



Sri Lankan Defence Ministry photo shows troops are entering the town of Paranthan some 280kms north of Colombo on Thursday. Lankan troops forced their way into the centre of the Tamil Tiger political capital of Kilinochchi on Friday after months of bitter fighting.

## Key loss will test LTTE

BBC ONLINE, Colombo

The Sri Lankan army's capture of the northern town of Kilinochchi marks a new phase in the fighting between the security forces and the Tamil Tiger rebels.

With its fall the rebels have now lost the biggest township they had under their control for more than a decade.

For the security forces, it will enable them to consolidate their domination of the key A9 highway, which links the Jaffna peninsula with the rest of the country.

The Tamil Tigers until recently had their administrative headquarters in the town. They proudly showcased offices of their political, police and judicial divisions to visiting foreign dignitaries and media. In fact, it acted like their de-facto capital.

It also helped the rebels to convince their supporters inside the country and the Tamil diaspora that they were running a parallel administration, a de-facto state in northern Sri Lanka.

"So, politically, the capture of Kilinochchi is highly symbolic for the Sri Lankan government," says Sri Lankan analyst DBS Jayara.

He says now the government can gain political mileage by telling the majority Sinhala community in the south that it has dealt a severe blow to the Tamil Tigers and their claims for a separate Tamil homeland.

Land route

The Sri Lankan army lost Kilinochchi after a daring assault by the rebels about 10 years ago. The capture of the town helped the rebels to press ahead with their offensive up to the Jaffna peninsula.

The town was thrown into the international spotlight as the regular meeting place for the rebels and Norwegian peace facilitators and foreign envoys following the 2002 ceasefire agreement.

International donors also helped to rebuild some of the public buildings destroyed by years of intense fighting.

New shops opened, produce from surrounding areas started coming to the local market and the reopening of the A9 highway linked the town with the rest of the country.

International aid agencies used Kilinochchi as their main base to carry out work for the internally displaced people living in the Wannu region. Thousands of expatriate Tamils who visited Kilinochchi used to wax eloquently about the town.

"Militarily, Kilinochchi has no major significance but it will help the army to bring a major part of the A9 highway under their control," says Jayara.

With the A9 highway closed the government at the moment sends supplies to nearly 40,000 troops and civilians in the Jaffna peninsula by sea and air.

Now the troops can do what the rebels did to them 10 years ago. Once they consolidate their positions in and around the

town, they can set their sights on Elephant Pass, the strategic land bridge leading to the Jaffna peninsula.

If they are successful in their offensive to capture Elephant Pass, then the rebels will be forced to withdraw from their crucial defence lines further up the peninsula.

The entire A9 highway would possibly come under army control and the government.

But as the government rejoices over the capture of Kilinochchi, its residents are wary. They say the town has seen nothing but war and destruction in the past two decades.

"It has changed hands many times in the past. As civilians we have to bear the brunt of the fighting. We just want peace," a Tamil woman from Kilinochchi, now living in Colombo, said.

Without Kilinochchi, the guerrillas will be forced to operate from other smaller towns in the northern region that are still under their control.

But the army is also making an eastward move from the town of Mankulam, south of Kilinochchi, in an effort to confine the rebels mostly within Mullaitivu district.

Nevertheless, the capture of Kilinochchi is not the end of the Tamil Tiger movement. The rebels have shown their resilience in the past and with most of their heavy weapons and cadres intact, they may spring a surprise.

### Lanka president takes over media portfolio

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka President Mahinda Rajapakse on Thursday took the country's influential media ministry under his wing ahead of a key mid-term election for his administration, officials said.

The Ministry of Mass Media and Information was taken away from Anura Priyadarshana Yapa, who was instead given the Ministry of Investment Promotion post, a government spokesman said.

The surprise move came as the government prepared for a key local council election next month and amid speculation that the president may call early elections to test his popularity.

Rajapakse came to power in November 2005 for a six-year term. The parliament he inherited can go on till 2010, but he has the power to call an early election.

## No noticeable change in Pak attitude: India

### Islamabad not to extradite terror suspects

PTI, New Delhi

Rubbishing Pakistan's "advice" for deactivating ground and air troops in forward areas, India yesterday said it has no right to give any such suggestion and pointed out that 30 terror outfits are still active in that country.

Maintaining that India has done no escalation and the armed forces were only doing their duty, Defence Minister AK Antony said there is "no noticeable change" in the attitude of Pakistan and Indian forces will have to remain alert.

"I do not think there is any noticeable change in the attitude of Pakistan. Statements are not important. Actions are important. They have to prove by their action," Antony told reporters on the sidelines of a defence ministry function.

"More than 30 terrorist outfits are still operating in Pakistan, there is no improvement or any change in attitude," Antony said responding to questions from reporters.

To a question on Pakistan's suggestion that India should withdraw ground troops and deactivate forward air bases, he said Islamabad has no right to give any such advice.

