

Tigers kill 60 Lankan soldiers in fighting

AP, Colombo

Tamil Tiger rebels killed 60 Sri Lankan troops advancing toward their de facto capital, a pro-rebel report said, but the government denied yesterday that many soldiers had died.

Meanwhile, the government said that its troops captured the strategic village of Nedunkerni in the northeast on Sunday. Clashes have intensified in recent weeks as the military continues a major push to capture the rebel headquarters and fulfil a promise to end the 25-year civil war.

The insurgents struck Saturday as the soldiers were preparing an assault in Innamadu village, just south of the guerrilla headquarters of Kilinochchi, and

forced the troops to retreat from recently seized territory, the rebel-affiliated TamilNet website reported.

The guerrillas recovered 12 bodies of Sri Lankan soldiers, and 150 other troops were wounded, the report said. It did not provide the number of rebel losses.

Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said there were a "few" deaths and some soldiers were reported missing. But he dismissed the casualty figures reported by TamilNet and said soldiers were not in retreat.

"We have not pulled back. We are in the same locations," Nanayakkara said.

It was not possible to verify the rebel report because journalists are not allowed in the war zone. Both sides are known to

exaggerate enemy casualties and underreport their own losses.

Soldiers trying to capture the rebels' northeastern stronghold seized Nedunkerni town, a key crossroads that connected three of the rebels' main supply routes, Nanayakkara said.

He said soldiers inflicted "damages" to the rebels but did not give details.

Government forces have seized a large area of rebel-held territory in recent months and forced the Tigers into territory in the northeast.

However, troops have been locked in heavy battles at the edge of Kilinochchi for nearly two months amid heavy monsoon rains and stiff resistance by the rebels.

Diplomat kidnapped in Pakistan is alive, says Iran

AFP, Tehran

An Iranian diplomat kidnapped last month in Pakistan is alive, Tehran's ambassador to Islamabad was quoted by a newspaper as saying yesterday.

Gunmen kidnapped Hashmatullah Attarzadeh on his way to the consulate in Peshawar in northwest Pakistan on November 13 and killed his local guard.

"The embassy's efforts to locate him have been somewhat satisfactory and we have learned with Pakistani security officials' help that he is alive," Mashallah Shakeri was quoted as saying by mass-circulation Hamshahri newspaper.



Indian policemen look on as guests walk at the main entrance of the Trident Hotel in Mumbai yesterday. Two luxury hotels that were stormed by militants have re-opened in Mumbai, less than a month after devastating attacks.



PHOTO: AFP

Mehbooba Mufti (L), president of Indian administered Kashmir's People's Democratic Party, addresses supporters during an election campaign rally in Srinagar yesterday. Indian authorities deployed thousands of troops in the Kashmiri summer capital to prevent protests called by separatists ahead of the final phase of state elections.

Maoist attack on Nepali newspaper

AFP, Kathmandu

Twelve staff at a prominent newspaper and magazine publisher were injured on Sunday when they were attacked by dozens of Maoist activists angered by critical coverage, an editor said.

Former rebel Maoists now govern Nepal after winning elections earlier this year, but they face criticism for the violent activities of their youth wing, the Young Communist League.

India likely to sign uranium deal with Kazakhstan

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

India is likely to sign a civil nuclear cooperation pact with Kazakhstan next month, to make it the fourth country to sign such an agreement with New Delhi, official sources said.

The deal is likely to take place when Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi, a gesture that highlights the close ties between India and Kazakhstan.

India and Kazakhstan are also likely to sign a slew of

agreements, including one under which New Delhi will be supplied uranium, during the visit, the sources said.

"The agreement is being finalised. Details are being sorted out," a source said.

A Kazakh diplomat said the uranium deal was on top of the agenda. The nuclear establishments of both countries are in talks to finalise it.

Kazakhstan will be the fourth country to sign a civil nuclear cooperation with India after the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group ended three decades of nuclear apartheid against New Delhi Sep 6.

Deaths from Mumbai 'police error'

BBC ONLINE

Guests trapped in a Mumbai hotel seized by gunmen last month have told the BBC they were given instructions by police that may have led to more people dying.

A survivor who had been hiding at the Taj Mahal Palace hotel said some guests were shot and killed by the militants after police said it was safe to leave.

The senior policeman in charge of the operation in the

hotel has denied the allegations against his officers.

The attacks left at least 173 people dead, including nine of the 10 gunmen.

India blames Pakistan-based militants Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) for the 26 November attacks.

LeT and the Pakistani government have denied any involvement.

Two of the hotels caught up in the attacks, the Trident-Oberoi and Taj Mahal Palace, are to re-open on Sunday.

