

Rebels occupy parts of Grozny in a bold raid

Russian troops mount 'clean-up' operations against Chechens

GROZNY, Russia, Mar 9: Russian troops mounted "clean-up" operations against groups of Chechen guerrillas who occupied part of the regional capital Grozny in a bold raid, reports Reuters.

shooting in the city had practically stopped," he said. However, at around the same time, sporadic gunfire and more powerful blasts, which locals said came from light tanks, could be heard close to Grozny city centre.

troops had been killed and 160 wounded in the fighting, while about 40 servicemen were missing. Tass reported heavy fighting on Friday in central Grozny between Dudayev's former presidential palace and Minutka Square but later said the rebels had been driven out of Minutka.

Panteleyev, as saying Russian forces planned to launch a "clean-up" operation in Grozny early yesterday. His statement came hours after Russian elite paratroopers backed by armour marched into the city centre to help beleaguered security forces hold off the rebel offensive.



Picture dated March 5 shows Dr Mahmoud Al-Zahar, a top Islamic Resistance Movement (HAMAS) leader who was arrested by Palestinian police on Friday in Gaza City.

Hamas won't hand over arms or halt anti-Israeli attacks

BEIRUT, Mar 9: The radical Palestinian group Hamas will not hand over its weapons or halt anti-Israeli attacks, the movement's representative in Lebanon said today, dismissing as fakes earlier statements to the contrary, reports APF.

statements," he told the Lebanese Daily-An-Nahar. "Military action and suicide operations are part of our strategy to liberate our land," he said, adding that there was no split between the movement's political and military branches.

China fires another missile

TAIPEI, Mar 9: China today fired another missile into a target zone off Taiwan, the ruling Kuomintang (KMT)-run China Television Co reported, says APF.

The network did not say into which of the two designated zones — north and south of the island — the missile landed. Taipei-based Cable Television Broadcasting System (TVBS) also reported the missile firing, the fourth since Beijing began its eight-day drill on Friday.

UN urges Afghan factions to lay down arms

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 9: The UN Security Council on Friday urged Afghanistan's warring parties to lay down their arms and seek a negotiated settlement, reports APF.

Security Council president Legwaila Legwaila of Botswana expressed the Council's concern, saying it was hoped that "sooner rather than later the leaders of Afghanistan would lay down their weapons and negotiate a peaceful, end to their conflict."

Turkish Cypriot jet hijack drama ends

MUNICH, Mar 9: Police arrested a pro-Chechen gunman early Saturday after he released all of the 109 hostages on board the Turkish Cypriot airliner hijacked nearly 12 hours earlier, reports AP.

Although officials had said four hijackers had commandeered the Boeing 727 after take-off from northern Cyprus, Munich Airport spokesman Hans-Joachim Bues said it appears there was only one.

Queen Noor shows oldest statuary

American-born Queen Noor of Jordan, trained in architecture at Princeton University, presented publicly for the first time on Friday a piece of what she called the world's oldest statuary, AP reports from Washington.

It belongs to a group of heads, two-headed torsos and full-length plaster figures, found in 1985 when a bulldozer was helping clear the ground for a motorway near her country's capital, Amman.

Chinese cop executed for murder

A Chinese policeman has been executed in the southwestern province of Guizhou for murdering five people in a drunken rampage after the lunar new year holiday, a report seen Friday said, AP reports from Beijing.

The intermediate people's court of Anshun prefecture sentenced Han Bin to death Sunday at a mass rally attended by more than 30,000 people and he was executed immediately, the Guizhou Daily said.

British diplomat Gibson dead

A British diplomat who was shot and paralysed while trying to escape a gang of car hijackers in Kenya died Friday, the Foreign Office said, AP reports from London.

Graeme Gibson, 43, second secretary in the British High Commission's Commercial department in Nairobi, was shot in the neck at close range on Nov 24, following a car chase through the city.

Dalai Lama blasts China's policy towards Tibet, HK, Taiwan

NEW DELHI, Mar 9: Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama accused China today of waging a campaign of "intensified repression" in Tibet and adopting an "increasingly aggressive posture" towards Taiwan and Hong Kong, reports APF.

"We are witnessing a general hardening of Chinese government policy, the Dalai Lama said in a statement commemorating the 37th anniversary of the March 10, 1959 uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet.

Millions of women around world reiterate demand for equality

PARIS, Mar 9: Millions of women around the world joined forces on International Women's Day on Friday to demand equality, reports APF.

They focused the demands on an end to violence and exploitation, equal pay and working conditions, and full representation in government.

