

# Weekend fighting kills 28 civilians in Sri Lanka

AP, Colombo

At least 28 civilians have been killed in two days of fighting as Sri Lankan troops try to push into a small "no-fire zone" where Tamil Tiger rebels have bunkered down for their final stand, a health official said Saturday.

The rebels lost to government forces the de facto state they controlled for years in parts of the country's north and east and have retreated into a tiny slice of land that the government earlier declared a haven for civilians fleeing the fighting in this island's nation's 25-year civil war.

There have been widespread international calls for a cease-fire to allow the more than 100,000 civilians trapped in the 7.7-square mile (20-square kilometers) zone to reach safety but the

government has rejected a long-term cease-fire, saying it would only give the rebels time to regroup.

An official from the only makeshift hospital in the region said 15 civilians bodies with war wounds were brought to his facility Saturday and another 13 bodies the day before. More than 160 civilians are being treated for wounds after being caught in the crossfire between the military and rebels, he said.

He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The defense ministry reported on its Web site that soldiers killed eight rebels in their push toward the "no-fire zone," but the statement made no mention of civilian casualties.

It said the rebels fired artillery from the zone on Friday and the army returned fire, catching the insurgents in "total disarray" as they fled toward populated areas to take cover.

The report did not say if there were any military casualties.

The government's account of the battle could not be confirmed because independent journalists are barred from the war zone.

The government announced a two-day cease-fire earlier this week to allow the civilians to flee the zone, but only a few hundred crossed the front lines before the truce expired Wednesday morning.

The United States and India on Friday called for a halt to fighting and a U.N. envoy met with President Mahinda

Rajapaksa to discuss efforts to get civilians out of the war zone.

The UN estimates at least 4,500 civilians have been killed in fighting over the past three months, and 12,000 have been wounded.

International rights groups have accused the rebels of using the civilians as human shields, and accused the government of disregarding the civilians' safety in its drive to destroy the Tamil Tigers. Both sides deny the accusations.

The rebels have been fighting to create an independent homeland for ethnic minority Tamils, who have faced decades of marginalization by successive governments controlled by the ethnic Sinhalese majority. More than 70,000 people have been killed in the violence.

# South Africa 'doomed' under Zuma

BBC ONLINE, Johannesburg

South African opposition leader Helen Zille has urged voters to stop the African National Congress from turning the country into a "failed state".

Speaking at the final Democratic Alliance (DA) rally before elections on Wednesday, Ms Zille accused the ruling ANC of cronyism.

A crowd of about 3,000 people came to hear her speak despite heavy rain.

She told the crowd their votes could stop the ANC from retaining their two-thirds majority.

"Only the DA is strong enough to stop (ANC President Jacob) Zuma taking us down the road of a failed state," she said.

She made frequent reference to criminal charges of corruption and racketeering brought against Zuma which he denies and which were dismissed earlier this month.

# Kawmi madrasa leaders

FROM PAGE 1

20 in protest against the recent anti-militancy drives in Kawmi Madrasas.

Allama Shah Ahmad Shafi, president of Bangladesh Kawmi Madrasa Education Board, scholars Shaikhul Hadith Allama Azizul Haque, Shaikhul Hadith Allama Fariduddin Masud, Hazrat Moulana Jamiruddin, Moulana Habibur Rahman, Moulana Abdul Halim, Moulana Ashraf Ali, Moulana Anwar Shah and Moulana Abul Fatah Mohammad Yahia, among others, were present.

Shafi said real Kawmi madrasas in the country are not involved in militancy or any other terrorist activity. The orphans and the children of helpless and poor people get shelter and education there.

Abul Fatah Mohammad Yahia said some misguided people are carrying out terrorist activities using the name of Islam and "this evil force is pinning the blame on the country's Kawmi madrasas very cleverly."

"From now on, we shall remain vigilant and try our

best to find out the militants. If we find any of them, we shall hand him over to the administration," said Mohammad Yahia.

Moulana Ruhul Amin suggested that the government involve the imams in a campaign for creating mass awareness against the menace of militancy. He also gave a proposal for forming information cells in Kawmi madrasas to inform the local administration about any suspicious activity.

