

Lanka fighting threatens patients, doctors: ICRC

AFP, Geneva

Fierce fighting between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels is threatening patients, medical staff and aid workers in Sri Lanka, the International Committee of the Red Cross said Thursday.

"Heavy fighting is taking place near the medical assembly point at Mullavai, which puts the lives of patients, medical workers and ICRC staff at great risk," said Jacques de Maio, chief of ICRC operations in South Asia.

"This hampers medical evacuations of wounded civilians and their families," he said in a statement released by ICRC headquarters in Geneva.

War against Tamil Tigers 'rapidly' nearing end

Says Lankan president

AFP, Colombo

The president of Sri Lanka said Thursday the island's long-running war against the separatist Tamil Tigers was "rapidly" nearing its end.

President Mahinda Rajapakse also promised Colombo-based diplomats that the military campaign against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has seen the rebels' mini-state dismantled, would bring democracy to the north.

"The war with the LTTE is rapidly nearing its conclusion and it is my hope that this will create the space for democracy to flourish in the north again," the

president said.

Sri Lankan soldiers have overrun another Tamil Tiger defence line standing between government troops and the small strip of territory still held by the ethnic rebels, the defence ministry said yesterday.

In heavy fighting late Thursday, troops captured a mud embankment built by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to slow down the government's offensive.

"Troops continued their advance further... amidst stiff resistance as LTTE terrorists made their maximum effort to hold the earth bund (embankment) built to obstruct the security forces," the ministry said.

It said that the Tigers had left behind dead bodies on the battlefield, but gave no detailed breakdown of casualties.

"Troops also received minor damages from exploding anti personnel mines," the ministry added.

The government estimates that up to 20,000 civilians are being held in the less than five-square-kilometre (two-square-mile) area where the rebels are holed up. The United Nations has said the number could be as high as 50,000.

Rajapakse, under pressure over allegations that his troops have been shelling civilians, on Wednesday invited UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to visit the island.



PHOTO: AFP

Displaced Tamil civilians camp inside Manic farm in the northern Sri Lankan district of Vavuniya on Thursday. Around 50,000 internally displaced people (IDP) from Pottumalai live in camp after they were relocated due to the armed conflict between the Sri Lankan army and the LTTE.



PHOTO: AFP

Supporters of the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) chant slogans against Nepalese president Ram Baran Yadav during a rally in Kathmandu yesterday.

Ex-Nepali PM offers olive branch to India

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kathmandu

After blaming India for the failure to sack the army chief and accusing it of interfering in his country's internal matters, Nepal's caretaker Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda Friday held out the olive branch to New Delhi, saying his government had no bias against it.

The Maoist supremo -- who had also in an embarrassing videotape leaked this week given a different account of the strength of his guerrilla fighters and said 'reactionary' India and the US would scuttle elections if they suspected the Maoists could win -- Friday called the Indian ambassador Rakesh Sood to his official residence for talks.

At the meeting with Sood, Prachanda said while the Nepali people were not happy with India's perceived role in propping the army chief, Nepal had no bias against New Delhi. It wanted the same harmonious relations with both its neighbours, India and China, Prachanda's media advisor Om Sharma told IANS.

It was the first meeting between Prachanda and the Indian envoy since the former resigned as prime minister Monday after failing to sack the chief of the army, Gen Rookmangud Katawal.

India had repeatedly advised the Maoists not to meddle with the army's chain of command.

But after the hardliners in the Maoist party forced Prachanda to dismiss the general, his own coalition partners deserted him. To add to the humiliation, President Ram Baran Yadav reinstated the sacked Katawal.

Most Britons don't think Muslims are loyal

ANI, London

Two out of three Britons think that Muslims living in the United Kingdom are not loyal to their country.

According to a new Gallup poll, only 36 percent Brits think that they can trust Muslims.

The recent poll has frightened the experts, who fear that the image of peaceful Muslims has been seriously damaged by a few ranting fundamentalists, such as Anjem Choudary and Abu Izzadeen.

The poll also found that up to a fifth of Muslim residents felt no allegiance to Britain.

"This means up to half a million. It's in this pool that terrorists can find their recruitment area," Murray said.