Iraq blocks UN team from suspected N-arms site

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 9: A UN arms inspection team was blocked from site in Iraq, UN sources said. The standoff followed an announcement by UN officials in Baghdad that they found documents and parts of chemical or biological rockets at another site, reports AP.

The Security Council held an unsecured meeting Friday afternoon to review the situation. Council diplomats said a statement was expected later in the day.

Indo-Pak troops trade gunfire across Kashmir border

JAMMU, India, Mar 9: Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged gunfire overnight across a border in the northern state of Kashmir, but there were no immediate reports of military or civilian casualties, officials said today, reports APF.

A Border Security Force (BSF) spokesman here said Pakistani soldiers fired some 15,000 machinegun rounds in Kashmir's frontier Samba district, but added that there were no casualties on the Indian side.

British diplomat Gibson dead

A British diplomat who was shot and paralysed while trying to escape a gang of car hijackers in Kenya died Friday, the Foreign Office said, AP reports from London.

Graeme Gibson, 43, second secretary in the British High Commission's Commercial department in Nairobi, was shot in the neck at close range on Nov 24, following a car chase through the city.

China fires another missile

TAIPEI, Mar 9: China today fired another missile into a target zone off Taiwan, the ruling Kuomintang (KMT)-run China Television Co reported, says APF.

The network did not say into which of the two designated zones — north and south of the island — the missile landed.

UN urges Afghan factions to lay down arms

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 9: The UN Security Council on Friday urged Afghanistan's warring parties to lay down their arms and seek a negotiated settlement, reports APF.

Security Council president Legwaila Legwaila of Botswana expressed the Council's concern, saying it was hoped that "sooner rather than later the leaders of Afghanistan would lay down their weapons and negotiate a peaceful, end to their conflict."

Queen Noor shows oldest statuary

American-born Queen Noor of Jordan, trained in architecture at Princeton University, presented publicly for the first time on Friday a piece of what she called the world's oldest statuary, AP reports from Washington.

It belongs to a group of heads, two-headed torsos and full-length plaster figures, found in 1985 when a bulldozer was helping clear the ground for a motorway near her country's capital, Amman.

Chinese cop executed for murder

A Chinese policeman has been executed in the southwestern province of Guizhou for murdering five people in a drunken rampage after the lunar new year holiday, a report seen Friday said, AP reports from Beijing.

The intermediate people's court of Anshun prefecture sentenced Han Bin to death Sunday at a mass rally attended by more than 30,000 people and he was executed immediately, the Guizhou Daily said.

British diplomat Gibson dead

A British diplomat who was shot and paralysed while trying to escape a gang of car hijackers in Kenya died Friday, the Foreign Office said, AP reports from London.

Graeme Gibson, 43, second secretary in the British High Commission's Commercial department in Nairobi, was shot in the neck at close range on Nov 24, following a car chase through the city.

Dalai Lama blasts China's policy towards Tibet, HK, Taiwan

NEW DELHI, Mar 9: Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama accused China today of waging a campaign of "intensified repression" in Tibet and adopting an "increasingly aggressive posture" towards Taiwan and Hong Kong, reports APF.

"We are witnessing a general hardening of Chinese government policy, the Dalai Lama said in a statement commemorating the 37th anniversary of the March 10, 1959 uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet.

Millions of women around world reiterate demand for equality

PARIS, Mar 9: Millions of women around the world joined forces on International Women's Day on Friday to demand equality, reports APF.

They focused the demands on an end to violence and exploitation, equal pay and working conditions, and full representation in government.

Iraq blocks UN team from suspected N-arms site

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 9: A UN arms inspection team was blocked from site in Iraq, UN sources said. The standoff followed an announcement by UN officials in Baghdad that they found documents and parts of chemical or biological rockets at another site, reports AP.

The Security Council held an unsecured meeting Friday afternoon to review the situation. Council diplomats said a statement was expected later in the day.

Indo-Pak troops trade gunfire across Kashmir border

JAMMU, India, Mar 9: Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged gunfire overnight across a border in the northern state of Kashmir, but there were no immediate reports of military or civilian casualties, officials said today, reports APF.

A Border Security Force (BSF) spokesman here said Pakistani soldiers fired some 15,000 machinegun rounds in Kashmir's frontier Samba district, but added that there were no casualties on the Indian side.

Chinese cop executed for murder

A Chinese policeman has been executed in the southwestern province of Guizhou for murdering five people in a drunken rampage after the lunar new year holiday, a report seen Friday said, AP reports from Beijing.

The intermediate people's court of Anshun prefecture sentenced Han Bin to death Sunday at a mass rally attended by more than 30,000 people and he was executed immediately, the Guizhou Daily said.

