INTERNATIONAL

Joy and tears greet troops back from Iraq

AFP, Washington

Mothers cried and children squealed with delight as a company of US troops arrived back from Iraq on Saturday, after a yearlong tour marked by desert heat and monotony.

A crowd of families roared as 124 soldiers from Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment, arrived marching in formation, part of a wave of homecomings as President Barack Obama scales back the US role in Iraq.

The welcoming ceremony at Fort Myer, outside Washington, was a joyous event for the soldiers and their loved ones after 12 months of separation, even if the legacy of the US invasion of Iraq remains a subject of bitter debate at home and abroad.

"It has been a very long year," said a tearful Charlotte Thompson, whose 25-year-old son

had volunteered for the Iraq assignment. The unit spent most of its time guarding a prison with about 300 Iraqi detainees in Taji, and carried out combat patrols as well, officers said.

The troops' work in Iraq was a long way from their customary job as part a regiment known as "the Old Guard" in the US capital, where they perform ceremonial duties at funerals, visits by foreign dignitaries and other official events.

Specialist Charles Thompson said he was braced for a culture shock as he would soon be marching in honor cordons at the Pentagon and the White House.

"It's really a big change," he told AFP. "I ingofthewarupsetsher.

could do without the ceremonial stuff."

The company returned without any casualties, in a war that has claimed the lives of more than 4,000 US troops and with roughly 50,000 forces still on the ground facing lethal threats.

Thompson said he got used to the intense heat in Iraq, but the work was "kind of boring at some points," with troops playing basketball or video games to ease the monotony.

After spending the weekend with his family, Thompson will be returning to duty at Fort Myer, but said he was looking forward to a 30day leave coming up soon.

He said he would head back home to northeastern Kentucky and "go fishing."

"I've been thinking about it for about 365 days," he said.

Unlike previous generations of warriors, these soldiers did not have to wait for letters from home but instead spoke directly via web video to their loved ones through laptops at their base in Iraq. Thompson's mother said she was able to sleep a little better after her weekly chats by Skype with her son.

Jo Daniels, the mother of Sergeant John Rhoten, 28, watched her son come home Saturday from his third combat tour, and preferred not to "go into detail" about how she had worried during his deployment. She said she avoids news reports about Iraq

to keep her emotions in check while her son is

But she said hearing criticism and question-



A memorial honouring Vera Smith, the Katrina victim who was killed by a hit-and-run driver in the hours following Hurricane Katrina, is seen on Saturday in New Orleans, Louisiana. Smith's body lay uncovered at this spot for days before neighbours finally buried her in a makeshift grave there. Yesterday was the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

GULF CONFLICT Tens of thousands missing in 30 years

AFP, Baghdad

Tens of thousands of people are still missing in the Gulf from Iraq's past 30 years of warfare, with families still living in hope of news, the International Committee of the Red Cross said yesterday.

"The impact of wars is still being felt by people in the greater Gulf region years or even decades after the guns fell silent," the ICRC said in a statement on the eve of the International Day of the Disappeared.

"Thousands are still hoping to receive news of their relatives who went missing in connection with the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war or the 1990-1991 Gulf War (over Kuwait), or after armed conflict broke out in Iraq in 2003," it said.

The Iran-Iraq war is estimated to have cost one million lives on the two sides, while tens of thousands more Iraqis were killed in toppled dictator Saddam Hussein's other two conflicts.

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Sealed Tenders are invited from the reputed Ad. firms, printing houses artists & designers having experience in the concept, design and printing of quality calendars for printing of Wall & Desk Calendar-2011 of Pragati Insurance Ltd. Details of specifications may be obtained from the Head Office of the Company during office hours. Last date for submission of tender is Sept. 15, 2010 upto 2:00 p.m

The management of the Company reserves the right to accept or reject any or all of the designs/quotations in full or part without assigning any reason whatsoever.