Clashes in Chad leave over 150 dead

AFP, Ndjamena

Chad government forces fought desert battles Friday against rebels stepping up an offensive against President Idriss Deby with more than 150 reported dead in two days of conflict.

The fighting, centred on the eastern town of Am-Dam, has heightened concerns among UN agencies and aid groups caring for about 450,000 refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic.

The UN Security Council was to meet Friday to discuss the conflict. France, which has troops in Chad, was also anxiously watching events. The European Union and African

Union both condemned the rebel offensive.

Chad has bombed the rebels from planes and helicopters since they crossed the Sudanese border Monday. The government accuses Sudan of backing the Union of Resistance Forces (UFR) rebels who have vowed to take the capital Ndjamena.

The rebels, who claim to have more than 1,000 all-terrain vehicles to carry their forces across the desert, said "several dozen" government troops had been killed or wounded and tanks destroyed in clashes early Friday around Houaich, near Am-Dam.

They were also chasing government forces further east, rebel spokesman Ali Ordjo Hemchitold AFP in a statement. The government confirmed new clashes and said 60 rebel vehicles had been destroyed or captured. This was denied by the rebels.

The army said 125 rebels and 21 soldiers had been killed, 30 government troops wounded, and 152 rebels taken prisoner in clashes Thursday at Deressa, half-way between Am-Dam and Abeche, the main city in eastern Chad.

Abeche, some 600 kilometres (370 miles) east of the Chadian capital, is a base for relief agencies as well as the eastern headquarters for the Chad army.



PHOTO: AFP

Odisha state Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik bids farewell to Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPI-M) All India General Secretary Prakash Karat after their meeting at Naveen News in the eastern India temple city Bhubaneswar yesterday.

Spurned by Nitish, bitter Cong has nowhere to go

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kolkata

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has clearly become the most-wanted politician in Indian politics, being wooed by the Congress and adopted by the BJP. But Congress, not happy with him spurning their advances, is now bitter and says Nitish thinks "too much of himself".

Congress spokesperson Moily had harsh words for

Nitish who rebuffed the party's cosy up-tactics. Moily said Nitish "thinks too much of himself and will regret staying with BJP. We are not reaching out to him," he said.

Meanwhile, the spat between Congress and its partners in the government, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP), went up a notch on Friday, with the Congress spokesperson accusing them of "insulting" its over-seat-sharing in Bihar.

BCIC International Open Re-Tender Notice

Managing Director, Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd. (CUFL), Rangadi, Chittagong hereby invites sealed tender(s) on CFR(C) Chittagong basis in accordance with the terms & conditions set out hereinafter:-

1	Ministry	Ministry of Industries.
2	Name of the procuring entity	Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd (CUFL), Rangadi, Chittagong. (An Enterprise under Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), Bangladesh).
3	Procuring method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
4	Source of fund	Any suitable source of fund.
5	Invitation Ref No. and dated	a) CUFL/PUR(F)-311/OS-1300 Dated 06.05.2009. b) CUFL/PUR(F)-312/OS-1284 Dated 06.05.2009.
6	Name of goods	a) Gear Box with Motor. b) 2 MT Fork Lift.
7	Description of tender	Tender doc's price Last selling date Opening date & time Tender security a) Tk. 200.00 08-06-2009 09-06-09 at 11.00 am Tk. 40,000.00 b) Tk. 200.00 08-06-2009 09-06-09 at 11.00 am Tk. 50,000.00
8	Tender offer validity time	120 days.
9	Selling tender documents (Factory Office)	General Manager (A&F), Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd (CUFL), Rangadi, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
10	Selling tender documents (Head Office & others)	a) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000. b) Sr. General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong-4000.
11	Name and address of the office receiving offers	General Manager (Commercial), Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd. (CUFL), Rangadi, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
12	Name and address of the office opening offers	General Manager (Commercial), Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd. (CUFL), Rangadi, Chittagong, Bangladesh. (In presence of the bidders or their authorised agents who would wish to be present).
13	Qualification of the suppliers	Necessary paper to be submitted complying the conditions mentioned in the tender document.
14	Designation of official inviting tender	General Manager (Commercial), CUFL.
15	Address of official inviting tender	General Manager (Commercial), Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Ltd. (CUFL), Rangadi, Chittagong, Bangladesh.
16	Contact details of official inviting	Phone: Direct: 880-31-622312, PABX: 880-31-622301-4, Ext. 7780 Fax: 880-31-610564.
17	Special instruction	i) Other terms & conditions as mentioned in the tender documents. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all offers without assigning any reason. ii) Due to unavoidable circumstances if the tender cannot be opened in the schedule date, tender will be received and opened on the next working day in due time.