British diplomat Gibson dead

A British diplomat who was shot and paralysed while trying to escape a gang of car hijackers in Kenya died Friday, the Foreign Office said, AP reports from London.

Graeme Gibson, 43, second secretary in the British High Commission's Commercial department in Nairobi, was shot in the neck at close range on Nov 24, following a car chase through the city.

Dalai Lama blasts China's policy towards Tibet, HK, Taiwan

NEW DELHI, Mar 9: Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama accused China today of waging a campaign of "intensified repression" in Tibet and adopting an "increasingly aggressive posture" towards Taiwan and Hong Kong, reports APF.

"We are witnessing a general hardening of Chinese government policy, the Dalai Lama said in a statement commemorating the 37th anniversary of the March 10, 1959 uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet.

Millions of women around world reiterate demand for equality

PARIS, Mar 9: Millions of women around the world joined forces on International Women's Day on Friday to demand equality, reports APF.

They focused the demands on an end to violence and exploitation, equal pay and working conditions, and full representation in government.

Iraq blocks UN team from suspected N-arms site

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 9: A UN arms inspection team was blocked from site in Iraq, UN sources said. The standoff followed an announcement by UN officials in Baghdad that they found documents and parts of chemical or biological rockets at another site, reports AP.

The Security Council held an unsecured meeting Friday afternoon to review the situation. Council diplomats said a statement was expected later in the day.

Indo-Pak troops trade gunfire across Kashmir border

JAMMU, India, Mar 9: Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged gunfire overnight across a border in the northern state of Kashmir, but there were no immediate reports of military or civilian casualties, officials said today, reports APF.

A Border Security Force (BSF) spokesman here said Pakistani soldiers fired some 15,000 machinegun rounds in Kashmir's frontier Samba district, but added that there were no casualties on the Indian side.

Chinese cop executed for murder

A Chinese policeman has been executed in the southwestern province of Guizhou for murdering five people in a drunken rampage after the lunar new year holiday, a report seen Friday said, AP reports from Beijing.

The intermediate people's court of Anshun prefecture sentenced Han Bin to death Sunday at a mass rally attended by more than 30,000 people and he was executed immediately, the Guizhou Daily said.

British diplomat Gibson dead

A British diplomat who was shot and paralysed while trying to escape a gang of car hijackers in Kenya died Friday, the Foreign Office said, AP reports from London.

Graeme Gibson, 43, second secretary in the British High Commission's Commercial department in Nairobi, was shot in the neck at close range on Nov 24, following a car chase through the city.

Dalai Lama blasts China's policy towards Tibet, HK, Taiwan

NEW DELHI, Mar 9: Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama accused China today of waging a campaign of "intensified repression" in Tibet and adopting an "increasingly aggressive posture" towards Taiwan and Hong Kong, reports APF.

"We are witnessing a general hardening of Chinese government policy, the Dalai Lama said in a statement commemorating the 37th anniversary of the March 10, 1959 uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet.

Millions of women around world reiterate demand for equality

PARIS, Mar 9: Millions of women around the world joined forces on International Women's Day on Friday to demand equality, reports APF.

They focused the demands on an end to violence and exploitation, equal pay and working conditions, and full representation in government.

Iraq blocks UN team from suspected N-arms site

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 9: A UN arms inspection team was blocked from site in Iraq, UN sources said. The standoff followed an announcement by UN officials in Baghdad that they found documents and parts of chemical or biological rockets at another site, reports AP.

The Security Council held an unsecured meeting Friday afternoon to review the situation. Council diplomats said a statement was expected later in the day.

Indo-Pak troops trade gunfire across Kashmir border

JAMMU, India, Mar 9: Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged gunfire overnight across a border in the northern state of Kashmir, but there were no immediate reports of military or civilian casualties, officials said today, reports APF.

A Border Security Force (BSF) spokesman here said Pakistani soldiers fired some 15,000 machinegun rounds in Kashmir's frontier Samba district, but added that there were no casualties on the Indian side.

Chinese cop executed for murder

A Chinese policeman has been executed in the southwestern province of Guizhou for murdering five people in a drunken rampage after the lunar new year holiday, a report seen Friday said, AP reports from Beijing.

The intermediate people's court of Anshun prefecture sentenced Han Bin to death Sunday at a mass rally attended by more than 30,000 people and he was executed immediately, the Guizhou Daily said.

British diplomat Gibson dead

A British diplomat who was shot and paralysed while trying to escape a gang of car hijackers in Kenya died Friday, the Foreign Office said, AP reports from London.

Graeme Gibson, 43, second secretary in the British High Commission's Commercial department in Nairobi, was shot in the neck at close range on Nov 24, following a car chase through the city.