Armed guards and sniffer dogs have been stationed at both hotels and X-ray machines are to screen guests' bags.

'Suspicious' A prominent Mumbai gynaecologist, Dr Prashant Mangeshkar, was trapped in the Taj Mahal hotel along with hundreds of other guests as gunmen stormed into the building, firing indiscriminately.

Terrified, he and others barricaded themselves into a room and waited.

Afghanistan could get 30,000 new US troops

AP, Kabul

The top US military officer said Saturday that the Pentagon could double the number of American forces in Afghanistan by next summer to 60,000, the largest estimate of potential reinforcements ever publicly suggested.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that between 20,000 and 30,000 additional US troops could be sent to Afghanistan to bolster the 31,000 already there.

This year has been the deadliest for US forces in Afghanistan since the 2001 invasion to oust the Taliban for hosting al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden. Suicide attacks and roadside bombs have become more dangerous,

and Taliban fighters have infiltrated wide swaths of countryside and now roam in provinces on Kabul's doorstep.

US commanders have long requested an additional 20,000 troops to aid Canadian and British forces in two provinces just outside Kabul and in the south. But the high end of Mullen's range is the largest number any top US military official has said could be sent to Afghanistan.

Mullen said that increase would include combat forces but also aviation, medical and civilian affairs support troops.

"So some 20,000 to 30,000 is the window of overall increase from where we are right now," he told a news conference at a US base in Kabul. "We certainly have

enough forces to be successful in combat, but we haven't had enough forces to hold the territory that we clear."

Overall, there are more than 60,000 foreign troops in Afghanistan. Mullen said any increased US deployment would be directly tied to force levels in Iraq, where US commanders are drawing down troops.

"The Taliban and extremists are more sophisticated and effective," Mullen said.

"They haven't won any battles but they certainly have increased the level of violence, and we're very focused on that. That's why the additional forces are so important, to be able to provide security for the Afghan people so these other areas can be developed."

Pakistani jets kill four militants in tribal area

AFP, Khar

Pakistani fighter jets yesterday attacked suspected Taliban and al-Qaeda positions in a lawless tribal area on the border with Afghanistan, killing four militants, an official said.

The air strike took place in Mamond district of the northwest Bajaur tribal agency, where troops have been engaged in fierce fighting with rebels since the launch of a major army operation in August.

"Four militants were killed in an air strike," local administration official Mohammad Jamil told AFP.

"The militants were busy digging trenches near a roadside when jets targeted them," he said.

Hundreds of Taliban and al-Qaeda extremists flooded into Pakistan's northwestern tribal belt from Afghanistan after a US-led invasion toppled the hardline Taliban regime there in late 2001.

Washington and Kabul have accused Islamabad of not doing enough to stop militants crossing the border to attack US and Nato troops in Afghanistan.

Pakistan says the operation in Bajaur is proof that it is committed to tackling insurgents.



PHOTO: AFP

Nepalese protesters brandish fluorescent light bulbs and hurricane lamps as they stage a protest rally in Kathmandu yesterday against continued power disruption in the Himalayan nation.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Southeast Bank Limited is a fast growing modern banking institution having a unique corporate culture & friendly working environment which unites our people towards achieving tremendous results in every aspects of Bank's operations.

The Bank is looking for some young, energetic, dynamic and self motivated citizens of Bangladesh of exceptional promise and aptitude who are willing to face the challenges, work hard and contribute in a modern technology driven banking environment for a successful career in banking for recruitment in the position of **Probationary Officer**.

Eligibility : The candidate should be **BBA Degree** holder with **9** points or **Master Degree** holder with minimum **10** points in Commerce/ Economics/ English/ Public Administration/ International Relations/ Political Science/ Law/ General History/ Statistics/ Mathematics/ Physics/ Computer Science/ Bank Management/ Business Administration from any reputed university having **no 3rd division/class** and below **CGPA 2.75** in the scale of **4.00 & 3.50** in the scale of **5.00** in academic career.

(Calculation of Points: 1st Division/Class, CGPA 3.00 & above in the scale of 4.00 and 4.00 & above in the scale of 5.00 = 3 points, 2nd Division/Class, CGPA 2.75 to 2.99 in the scale of 4.00 and 3.50 to 3.99 in the scale of 5.00 = 2 points.)

Compensation Package: The selected candidates shall be on probation for a period of **2** years with a monthly consolidated pay of **Tk.24,000/-** for the **1st year** and **Tk.26,000/-** for the **2nd year**. After successful completion of probationary period he/she will be absorbed as a **"Senior Officer"** as per prevailing compensation package for **Tk.30,000/-**.