> H. R. Chowdhury Company Secretary

Dated: 29th August, 2010

19 killed in Caucasus shootout

AP, Tsentoroi

A shootout between the Chechen president's personal protection detail and suspected separatist insurgents left 19 people dead early yesterday, including five civilians, officials and media reports said. At least 12 suspected insurgents and two

security officers were killed when the rebels entered Tsentoroi, Raza Kadyrov's home village, his spokesman Alvi Karimov told The Associated Press. TV reports said five civilians were killed in the crossfire.

Kadyrov, who is thought to regularly supervise security operations in the field, was in the village at the time and directed the counteroffensive, Karimov said.

"We let them into the village so they couldn't escape," Kadyrov told Channel One television, which showed him examining the bodies of the suspected militants strewn across a road. "We forced them into a place where they could be eliminated," he said.

An AP reporter at the scene saw fire-ravaged

and bullet-ridden homes, with body parts lying among the rubble.

Resident Vargan Edelgeriyeva, 48, said the gunbattle started at about 3:00am at a construction site about 150 meters away from Kadyrov's residence.

Militants entered local homes but were quickly surrounded, Edelgeriyeva said. In one house an insurgent detonated explosives, perhaps a grenade, killing himself and a 30year-old resident, she said.

Police in 2009 averted a possible assassination attempt on Kadyrov, shooting dead the driver of a car suspected of containing explosives before he could reach a construction site where Kadyrov was due to make an appearance.

In a separate incident Sunday, security forces in nearby Dagestan province shot dead four suspected militants travelling in two cars when they refused to stop at a police checkpoint, according to police spokesman Magomed Tagirov. He said weapons were later found in the cars.

7 US troops killed in latest fight

AP, Kabul

Seven US troops have died in weekend attacks in Afghanistan's embattled southern and eastern regions, while officials found the bodies Sunday of five kidnapped campaign workers for a female candidate in the western province of Herat.

Two servicemen died in: bombings Sunday in southern Afghanistan, while two others: were killed in a bomb attack in: the south on Saturday and three in fighting in the east the: same day, NATO said. Their : identities and other details were being withheld until relatives could be notified.

Karzai wants change in Afghan war strategy

AFP, Kabul

President Hamid Karzai said yesterday Washington's war strategy for Afghanistan needed a rethink, as a Taliban-led insurgency gathers pace and foreign forces casualties surge.

Karzai made the comments to the visiting Norbert Lammert, president of the German parliament, the Afghan president's office said in a statement.

"Speaking about Afghanistan and regional security (Karzai) said that the strategy of the war on terrorism must be reassessed," the statement said.

"The experience over the past eight years showed that fighting (Taliban) in Afghan villages has been ineffective and is not achieving anything but killing civilians."

Rethinking counter-insurgency strategies in Afghanistan was the war-torn country's most pressing need, Karzai said.

"This has become a serious need in the current situation," he was quoted saying.

Earlier in the week, the Western-backed Karzai told American officials that Washington and its NATO allies must shift their military focus to insurgent hideouts on the Pakistani side of the border.

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HR & Admin Department S. Alam Group, Corporate Office,

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www.bureauveritas.com

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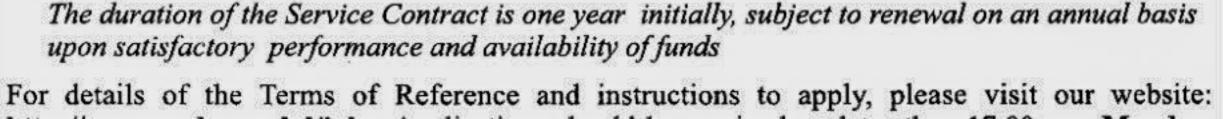
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Vacancy Announcement

United Nations Development Programme in Bangladesh announces a vacancy for the post of Procurement Assistant (Service contract - SB2) for the 'Police Reform Programme' Project, Phase II.



http://www.undp.org.bd/jobs. Applications should be received no later than 17:00 pm, Monday, 13 September 2010. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

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"TIME EXTENSION NOTICE OF DPDC'S LOCAL TENDER" The tender submission/opening date of the following tender is hereby extended as shown below:

SI. No.	Invitation for Tender No.	Material	Last date of Tender buying	Tender Submission/opening date	
				Original	Extended
01.	DPDC/DGM(CP& S)/09-10/469 dt: 24/5/2010	Testing Equipment	31/8/2010	01/9/2010	02/9/2010

All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

Deputy General Manager Contracts & Procurements Circle, DPDC.