They suggested that the government form antiterrorism committees in upazilas and districts and include them in the committees to ensure coordination among those.

The prime minister assured them that no innocent person would be harassed during the anti-militancy drives.

The madrasa leaders blamed Jamaat-e-Islami for "patronising" militancy in the country and said Jamaat is using the country's government madrasas "to create its cadres."

They demanded that the prime minister form a national commission to formulate a supplementary syllabus based on science and technology keeping the original Kawmi Madrasa syllabus intact.

"The original syllabus of holy Quran, Hadith can never be changed. But, I think, the madrasa students need training and education on science and technology for getting more employment opportunities," the premier said.

Hasina said evil acts of a few people are tarnishing the image of Islam. Now it has become necessary to identify them.

"The government needs your suggestions and cooperation to eliminate the evil force that is using the name of Islam to carry out terrorist activities," she told the madrasa leaders.

Prime minister's advisers HT Imam and Maj Gen. (ret) Tarique Ahmed Siddique and Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, among others, were present.

# Protest leader in Thailand stable after shooting

AP, Bangkok

A Thai protest leader shot by assailants after days of rioting in the capital is in stable condition and recovering rapidly, doctors said Saturday.

The brazen attack on Sondhi Limthongkul, leader of the "yellow-shirt" movement that helped topple Thailand's government three years ago, has raised political temperatures that had started to cool after rioting by rival "red-shirt" protesters was quelled earlier in the week.

Dr. Thirapong Chaorenwit, acting director at Chulalongkorn Hospital, said Sondhi, who had bullet shards removed from his head, would need a few more days to recuperate and then another week of rest before he can head home.

"He now can sit, walk and eat normally," Thirapong said. An aide who was hit in Friday's pre-dawn attack on Sondhi's car was also improving, though the driver was still in serious condition, he said.

Bangkok remained under emergency rule and security was tightened around Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, who said the assassination attempt on Sondhi should not serve as an excuse for more conflict.

"We are concerned by the shooting obviously. We've got to restore order," Abhisit said. "We do not want this to be used to create a wider conflict."

But the attack was a new strain in long-standing tensions between backers of Abhisit's government and supporters of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by a military coup in 2006 and whose allies were removed from power by the courts last fall.

Sondhi, an outspoken media tycoon and founder of the People's Alliance for Democracy, was ambushed on his way to work by gunmen in a pickup truck firing M-16 and AK-47 assault rifles. At least five men are now believed to have been involved, Deputy Police Chief Jongrak Chutanon said Saturday. The car's windshield was riddled with bullet holes and the rear window shattered.

The publisher used his media empire and influence to organize the "yellow-shirt" alliance and lead protests before Thaksin's ouster in 2006 and then again last year to drive the former prime minister's allies from power.

Sondhi's supporters come mainly from the middle class and educated elite of Thai society, and include royalists, academics and retired military. Thaksin's backers are mainly from the rural poor who like his social welfare programs.

Last year's demonstrations, which paralyzed the government for months and occupied the capital's airports

for a week, ended after court rulings removed two Thaksin-allied governments, paving the way for Abhisit's rise in December.

That prompted the recent protests by the "red-shirts," who staunchly support Thaksin and argue that Abhisit has no popular mandate to rule. Their demonstrations drew up to 100,000 people in Bangkok last week and forced the cancellation of a regional summit.

The protests were called off Tuesday after several days of violent street clashes drew a threat of a military crackdown.

Abhisit said the Cabinet decided not to lift emergency rule that was imposed Sunday. He said the decision was made after "looking at the overall picture" and was not a direct response to the attack on Sondhi.

Vehicles carrying Abhisit were attacked twice by red-shirt protesters before and during this past week's riots. The prime minister returned to his offices Thursday for the first time in three weeks.

The red shirts are angry that several of their leaders have been arrested over the past week, while prosecution of Sondhi and his allies over last year's airport seizures proceeds at a glacial pace.

Sondhi's group charged the shooting was meant to further inflame Thailand.

