# A personal triumph for Annan of UN resolutions providing for full and unconditional access

BAGHDAD, Feb 24: The agreement secured by UN Chief Kofi Annan with Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is a personal triumph for the Ghanaian Secretary-General who put his credibility on the line by travelling to Baghdad, reports AFP.

Annan was keenly aware of the failure of former secretary

general Javier Perez de Cuellar, who was humiliated by Saddam in January 1991 when the then UN chief failed to broker a diplomatic solution to avert the Gulf War.

Saddam kept Perez waiting at a guest house for some 10 hours before receiving him. Annan, in contrast, was given full honours during his four-day trip, during which he was welcomed at Saddam International Airport by deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz.

Annan, 59, always said that he would only travel to Baghdad if he was certain he could "made a difference" with a "workable solution" acceptable to both the UN Security Council and Iraq. "It's a victory. He showed his worth with his cool, his tact

ern diplomat based in Baghdad. Annan's smoothly orchestrated process began in New York, where the initial concept for his agreement with Iraq was drawn up by UN officials, to en-

UNDATED, Feb 24: Key

points in the agreement be-

tween UN Secretary General

Kofi Annan and Iraqi Deputy

Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, re-

made a written commitment to

provide "immediate, unre-

stricted and unconditional" ac-

cess for UN inspectors to all po-

tential weapons sites in Iraq, as

called for by UN Security Coun-

cil resolutions dating from the

would allow the United Nations

Special Commission, or UN-

SCOM, to fulfill its mission to

find and destroy all of Iraq's

chemical, biological and nu-

clear weapons; find and destroy

the missiles to deliver those

weapons; and to institute a sys-

tem for long-term monitoring

to make sure Iraq does not build

all sites in Iraq, including eight

disputed presidential palaces.

which were among areas which

UN weapons inspectors have

appointed by the UN secretary-

general in consultation with

UNSCOM and the International

Atomic Energy Agency for in-

specting the eight palace sites.

No deadline or limits on the

number of visit to the sites is

Senior diplomats will be

been denied access to.

— The agreement applies to

If fully implemented, this

The government of Iraq

ports AP:

1991 Gulf War.

and his finesse," said one west-

permanent members of the UN Security Council, to obtain the collective "bottom line" of Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

Then, over a period of days,

he focused the minds of the five

for UN weapons inspectors,

while preserving Iraqi

spectors from certain sites where they suspected Iraqi

weapons of mass destruction

Baghdad had barred the in-

sovereignty.

may be concealed.

It was the first time since sure the full implementations, the crisis began on October that

- The "special group" ap-

pointed by Annan will operate under the established proce-

dures of UNSCOM and IAEA as

well as under "specific, detailed

procedures which will be devel-

oped given the special nature of

the presidential sites, in accor-

dance with the relevant resolu-

tions of the Security Council."

There was no indication of

what those procedures might

- The United Nations reiter-

- While there were no time-

entail, a potential trouble spot.

ated the commitment of all

members states to respect Iraq's

sovereignty and territorial in-

lines for lifting tough economic

sanctions imposed by the

United Nations more than

seven years ago, the agreement

says that lifting them "is obvi-

tance" to the Iraqi people and

progress achieved by weapons

inspectors in various disar-

mament areas, and the need to

intensify efforts in order to

complete their mandate. The

Security Council has said that

once completed, sanctions can

be lifted. Toward the goal of fin-

ishing the task, the document

says the United Nations and

Iraq agree to improve their co-

operation and efficiency Out

— The agreement notes the

ously of paramount impor-

the Iraqi government.

included in the agreement.

all five had discussed the possible options for resolving the crisis in the same room.

Two states, Russia and France, were actively engaged in mediation with Baghdad, while the United States, backed by Britain, was threatening military action if diplomatic efforts failed.

China was opposed to mili-tary strikes, but like all the UN Security Council members believed that Iraq should fulfil its obligations under the UN resolutions.

The compromise that emerged last week after the permanent five consultations with Annan provided for a concession to Iraq, by providing for the UN special commission inspectors reviled by the Iraqi authorities to be accompanied by diplomats on their inspections of so-called presidential sites.

Annan, meanwhile, dispatched a UN map-making team to survey the eight presidential sites to settle a dispute between the United Nations and Iraq on the actual size, location and structures of the presidential sites, declared off-limits to the UN inspectors.