Dalai Lama blasts China's policy towards Tibet, HK, Taiwan

NEW DELHI, Mar 9: Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama accused China today of waging a campaign of "intensified repression" in Tibet and adopting an "increasingly aggressive posture" towards Taiwan and Hong Kong, reports APF.

"We are witnessing a general hardening of Chinese government policy, the Dalai Lama said in a statement commemorating the 37th anniversary of the March 10, 1959 uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet.

Millions of women around world reiterate demand for equality

PARIS, Mar 9: Millions of women around the world joined forces on International Women's Day on Friday to demand equality, reports APF.

They focused the demands on an end to violence and exploitation, equal pay and working conditions, and full representation in government.

Iraq blocks UN team from suspected N-arms site

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 9: A UN arms inspection team was blocked from site in Iraq, UN sources said. The standoff followed an announcement by UN officials in Baghdad that they found documents and parts of chemical or biological rockets at another site, reports AP.

The Security Council held an unsecured meeting Friday afternoon to review the situation. Council diplomats said a statement was expected later in the day.

Indo-Pak troops trade gunfire across Kashmir border

JAMMU, India, Mar 9: Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged gunfire overnight across a border in the northern state of Kashmir, but there were no immediate reports of military or civilian casualties, officials said today, reports APF.

A Border Security Force (BSF) spokesman here said Pakistani soldiers fired some 15,000 machinegun rounds in Kashmir's frontier Samba district, but added that there were no casualties on the Indian side.

Chinese cop executed for murder

A Chinese policeman has been executed in the southwestern province of Guizhou for murdering five people in a drunken rampage after the lunar new year holiday, a report seen Friday said, AP reports from Beijing.

The intermediate people's court of Anshun prefecture sentenced Han Bin to death Sunday at a mass rally attended by more than 30,000 people and he was executed immediately, the Guizhou Daily said.

British diplomat Gibson dead

A British diplomat who was shot and paralysed while trying to escape a gang of car hijackers in Kenya died Friday, the Foreign Office said, AP reports from London.

Graeme Gibson, 43, second secretary in the British High Commission's Commercial department in Nairobi, was shot in the neck at close range on Nov 24, following a car chase through the city.

Dalai Lama blasts China's policy towards Tibet, HK, Taiwan

NEW DELHI, Mar 9: Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama accused China today of waging a campaign of "intensified repression" in Tibet and adopting an "increasingly aggressive posture" towards Taiwan and Hong Kong, reports APF.

"We are witnessing a general hardening of Chinese government policy, the Dalai Lama said in a statement commemorating the 37th anniversary of the March 10, 1959 uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet.

Millions of women around world reiterate demand for equality

PARIS, Mar 9: Millions of women around the world joined forces on International Women's Day on Friday to demand equality, reports APF.

They focused the demands on an end to violence and exploitation, equal pay and working conditions, and full representation in government.

Iraq blocks UN team from suspected N-arms site

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 9: A UN arms inspection team was blocked from site in Iraq, UN sources said. The standoff followed an announcement by UN officials in Baghdad that they found documents and parts of chemical or biological rockets at another site, reports AP.

The Security Council held an unsecured meeting Friday afternoon to review the situation. Council diplomats said a statement was expected later in the day.

Indo-Pak troops trade gunfire across Kashmir border

JAMMU, India, Mar 9: Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged gunfire overnight across a border in the northern state of Kashmir, but there were no immediate reports of military or civilian casualties, officials said today, reports APF.

A Border Security Force (BSF) spokesman here said Pakistani soldiers fired some 15,000 machinegun rounds in Kashmir's frontier Samba district, but added that there were no casualties on the Indian side.

Chinese cop executed for murder

A Chinese policeman has been executed in the southwestern province of Guizhou for murdering five people in a drunken rampage after the lunar new year holiday, a report seen Friday said, AP reports from Beijing.

The intermediate people's court of Anshun prefecture sentenced Han Bin to death Sunday at a mass rally attended by more than 30,000 people and he was executed immediately, the Guizhou Daily said.

British diplomat Gibson dead

A British diplomat who was shot and paralysed while trying to escape a gang of car hijackers in Kenya died Friday, the Foreign Office said, AP reports from London.

Graeme Gibson, 43, second secretary in the British High Commission's Commercial department in Nairobi, was shot in the neck at close range on Nov 24, following a car chase through the city.

Dalai Lama blasts China's policy towards Tibet, HK, Taiwan

NEW DELHI, Mar 9: Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama accused China today of waging a campaign of "intensified repression" in Tibet and adopting an "increasingly aggressive posture" towards Taiwan and Hong Kong, reports APF.