# Mugabe calls for 'national healing' in Zimbabwe

AFP, Harare

Veteran President Robert Mugabe Saturday called for "national healing" on Zimbabwe's first independence anniversary under a unity government formed to end bloody political unrest.

"As Zimbabweans, we need to create an environment of tolerance, and treat one another with dignity and decency, irrespective of age, gender, race, ethnicity, tribe, political or religious affiliation," Mugabe said.

"This also means an end to those instances of violence that needlessly caused untold harm to several members of our society," said Mugabe, who has steered the southern African nation since independence from Britain in 1980.

MP's men

FROM PAGE 1

Coming under pressure following a report published in The Daily Star yesterday, former UP chairman and upazila AL treasurer Aminul Islam Chowdhury returned the two cheques to Manik Pramanik of Jhikra and Asir Uddin, a freedom fighter of Khalispur. Both Manik and Asir refused to talk to reporters.

Sources said the two were asked to give MP Enamul Haque's men half of the money after converting the cheques and also threatened not to talk to the media.

Soon after they were given the cheques at around 12:00 noon, upazila AL General Secretary Zakirul Islam Shantu and upazila Jubo League President Abdus Salam took them to Bhawaniganj Bazar to show local journalists that the victims have the cheques, not them.

Ataur Rahman of Hamirkutsa, a torture victim, Parijan Bibi, wife of victim Rofikul Islam, and another victim Amjad Hossain Dugu, who did not hand over cheques to the MP's men, are still under pressure for giving the MP's men half of the grants.

When asked how the list of victims was prepared, Shantu said, "The victims applied for the grants and the lawmaker took necessary steps for getting them the grants."

He also said they are preparing a fresh list of victims and it will be completed within this month.

Asked whether any announcement was made seeking applications from the victims, he said it wasn't formally announced. However, 20 people have so far applied for grants.

Three cheques could not be distributed because of complications regarding names of victims, AL lawmaker Enamul Haque told The Daily Star.

"None of the victims would get any grant unless I had managed those for them. But a vested quarter is now trying to make it a big issue," said the MP.

Meanwhile, Shefaul Karim, deputy commissioner (DC) of Rajshahi, put the total number of cheques for the victims to 25 instead of 24 mentioned earlier by local MP Enamul.

When asked about allegations against the MP's men, the DC said he knew nothing about the matter.

"We have nothing to do with it. The affected people can file complaint with the prime minister's office from where they got the cheques, not with us," he said.

When contacted, the acting Superintendent of Police (SP) in Rajshahi Abdul Kuddus Chowdhury said, "No one has lodged any complaint with us in this regard."

# Administration limps

FROM PAGE 1

appointments of advisers to supervise five ministries, and the ministers' dependence on bureaucrats for running daily affairs are also responsible for the sluggishness in the secretariat.

They say, only the routine work has been carried out so far in most of the ministries, with the exception of a very few, since the new government took over power. The officers have been avoiding making any decision on various issues.

The government has transferred around 400 officials of various levels, including the secretaries of home, establishment, communications, information, and education while making 50 other officers OSDs, 10 of whom are also secretaries.

Among the contractual appointees, retired army official Maj MM Iqbal has been made the chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation, retired navy official Commodore Md Khorshed Alam has been made additional secretary to the foreign affairs ministry, retired Brig Gen Manzur Ahmed has been appointed as the director general of National Security Intelligence, and retired additional chief engineer Nurul Huda has been made the chairman of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha.

In its latest move on Sunday the government attached former Petrobangla chairman Jalal Ahmed to the establishment ministry as an OSD.

The practice has created an

atmosphere of uncertainty in the administration, affecting officials' concentration on delivering their responsibilities. The government must have a concrete plan for reorganizing the bureaucracy effectively, observed a senior bureaucrat.

He said most officers are in fear of transfer while many of the secretaries are new in their present positions, which is apparently affecting the civil bureaucracy. "A large number of officials have been replaced within a short span of time while many efficient officials are languishing as officers on special duty, hampering overall functioning of the administration," the official added.