Singapore's most wanted terrorist captured

THE STRAITS TIMES/ ANN, Singapore

Thirteen months after his audacious escape from detention in Singapore, Mas Selamat Kastari has been caught in Malaysia.

Singapore's most wanted terrorist was captured on April 1 while hiding in Johor, regional intelligence sources told The Straits Times.

It is believed that he was nabbed in the outskirts of Johor Baru and is now being held by the Malaysian authorities for interrogation.

It is not known how he slipped out of Singapore or when he entered Malaysia.

Although he was arrested six weeks ago, the Malaysian authorities have not yet announced the capture.

Myanmar ignores US request to see detained citizen

AP, Yangon

The US Embassy in Myanmar said Friday the government has ignored its repeated requests for access to a detained American arrested for allegedly swimming to the lakeside home of detained Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and sneaking inside.

The man's motives remained unclear, and the embassy said it has not been able to confirm any information since his Wednesday arrest was reported by state-controlled media, which identified him as "John William Yeattaw."

Mizanur Rahman
Acting Addl. Chief Manager (Purchase)
For Managing Director

ঢাকা পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

DHAKA POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY LTD

(An Enterprise of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh)

Invitation for Tender

1.	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resource / Power Division.
2.	Agency	Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited (DPDC).
3.	Procuring Entity Name	DGM (Technical), Grid O&M Circle, DPDC.
4.	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.
5.	Invitation for	As stated in serial No. 13
6.	Invitation Ref. No & Date	DPDC/DGM/Grid O&M Circle/1.203/08/552, Date: 05/05/09
KEY INFORMATION:		
7.	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM).
FUNDING INFORMATION		
8.	Budget and Source of Funds	DPDC'S Own Fund.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION:		
9.	Tender last Selling Date, Closing & Opening Date and Time.	Last Selling Date & Time Closing & Opening Date Closing Time Opening Time 28/05/09 3.00 PM 31/05/2009 12.00 Noon 3.00 PM
10.	Name & Address of the office for selling Tender Document, receiving & opening tender.	Selling Receiving & Opening Office of the Office of the (a) GM (Technical), SOS, DPDC, 3, Sonargaon Road, Katabon, Dhaka Deputy General Manager (Technical), Grid O&M Circle, DPDC. (b) DGM (Technical), Grid O&M Circle, DPDC, 3, Sonargaon road, katabon, Dhaka. 3, Sonargaon Road, Katabon, Dhaka-1000, 12/1/B, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000. (c) Manager (Technical), Grid South, DPDC 12/1/B, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER:		
11.	Eligibility of Tenderer	(e) The Required average annual turnover shall be greater than Tk. 30.00 Lacs for lot-1, Tk. 5.00 (Five) Lacs for lot-2 ; Tk. 3.00 (Three) lacs for lot-3 and Tk. 15.00 (Fifteen) lacs for lot-4 over the last 3 (Three) years. (f) The Required No. of contracts similar to the proposed work completed shall be 1 (One) over a period of last 3 (Three) years for lot-1, 2 & 3. The tenderer shall have a minimum of 5 (Five) years of specific experience in the supply of Goods & related services for lot-4. (g) The minimum liquid assets or credit facilities will be Tk. 5.00 (Five) lacs for lot-1, Tk. 2.00 (Two) Lacs for lot-2 & 3; and Tk. 10 (Ten) lacs for lot-4. (h) Tenderer shall submit the attested copy of trade Licens, TIN certificate & Power of attorney, VAT registration certificate only.
12.	Price of the tender Document & Amount of Tender Security	As stated in Serial No. 13. The amount of Money shall be payable in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft issued from any schedule Bank in Bangladesh in favour of Deputy General Managing (Technical), Grid O&M Circle, DPDC for individual Lots.
13.	PARTICULAR OF LOTS:	
Lot.	Description of Work	Price of Tender Document Tender Security Money Time for completion of Works
01		