"We are witnessing a general hardening of Chinese government policy, the Dalai Lama said in a statement commemorating the 37th anniversary of the March 10, 1959 uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet.

Millions of women around world reiterate demand for equality

PARIS, Mar 9: Millions of women around the world joined forces on International Women's Day on Friday to demand equality, reports APF.

They focused the demands on an end to violence and exploitation, equal pay and working conditions, and full representation in government.

Iraq blocks UN team from suspected N-arms site

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 9: A UN arms inspection team was blocked from site in Iraq, UN sources said. The standoff followed an announcement by UN officials in Baghdad that they found documents and parts of chemical or biological rockets at another site, reports AP.

The Security Council held an unsecured meeting Friday afternoon to review the situation. Council diplomats said a statement was expected later in the day.

Indo-Pak troops trade gunfire across Kashmir border

JAMMU, India, Mar 9: Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged gunfire overnight across a border in the northern state of Kashmir, but there were no immediate reports of military or civilian casualties, officials said today, reports APF.

A Border Security Force (BSF) spokesman here said Pakistani soldiers fired some 15,000 machinegun rounds in Kashmir's frontier Samba district, but added that there were no casualties on the Indian side.

Chinese cop executed for murder

A Chinese policeman has been executed in the southwestern province of Guizhou for murdering five people in a drunken rampage after the lunar new year holiday, a report seen Friday said, AP reports from Beijing.

The intermediate people's court of Anshun prefecture sentenced Han Bin to death Sunday at a mass rally attended by more than 30,000 people and he was executed immediately, the Guizhou Daily said.

British diplomat Gibson dead

A British diplomat who was shot and paralysed while trying to escape a gang of car hijackers in Kenya died Friday, the Foreign Office said, AP reports from London.

Graeme Gibson, 43, second secretary in the British High Commission's Commercial department in Nairobi, was shot in the neck at close range on Nov 24, following a car chase through the city.

Dalai Lama blasts China's policy towards Tibet, HK, Taiwan

NEW DELHI, Mar 9: Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama accused China today of waging a campaign of "intensified repression" in Tibet and adopting an "increasingly aggressive posture" towards Taiwan and Hong Kong, reports APF.

"We are witnessing a general hardening of Chinese government policy, the Dalai Lama said in a statement commemorating the 37th anniversary of the March 10, 1959 uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet.

Millions of women around world reiterate demand for equality

PARIS, Mar 9: Millions of women around the world joined forces on International Women's Day on Friday to demand equality, reports APF.

They focused the demands on an end to violence and exploitation, equal pay and working conditions, and full representation in government.

Iraq blocks UN team from suspected N-arms site

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 9: A UN arms inspection team was blocked from site in Iraq, UN sources said. The standoff followed an announcement by UN officials in Baghdad that they found documents and parts of chemical or biological rockets at another site, reports AP.

The Security Council held an unsecured meeting Friday afternoon to review the situation. Council diplomats said a statement was expected later in the day.

Indo-Pak troops trade gunfire across Kashmir border

JAMMU, India, Mar 9: Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged gunfire overnight across a border in the northern state of Kashmir, but there were no immediate reports of military or civilian casualties, officials said today, reports APF.

A Border Security Force (BSF) spokesman here said Pakistani soldiers fired some 15,000 machinegun rounds in Kashmir's frontier Samba district, but added that there were no casualties on the Indian side.

Chinese cop executed for murder

A Chinese policeman has been executed in the southwestern province of Guizhou for murdering five people in a drunken rampage after the lunar new year holiday, a report seen Friday said, AP reports from Beijing.

The intermediate people's court of Anshun prefecture sentenced Han Bin to death Sunday at a mass rally attended by more than 30,000 people and he was executed immediately, the Guizhou Daily said.

British diplomat Gibson dead

A British diplomat who was shot and paralysed while trying to escape a gang of car hijackers in Kenya died Friday, the Foreign Office said, AP reports from London.

Graeme Gibson, 43, second secretary in the British High Commission's Commercial department in Nairobi, was shot in the neck at close range on Nov 24, following a car chase through the city.

Dalai Lama blasts China's policy towards Tibet, HK, Taiwan

NEW DELHI, Mar 9: Tibet's spiritual leader the Dalai Lama accused China today of waging a campaign of "intensified repression" in Tibet and adopting an "increasingly aggressive posture" towards Taiwan and Hong Kong, reports APF.

"We are witnessing a general hardening of Chinese government policy, the Dalai Lama said in a statement commemorating the 37th anniversary of the March 10,