"I cannot concentrate on work in fear of being transferred or being dumped as an officer on special duty anytime... Many of my colleagues were either made OSDs or transferred for reasons not clear to us," the senior bureaucrat told The Daily Star.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on March 29 defended the changes in the civil service as "necessary for the government to deliver on its promises and priorities." She told top media managers at a meeting in her office that many of the transfers were necessitated by the officers' failure to carry out government instructions under critical circumstances such as the BDR mutiny and the subsequent massacre of army officers.

The government's efforts

to bring further changes to the civil administration also involved appointment of more persons on contractual basis, creating scopes for favouritism and partisanship in the administration.

The prime minister recently expressed concern that the ministries are not performing with "the speed required," said Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office Molla Waheeduzzaman, in a letter to the secretaries of all ministries issued on March 12. Later on March 24, government secretaries at a meeting attributed the sluggishness in civil bureaucracy to the "massive reshuffle in the administration within a short span of time."

"Massive transfers are hampering development activities and implementation of government decisions," said a government secretary, requesting anonymity.

But a number of major decisions, especially the ones for giving subsidies for fertilizer and diesel, and for reducing prices of some essential commodities including of rice, are quite praiseworthy. The decisions to construct Padma Multi-purpose Bridge, a deep-sea port, the Ganges Barrage, and reintroduction of open market sales (OMS) of food, and introduction food rationing for garment workers are also commendable.

The decision to try war criminals is another major welcoming step taken by the new government. But the decision to cancel the lease of BNP Chairperson Khaleda

Zia's cantonment residence in the last cabinet meeting has been a very controversial one, which might bring the country's two main political parties to a face off.

The prime minister is giving regular instructions to different ministries to expedite their functioning. The government also decided to bring changes to the process of evaluating the performance of government employees by introducing a transparent system.

The government dangles peaceful holding of the upazila elections and Biswa Ijtema as examples of its success in maintaining law and order, while the overall law and order situation is slipping to the wayside by the day, some of which can safely be attributed to the ruling party's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League.

The sudden resignation by former ACC chairman Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, and making an OSD out of former NBR chairman Abdul Majid are also seen as negative incidents by observers.

"I think the administration is running smoothly. But you should make an overall assessment in this regard," said Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury.

She said they have come to power with a mandate for five years and for that reason they do not have any 100-day programme. "We are moving forward to implement our election pledges day by day," she told The Daily Star.

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

Memo No. APSC/Pro-01/2009/467 date: 15/04/2009

**"Invitation For International Tender"**

01. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Power Division
02. Agency	: Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd.
03. Procuring Entity District	: Brahman Barua, Bangladesh
04. Invitation for	: Design, Manufacturing and Supply of 230 KV SF6 live tank outdoor circuit Breaker
05. Invitation Ref No	: Memo No. APSC/Pro-1/2009/467
06. Date	: 15/04/2009
07. Procurement Method	: Open International Tendering Method.
08. Source of Funds	: APSC's Own Fund.
09. Tender Publication Date	: 15/04/2009
10. Tender Last Selling Date	: 01/06/2009 during office hour
11. Tender Closing Date and Time	: 02/06/2009 at 12.00 BST
12. Tender Opening Date and Time	: 02/06/2009 at 12.15 BST
13. Name & Address of the Offices	:
a. Selling Tender Documents.	: (i) Director(Purchase), Bangladesh Power Development Board, WAPDA Bhavan (9 <sup>th</sup> floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka. (ii) Manager (Finance), APSC, Ashuganj, B-Barua.
b. Receiving & Opening Tender Documents	: Office of the Convener, Procurement Committee, APSC, Ashuganj, B-Barua
14. Eligibility of Tenderer	: Renowned Supplier having experience of supply as specified in the Tender Document.
15.	:

Sl. No	Name of Item	Price of Tender Documents	Amount of Tender Security	Completion time
a.	Design, Manufacturing and Supply of 230 KV SF6 live tank outdoor circuit Breaker	Non refundable Tk. 1,000/-	US\$ 7,200.00 or BDT 5,00,000.00	150 days from the date of L/C opening.
		In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft / Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh	In favour of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited in the form of Pay Order / Bank Draft / Bank Guarantee from any schedule Bank of Bangladesh.	
16.	Name of official Inviting Tender	A M M Sazzadur Rahman		
17.	Designation of official Inviting Tender	Convener, Procurement committee		
18.	Address of official Inviting Tender	Ashuganj Power Station Co. Ltd. Ashuganj, B-Barua, Bangladesh.		
19.	Contract details of official Inviting Tender	Tel: 0088 08528 74033 Fax: 0088 08528 74044, E-mail: procurement@apscl.com, Website: www.apscl.com		
20.	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders			

(A.M.M Sazzadur Rahman)  
Convener  
Procurement Committee  
APSC, Ashuganj, B-Barua

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Project Director  
Modernization of Vaccine Production Technology & Extension of Laboratory Facilities  
Livestock Research Institute, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212  
Date: 13-04-2009

Memo No MVPT/Tender-3/2008-2009/107

## Tender Notice

1. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
2. Agency	: Department of Livestock Services
3. Procuring entity name	: Project Director, Modernization of Vaccine Production Technology & Extension of Laboratory Facilities Project, Livestock Research Institute, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
4. Procuring entity code	: Currently not used.
5. Procuring entity district	: Dhaka
6. Invitation for	: Procurement of Office Equipment (Computer)
7. Invitation Ref No.	: MVPT/Tender-3/2008-2009/107.
8. Date	: 13-04-2009

**KEY INFORMATION**

9. Procurement method	: OTM (NCT).
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**FUNDING INFORMATION**

10. Budget and source of funds	: Development budget GOB.
11. Development partner	: N/A

**PARTICULAR INFORMATION**

12. Project/programme code (if applicable)	: 6410
13. Project/programme name (if applicable)	: Modernisation of Vaccine Production Technology & Extension of Laboratory Facilities.
14. Tender package no.	: GD-17.
15. Tender package name	: Procurement of office equipment.
16. Tender publication date	: 13-04-2009
17. Tender last selling date	: 26-04-2009
18. Tender submission date & time	: 27-04-09, 1.00pm.
19. Tender opening date & time (if different from 18)	: 27-04-09, 2.00pm.
20. Name & address of the official(s)	:
- Selling tender document (principal)	: Office of the Project Director, Modernisation of Vaccine Production Technology & Extension of Laboratory Facilities Project, Livestock Research Institute, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
- Selling tender document (others)	: Department of Livestock Services (DLS), Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.
- Selling tender document	: Office of the Project Director, Modernisation of Vaccine Production Technology & Extension of Laboratory Facilities Project, Livestock Research Institute, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
- Opening tender document	: Office of the Project Director, Modernisation of Vaccine Production Technology & Extension of Laboratory Facilities Project, Livestock Research Institute, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
21. Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	: N/A

**INFORMATION FOR TENDERER**

22. Eligibility of tenderer	: Actual producer or suppliers experienced in similar works. They must have to submit up-to-date copy of trade licence, bank solvency certificate, Income Tax certificate, VAT certificate with TIN and other condition stated in TDS.
23. Brief description of goods or works	: Procurement of Brand Computer, UPS & Laser Printer.
24. Brief description of related services	: Warranty Service must be provided and all equipments should be installed & run by the suppliers.
25. Price of tender document	: Tk. 550/- (five hundred & fifty) only.

Package No.	Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender Security amount (Tk)	Completion time in weeks/months
GD-17	-	Office Equipment	LRI, Mohakhali, Dhaka	20,000/-	30 days

**PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS**

27. Name of the official inviting tender	: Dr Bidduth Kanti Das.
28. Designation of official inviting tender	: Project Director.
29. Address of official inviting tender	: Modernisation of Vaccine Production Technology & Extension of Laboratory Facilities Project, Livestock Research Institute, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212.
30. Contact details of official inviting tender	: Tel: +880-2-9893831 (Off), Fax: +880-2-9893841, E-mail: mvpt_prjct@yahoo.com
31. Special instructions	: i) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.

GD-1946

**Dr Bidduth Kanti Das**  
Project Director  
Modernisation of Vaccine Production Technology & Extension of Laboratory Facilities  
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