ডেসকো কর্তৃপক্ষ



ঢাকা ইলেকট্রিক সাপ্লাই কোম্পানী লিমিটেড (ডেসকো)

বুঁকিপূর্ন ঝুলম্ভ তার/ক্যাবল অপসারন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি (সংশোধিত)

এতদ্বারা ISP Association এবং COAB-এর সম্মানিত সদস্যদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ডেসকো'র আওতাধীন এলাকার প্রধান সড়ক সমূহের উভয় পাশে বৈদ্যুতিক খুঁটি ব্যবহার করে ঝুঁকিপূর্নভাবে বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানের ঝুলন্ড তার/ক্যাবল (Inter-Net/Cable TV) সমূহ রয়েছে। এসব তার/ক্যাবল যেমন বৈদ্যুতিক খুঁটির জন্য ঝুঁকিপূর্ন তেমনি সৌন্দর্যহানীসহ বিভিন্ন দূর্ঘটনার কারন। এ সকল Overhead ঝুঁকিপূর্ন ঝুলম্ভ তার/ক্যাবল কে অপসারন পূর্বক ভূ-গর্ভস্থ (Underground) ব্যবস্থার আওতায় স্থাপনের জন্য গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের বিদ্যুৎ, জ্বালানী ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়ের নির্দেশনা রয়েছে। সেই মোতাবেক গত ১৮/০৮/২০১০ইং তারিখে দৈনিক প্রথম আলো, দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক ও The Daily Star পত্রিকায় সরকার নির্ধারিত সময়-সীমার মধ্যে ডেসকো এলাকার সড়ক সমূহের উভয় পার্শ্বের ঝুলন্ত তার/ক্যাবল অপসারন করে ভূ-গর্ভস্থ ব্যবস্থার আওতায় আনয়নের জন্য ISP, Cable TV Operators ও অন্যান্য সংস্থাকে দৃষ্টি আকর্ষন পূর্বক বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশ করা হয়। এদিকে বাস্তব অবস্থা বিবেচনা পূর্বক সরকার কর্তৃক এ সময়-সীমা বর্ধিত করা হয়েছে। এ অবস্থায় উল্লিখিত সড়ক সমূহের উভয় পার্শ্বের ঝুলন্ত তার/ক্যাবল সংশোধিত সময় সূচীর মধ্যে অপসারন করে ভূ-গর্ভস্থ ব্যবস্থার আওতায় আনয়নের জন্য ISP, Cable TV Operators ও অন্যান্য সংস্থাকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে ঃ

ডেসকো'র আওতাধীন প্রধান সড়ক সমূহ	Overhead তার/ক্যাবল অপসারনের তারিখ (সংশোধিত) ৩১/১০/২০১০ইং	
* জাহাঙ্গীর গেট থেকে উত্তরা পর্যস্ত		
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* গুলশান শুটিং ক্লাব হতে গুলশান নর্থ এভিনিউ	৩০/১১/২০১০ইং	
* কাকলী হতে বারিধারা নতুন বাজার		
* কুড়িল বিশ্ব রোড হতে রামপুরা ব্রীজ (প্রগতি স্বরণী)		
সমগ্র মিরপুর এলাকা (আগারগাঁও মোড় হতে মিরপুর-১২, আগারগাঁও মোড় হতে		
শিশু মেলা হয়ে শ্যামলী, কল্যাণপুর, দারুস সালাম, গাবতলী, মাজার রোড,	৩১/১২/২০১০ইং	
চিড়িয়াখানা সড়ক, মিরপুর-১ হতে মিরপুর-১০ হয়ে মিরপুর-১৪ পর্যন্ত)।		

তারিখ ঃ আগষ্ট ২৯, ২০১০ ইং।

স্মারক নং ঃ ডেসকো/জিএম(ওএনএন্ডসি)/২০১০/২৮০