan and international forces under Nato and US command in Afghanistan.

The rising insurgency has claimed thou-

sands of lives and has paralysed the internationally backed post-Taliban reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the United States will deploy the first of its new forces arriving in Afghanistan next year around Kabul, a US general said Sunday, reflecting fears the Afghan capital is increasingly under threat.

About 4,000 of the additional troops the United States is expected to send to Afghanistan will be deployed around the capital.

"They're going to be positioned south and west of Kabul in the Wardak and Logar provinces," said Brigadier General Mark Milley, deputy commander of operations in Afghanistan's east.

"With the French conducting operations north of Kabul and a new US brigade south and west, and reinforcements east of Kabul, we feel pretty good about seeing some significant improvements in the surrounding provinces of Kabul."

The decision to deploy fresh troops around Kabul reflects the growing concern among international military leaders over an increase in insurgent activity surrounding the capital.

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
 প্রকল্প পরিচালকের কার্যালয়  
 ক্রিন এয়ার এন্ড সাসটেইনেবল এনভায়রনমেন্ট (কেস)-প্রিপারেশন প্রজেক্ট  
 পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর, পরিবেশ ভবন  
 ই-১৬, আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলানগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭  
 ফোন: ৯৬৬৬৬৬/৯৬৬৬৬৬-৩৯/২০০৮/২১৬  
 তাঃ ০২/১২/২০০৮ খ্রিঃ

**নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নাবীন "ক্রিন এয়ার এন্ড সাসটেইনেবল এনভায়রনমেন্ট (কেস)-প্রিপারেশন প্রজেক্ট" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে (প্রকল্প মেয়াদের জন্য) নিম্নে বর্ণিত পদসমূহে সরাসরি নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে:

ক্রমিক নং	পদের নাম/বেতন ভাতাদি	পদ সংখ্যা	বয়সসীমা	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১	টেকনিশিয়ান (ল্যাব) সাকুল্যে (৩,০০০.০০-৬,৯৪০.০০) বেতন	০২টি	সর্বোচ্চ ৩৮ বছর	এইচ.এস.সি (বিজ্ঞান)। এয়ার কোয়ালিটি মনিটরিং ও বায়ুমান ডাটা উৎপাদনে ন্যূনতম ০২ (দুই) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। বায়ুমান মনিটরিং-এ অভিজ্ঞ প্রার্থীরা অগ্রাধিকার পাবেন।

**শর্তাবলী:**

- আবেদনপত্রে প্রার্থীর নাম, পিতা/স্বামী ও মাতার নাম, স্থায়ী ও বর্তমান ঠিকানা, জন্ম তারিখ, বয়স, শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা, জাতীয়তা, বৈবাহিক অবস্থা, ধর্ম ইত্যাদি উল্লেখ করে পদসমূহের জন্য প্রকল্প পরিচালক, ক্রিন এয়ার এন্ড সাসটেইনেবল এনভায়রনমেন্ট (কেস)-প্রিপারেশন প্রজেক্ট, পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর, পরিবেশ ভবন, ই-১৬, আগারগাঁও, শেরে বাংলানগর, ঢাকা-১২০৭ এ আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি অথবা ডাকযোগে প্রেরণ করতে হবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সদ্য তোলা ০৩ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের সত্যায়িত ছবি, যাবতীয় শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা সনদের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদ সংযোজন করতে হবে।
- প্রতিকার বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ১০ দিনের মধ্যে বর্ণিত ঠিকানায় আবেদনপত্র পৌছাতে হবে। অসম্পূর্ণ ও দেয়াতে পৌছানো আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল করা হবে।
- সরকারি/আধা-সরকারি/স্বায়তশাসিত সংস্থায় কর্মরত প্রার্থীদেরকে স্ব-স্ব কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীত পদের নাম বামের ওপরে উল্লেখ করতে হবে। প্রার্থী কর্তৃক উল্লেখিত বর্তমান ঠিকানায় সর্বপ্রকার যোগাযোগ করা হবে।
- প্রকল্পের নিয়োগ বিধি ও শর্তনুসারে নির্ধারিত প্রার্থীদের সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ীভাবে নিয়োগ করা হবে এবং প্রকল্প মেয়াদ শেষে চাকুরীকাল শেষ হয়ে যাবে। এজন্য কোন নোটিশ দেয়া হবে না।
- কোন প্রকার কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ এ নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি বাতিল করতে পারবেন।
- নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষা/সাক্ষাৎকারের জন্য কোন প্রকার টিএ/ডিএ প্রদান করা হবে না।

ড. মোহাম্মদ নাসিরউদ্দিন  
 প্রকল্প পরিচালক  
 কেস-প্রিপারেশন প্রজেক্ট

জিডি-৫৭৫০

# Hispanic leaders urge Obama to tackle immigration reform

AFP, Chicago

Hispanic leaders urged president-elect Barack Obama to issue a moratorium on immigration raids and deportations at a rally in Chicago Saturday.

"President-elect Barack Obama knows the immigration system is broken and we understand and believe he wants to fix it," said US Representative Luis Guterrez.

"We're ready to create the political support, the grassroots support that (Obama) needs."

Despite the challenges he faces in dealing with two wars and an economic crisis, it appears as though Obama

considers immigration reform a priority, Guterrez said.

Guterrez has spoken to Obama's chief of staff, Rahm Emanuel, four times in the past two weeks and will be meeting with Obama in the coming days to discuss the issue.

"We believe that as we go to the American people and we shatter the myths about our broken immigration system that one of the most powerful symbols we have is the sanctity of marriage ... and that government should not be destroying families" separating family members with deportations, Guterrez said.



Martha 'Sunny' von Bulow  
**Sunny von Bulow dies after 28-yr in coma**

AP, New York

Martha "Sunny" von Bulow, an heiress who spent the last 28 years of her life in oblivion after what prosecutors alleged in a pair of sensational trials were two murder attempts by her husband, died Saturday at age 76.

She died at a nursing home in New York, her children said in a statement issued by family spokeswoman Maureen Connelly.

Sunny von Bulow was a personification of romantic notions about high society - a stunning heiress who brought her American millions to marriages with men who gave her honoured old European names.

**আমার ভোট আমি দেবো দেখে শুনে জেনে দেবো**

১২৪-০৩/১২/০৮

১২৪-০৩/১২/০৮