The Security Council. meanwhile, rejected Iraq's attempt to establish a two-month deadline for the UN inspectors

to conclude their work. Annan's task was to persuade Iraqi authorities to drop the imposed timeframe, which he did in his two-hour private meeting with Saddam on Sun-

Annan's success here will also provide a much-needed shot in the arm for the United Nations, currently engaged in an internal debate over its rele-

States is less than fully committed to the world body. His personal low-key and pragmatic style was clearly a factor in the negotiations here. The Iraqi authorities apparently trusted the UN Secretary-General, who was offering Baghdad a ladder to climb down

to end the crisis with dignity. He said before leaving New York that Iraq should not be "humiliated."

The signed agreement which was to be presented to the 15 member Security Council on Tuesday, will also offer the United States a face-saving way to avoid the military strikes.

Annan's talks here took place in a "civilised" manner despite their difficulty, according to sources close to the talks. "There was no thumping of table or raising of voices," one

source said. "Annan wanted to exist," a diplomat said here Sunday, implying that as of now, he does.

## 18 killed, 25 hurt in Algiers train blast

PARIS, Feb 24: A bomb killed 18 people and wounded 25 on a train south of the Algerian capital Algiers on Monday. Algerian security forces said,

reports Reuter. One resident said by telephone that he believed the toll vance at a time when the United could be higher because the

train was full of people going home from work.

"Eighteen people were killed and 25 were wounded," staterun radio said, quoting a statement by the security forces.

The security forces said the train was travelling between Algiers and the southern area of Afroun when the bomb exploded at 4.45 PM (1545 GMT). It was in an area known for scores of attacks on civilians which officials have blamed on Mus-

lim rebels. The statement indicated that the bomb was planted on or near the track and went off as the train passed.

### Netanyahu calls for face-to-face talks with Arafat

JERUSALEM, Feb 24: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday called for intense face-to-face talks with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to broker a definitive peace agreement, reports AFP.

"We should sit down together Arafat and myself in the presence of the Americans, for example at Camp David in the United States, to solve the problem and reach an histoic accord," Netanyahu said.

In 1978 Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin hammered out an agreement at Camp David that led to the 1979 Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

The Israeli-Palestinian peace process has collapsed since Netanyahu took office in May 1996, and the Palestinians walked out of peace talks in March last year after Netanyahu ordered the start of construction on a Jewish settlement in East Jerusalem.

ANKARA, Feb 23: Turkey's

parliament on Monday took the

first step towards trying Is-

lamist leader and former prime

minister Necmetting Erbakan

for alleged violation of public

order laws, officials said, re-

files detailing charges against

Erbakan and three other for-

mer members of parliament

from the Islam-based Welfare

Party, outlawed by the constitutional court last month for

threatening Turkey's secularist

terday and issued them today."

a parliament official told Reuters. "They will eventually

be sent on to the courts, which

A court also issued an arrest

warrant for Islamist firebrand

Sevki Yilmaz, who lost his par-

liamentary status along with

quoted a prosecutor as saying

Yilmaz, wanted on charges of

sedition, could face the death

penalty under an article which

covers attempts to "disrupt the

constitution and the fundamen-

Paula Jones'

lawyers

tal principles of the state."

Anatolian News Agency

"We prepared the files yes-

The speaker's office released

Parliament takes step to try Erbakan

ports Reuter.

system.

Erbakan.

will begin trials."

The Senate is expected to

## Key points of UN-Iraq deal NATO expansion expected to cost \$1.5b that potential members' mili-

The US share of the cost is

The analysis parallels one issued in November by the North November by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which said it would cost dirs 1.5 billion over 10 years to let Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic join. The three were invited to participate after a

The latest Pentagon estimate

tary infrastructures, such as its air bases and rail networks. were not as bad as once feared; and the Pentagon included costs in its past study that will now be born by the new members themselves, the report said. The dirs 1.5 billion represents the total "common costs"

and air defense systems to bring them in line with those of current NATO members. The US cost will be "the standard US share of about 25 per cent," of that amount, said

to NATO members and would

cover such things as improving

new members' communications

the statement, released at the Pentagon. The latest figures came as the administration planned to send Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and defense

vote on the expansion next

WASHINGTON, Feb 24: The Pentagon sharply reduced its estimate of the cost of bringing three former Warsaw Pact members into NATO, reporting Monday that the price tag will be dlrs 1.5 billion over 10 years, reports AP. This reflects more recent

and more complete information than the Department's February 1997.... cost figures of dlrs 4.9 billion to dlrs 6.2 billion," the department said in a statement

expected to be about dlrs 375 million, according to the new estimates.