"Nobody will tell us, after 26/11 we must be prepared to meet any eventuality. It is our duty," he asserted.

"Armed forces are doing their duty. They are not escalating anything. They are not doing any power projection. They are doing their duty. They have to be fully prepared to meet any challenge from any quarter, any threat from any quarter," Antony said.

Rejecting India's demand to extradite the perpetrators of the Mumbai terror attacks to the country, Pakistan has said such a move will be "harmful" for it as there was no extradition treaty between the two neighbours.

"There is no extradition treaty between India and Pakistan. We are keen on rebuilding our internal institutions. So if we engage in these issues, it will be harmful for Pakistan," Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi told GeoTV.

He was asked whether India and America have made demands for handing over terror suspects -- Lashkar-e-Taiba operations commander Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi, Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azar and Hafiz Mohammed Saeed.

### Lashkar rejects 'confession' in Mumbai probe

AFP, Srinagar

The Pakistan-based militant outfit blamed for the Mumbai attacks rejected yesterday a report that one of its leaders had acknowledged the group's involvement.

The Wall Street Journal, citing unnamed officials, reported Wednesday that Pakistani authorities had obtained a confession from a senior member of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba.

The suspect, Zahir Shah, allegedly told investigators he had played a key role in the planning of the November attacks that left 172 dead.

"Lashkar-e-Taiba rejects the Wall Street Journal report," its spokesman Abdullah Ghaznavi said in an email statement.

"India has failed to furnish any evidence of Lashkar-e-Taiba's involvement in the Mumbai attacks and America is now trying to help it out," he said.



Pakistani soldiers inspect ammunition seized from militants in Jamrud yesterday. Pakistani security forces briefly reopened a key northwest supply route for Western troops in Afghanistan on Friday, three days after shutting it to drive out militants from the area.

## Pak govt to set up body to deal with terrorism

THE DAILY TIMES, Lahore/Islamabad

The government has decided to set up a high-level body to coordinate efforts in countering the threat posed by the Taliban, a private TV channel reported on Thursday as President Asif Ali Zardari called on the nation to put aside their differences and unite in fighting the war on terror.

According to the channel, the commission to be a constitutional body would be headed by a 'top-level professional' to prepare and execute strategies, and recently retired Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) chief Tariq Pervaiz is likely to be the first choice for the post.

The channel said, "Officials cite fragmented counter-terrorism efforts as a reason to have a cohesive policy making institution." Currently, the Inter-Services Intelligence, FIA and the Intelligence Bureau are all involved in counter-terrorism efforts, but there is no 'umbrella organisation' to coordinate their work, the channel said, adding that a 'one-window task force' is required to coordinate the counter-terrorism efforts of these agencies.

## Nepal Maoists provoke temple rebellion

AFP, Kathmandu

Riot police have been deployed at Nepal's holiest Hindu temple to stop protests after the Maoist government tried to throw out Indian priests who have officiated there for generations.

The threat to centuries of tradition at the Pashupati temple sparked demonstrations by Hindus appalled at changes pushed through by the secular Maoists, who also scrapped Nepal's Hindu

monarchy last year. "We want this decision scrapped immediately," said Hariharman Bhandari, one of the Nepalese priests upset by the move. "The Maoists have appointed their own people."

Dozens of riot police and Maoist volunteers escorted the temple's new Nepalese priests on Thursday as they visited holy sites around the Pashupati complex, which dates from the third century BC.

### DW & CE (Air)

Kurmitola

Dhaka Cantonment

## Invitation for Tenders

Notice No. 400/269/03/E-4

Dated: 24 December, 2008

### Military Engineer Services

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Defence.					
2.	Agency	Military Engineer Services.					
3.	Procuring entity name	DW & CE (Air).					
4.	Procuring entity district	Dhaka					
5.	Procurement method	Open tendering method (OTM).					
6.	Budget and source of funds	GOB.					
7.	Development partners (if applicable)	None.					
8.	Project/programme name (if applicable)	As per SI No. 16.					
9.	Last date of application for tender	08 Jan 2009 (during office hour).					
10.	Selling of tender will commence from	12 Jan 2009 (during office hour).					
11.	Selling of tender will close on	15 Jan 2009 (during office hour).					
12.	Last date & time for submission of tender	18 Jan 2009 (up to 1200 hours).					
13.	Date & time for opening of tender	18 Jan 2009 (at 1230 hours).					
14.	Name & address of the office(s)	DW & CE (Air), Kurmitola, Dhaka Cantonment.					
	- Selling tender document	DW & CE (Air), Kurmitola, Dhaka Cantonment.					
	- Receiving tender document	DW & CE (Air), Kurmitola, Dhaka Cantonment.					
	- Opening tender document	DW & CE (Air), Kurmitola, Dhaka Cantonment.					
15.	Eligibility of tenderer	a. MES enlisted contractor of 'D' Class. b. On receipt of security clearance from DGFI, contractors borne in the approved list of govt/semi-govt/autonomous body or organization may apply who has done similar type of work.					
16.	Brief description of works	Lot No	Identification of lot	Location	Price of tender document (non-refundable)		
					Tender security in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of DW & CE (Air), Kurmitola		
					Completion time in weeks/ months		
	a.	Abnormal repair works for 1x100 HP multistage fire fighting (Booster) pump motor set for Pump House No. 02 at BAF Base Bashar, Kurmitola	BAF Base BSR, KTL		500.00	Tk 14,000/-	03 (three) months
17.	Name of official inviting tender	SO-I, DW & CE (Air).					
18.	Designation of official inviting tender	SE					
19.	Address of official inviting tender	DW & CE (Air), Kurmitola, Dhaka Cantonment.					
20.	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel No	Fax No	NA	e-mail-NA		
		8752820					
21.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the tenders.						