The selected candidates shall have to sign a Bond on non-judicial stamp valuing of **Tk.150/-** to the effect that he/she shall serve the Bank for a minimum period of **3 (three)** years after completion of his/her probationary period with certain condition.

Age: Not over **30** years as on **15.12.2008**.

Computer Knowledge in MS Word and MS Excel is essential.

Eligible and interested candidates are requested to send their application with **3 (three)** attested copies of recent passport size photographs, photocopy of National ID Card, attested copies of all academic certificates including transcript (s) along with a complete resume mentioning the following chronologically : Name, Father's Name, Mother's Name, Date of birth, **Age as on 15.12.2008**, Permanent address, Mailing address, Home District, Contact Telephone number (if any), Marital status, Religion, Nationality, Educational Qualifications (Name of degree, Name of Institution, Year, Result), other Qualification, Computer Literacy, Name of 2 referees addressed to the **Senior Executive Vice President, Human Resources Division, Southeast Bank Limited, Head Office, Eunoos Centre, Level # 3, 52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000** in a sealed envelope mentioning the position applied for on the top of the envelope **within 15.01.2009**.

A Payment Order / Demand Draft for **Tk.250/-** (Taka two hundred fifty) only (**Non-refundable**) issued from any scheduled Bank favoring **Southeast Bank Limited** shall have to be enclosed with the application.

Any incomplete application shall be rejected.

Southeast Bank Limited
A Bank With Vision

UTTARA BANK LIMITED

Engineering Department (4th Floor)

Head Office, 90, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000

RE-TENDER NOTICE

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide Suppliers / Sole Agents/Importers for supply & installation of Access Control and Time Attendance System (Preferably Japan / USA / any E.U. Country / Malaysia / Taiwan / Australia / Korea Origin) at different Division / Department of Uttara Bank Limited, Head Office, Dhaka. Intending Tenderers having work experience for supplying & installation of at least 10 Nos. of Access Control and Time Attendance System at different Organizations during the last 3 (three) years may collect Tender Documents from the office of the undersigned on cash payment of **Tk. 500/-** only (**non-refundable**) per set on or before **14-01-2009** during office hours after submission of written application on their letter head pad alongwith the attested copies of VAT Registration Certificate, Valid Trade Licence and certificates from the concerned organization / organizations regarding their successful completion of work for supplying & installation of at least 10 Nos. of Access Control and Time Attendance System at those Organizations.

Tenders will be received upto **01-30 P.M.** on **15-01-2009** in the Tender Box placed at the office of the undersigned during office hours. Tenders will be opened on the same day at **02-00 P.M.** in presence of the Tenderers or their representatives (if any). For any further details, anybody may contact the undersigned during office hours.

The Uttara Bank Limited Reserves the right not to accept the lowest Tender and to reject any Tender or Part thereof or all Tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

ENGR. M. A. AWAL
DEPUTY GENERAL MANAGER



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Horticulture Specialist

Chemonics International (www.chemonics.com) seeks applications for a Horticulture Specialist for the **PRICE (Poverty Reduction by Increasing Competitiveness of Enterprises) project in Bangladesh funded by USAID**. This is a long-term position, based in Dhaka and requires travel throughout Bangladesh.

PRICE seeks to increase the pro-poor competitiveness of key sectors in Bangladesh by (1) providing technical assistance to SMEs and connector firms to increase their sales, employment and investment, and (2) implementing strategic sector interventions (e.g. marketing, standards, training, policy, etc.) to upgrade the respective sector value chain. PRICE seeks to promote pro-poor, equitable growth within the aquaculture, horticulture and leather products sectors.

Responsibilities : The horticulture specialist will be responsible for leading the development and implementation of PRICE strategic sector-wide activities for the growth of the horticulture sector. These activities are to address key sector growth opportunities and constraints, particularly for the benefit of women, young adults and SME suppliers. The Horticulture Manager will be expected to collaborate with other aspects of the PRICE project to achieve the overall objectives of PRICE.

Qualifications required:

- A university degree, preferably masters in agriculture or agribusiness.
- Up to fifteen years of relevant experience, including horticulture experience, production, processing or export promotion.
- Preferably some private sector experience.
- Career goals consistent with objectives of PRICE.
- Fluency in written and verbal English.
- Demonstrated experience in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point, etc).
- Demonstrated planning, facilitation and supervisory skills.
- Commitment to excellence, teamwork, respect for people, leadership and integrity.

Send electronic CV and cover letter with position title in the subject line to **nislam@price.com.bd** by **December 31, 2008**. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.