ISPR/Biman/08/69

GD-6068

<b>Office of the Mayor</b>			
Netrakona Pourashava			
District: Netrakona			
Memo No. Netrakona Poura/	Date: 24.12.08		
<b>Invitation for Tenders</b>			
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh			
1.	Ministry	Ministry of LGRD & Cooperatives (LG Division).	
2.	Agency	Department of Public Health Engineering.	
3.	Procuring entity name	The Mayor, Netrakona Pourashava, Dist-Netrakona.	
4.	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.	
5.	Procuring entity district	Netrakona.	
6.	Invitation for	Rehabilitation/replacement of pipelines, restoration of house connections & Installation of water meter of Netrakona Pourashava Water Supply System.	
7.	Invitation Ref No.	Memo No. Netrakona Pourashava/	
8.	Date	24.12.08.	
<b>KEY INFORMATION</b>			
9.	Procurement method	Open tender method (OTM).	
<b>FUNDING INFORMATION</b>			
10.	Budget and source of funds	GOB & Loan from ADB & OFID.	
11.	Development partners (if applicable)	ADB & OFID.	
<b>PARTICULAR INFORMATION</b>			
12.	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Project Code-5110.	
13.	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Secondary Towns Water Supply & Sanitation Sector Project (GOB-ADB).	
14.	Tender package No.	NET-R-01.	
15.	Tender package name	Rehabilitation/replacement of pipelines, restoration of house connections, installation of water meter of Netrakona Pourashava Water Supply System.	
		Date	
		Time	
16.	Tender publication date	05.01.2009	
17.	Tender last selling date	02.02.2009	
18.	Tender closing date and time	03.02.2009 1.00pm	
19.	Tender opening date and time	03.02.2009 3.00pm	
20.	Name & address of the office(s)	Address	
	- Selling tender document (principal)	Office of the Mayor, Netrakona Pourashava, Dist: Netrakona	
	- Selling tender document (others)	1) Office of the Project Director, STWSSP, DPHE Bhaban, 14, Shahid Captain Monsur Ali Sharani, Kakrail, Dhaka. 2) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Dist: Netrakona. 3) Office of the Executive Engineer, DPHE, Dist: Netrakona.	
	- Receiving tender document	1) Office of the Mayor, Netrakona Pourashava, Dist: Netrakona. 2) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Dist: Netrakona. 3) Office of the Executive Engineer, DPHE, Dist: Kishoreganj.	
	- Opening tender document	Office of the Mayor, Netrakona Pourashava, Dist: Netrakona at .....date .....	
21.	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Not applicable.	
<b>INFORMATION FOR TENDERER</b>			
22.	Eligibility of tenderer	The contractors who have the requisite manpower, equipment and experience for installation of pipelines of 100mm dia or above amounting to Tk. 50.00 lac in a single tender or laying of 5km pipelines of 100mm dia or above during last 10 (ten) years.	
23.	Brief description of goods or works	Rehabilitation/replacement of 10.5km of different dia. pipelines, restoration of house connections and installation of water meter.	
24.	Brief description of related services	a) Supply & installation of Water Meter: 1480 Nos. One year guarantee.	
25.	Price of tender document (Tk.)	Tk. 5,000/- (five thousand) only non-refundable.	
26.	Lot No.	Identification of lot	
		Location	
		Tender security amount (Tk.)	
		Completion time in weeks/months	
	01	NET-R-01	Netrakona Pourashava Area
			Tk. 4,50,000/-
			9 (nine) months
<b>PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS</b>			
27.	Name of official inviting tender	Mr. Nazrul Islam Khan.	
28.	Designation of official inviting tender	Mayor, Netrakona Pourashava, Dist: Netrakona.	
29.	Address of official inviting tender	Office of the Mayor, Netrakona Pourashava, Dist: Netrakona.	
30.	Contact details of official inviting tender	0951-62527/61402, Mobile-0171-1619238.	
31.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.		
Other terms and conditions:		Mr. Nazrul Islam Khan Mayor Netrakona Pourashava Dist: Netrakona	
GD-29			