summit in July.

is more in line with NATO's because it was revised to include several factors - it covers only three countries, instead of the earlier estimates for four; it now agrees with "more recent and detailed data" that found

Secretary William Cohen to Capitol Hill to argue Tuesday for the NATO expansion before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Lawmakers have cited the various cost estimates as part of their concern over whether to approve the alliance's enlargement.

President Clinton meets reporters in the Oval Office of the White House Monday, to

Polls violence death toll rises to 64

Candidate among 5 gunned

down in Bihar

shortly after midnight on De-

vendranath Dubey, a candidate

of the socialist Samaiwadi

dead in a jeep at Sangrampur

village, 185 kilometers (115

miles) north of Bihars capital

Patna, said police officer T P

hari constituency were held

Sunday, amid allegations of

vote rigging by other candi-

dates. The Election Commis-

sion is likely to rule Tuesday on

whether polling would have to

politicians in Bihar, is facing

trial on murder charges. Four

days ago, he got a court order

restraining police from arrest-

ing him in another murder

Court on Tuesday ordered the

state assembly in neighbouring

Uttar Pradesh to meet Thursday

for a vote on which political

turmoil since Saturday, when

faction should govern.

Meanwhile, the Supreme

'Uftar Practesh has been in |

Dubey, like dozens of other

be held again in Motihari.

Elections in Dubey's Moti-

Sinha.

case.

All five victims were found

United Nations Ambassador Bill Richardson

- AP/UNB photo

two parties in the state's Hindu

nationalist-led governing

coalition walked out. The

Hindu nationalist Bharativa

Janata Party was dismissed

and replaced by another fac-

tion, but several politicians

who had been described as de-

fectors later said they still sup-

A lower court on Monday re-

stored the BJP to power. The

Supreme Court ruling Tuesday

made that conditional on

Thursday's vote, when both the

BJP and the faction that re-

placed it Saturday will be given

AFP adds, the death toll in

India's ongoing national elec-

tions crossed 60 today, when an

election candidate and four

others were killed in the coun-

try's most crime-prone state.

to 64. India's Election Commis-

sion, responsible for fair elec-

tions, has argued the total has

been inflated by killings with

no connection to the polls.

Today's deaths took the total

the Press Trust of India said.

a chance to demonstrate how

much support they have.

ported the BJP.

discuss the tentative United Nations agreement with Iraq. Also present were, from second

left, Defence Secretary William Cohen,

PATNA, India, Feb 24: A

politician running in India's

parliamentary race and four of

his supporters were gunned

down Tuesday in the northern

state considered the country's

most lawless, police said, re-

Bihar state in a nationwide

election that has focused atten-

tion on the pressures on India's

democracy. The vote was called

three years ahead of schedule

after no party won a majority

in the last balloting in 1996.

and the rivalries that kept

politicians from forming a sta-

ble government over the last

two years are behind some of

voting has been completed for

three-fourths of the 543 dis-

tricts at stake. Voting was stag-

gered over a total of six days to

allow security forces time to

move to different trouble spots.

A fourth round will be held Sat-

urday and vote counting will

No one immediately claimed

responsibility for the attack

In three days of balloting,

the current unrest.

begin March 2.

Violence has been fiercest in

ports AP.

and Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Henry Shelton.

US opposes Russian-Iran cooperation: The State Department reaffirmed on Monday its opposition to Russian participation in the construction of a nuclear reactor

in Iran, AP reports from Washington. We are opposed to any form of nuclear cooperation with Tehran, given its demonstrated interest in acquiring a nuclear weapons capability," spokesman James P Rubin said.

Dengue fever kills 3 in East Timor: An outbreak of dengue fever has killed three people and infected 29 people in Dili, the main town of East Timor, since last week, a

report said yesterday, AFP report from Jakarta. "Based on information received from the health clinics of Dili, three people were declared dead while the rest were in intensive care, the head of the East Timor province health office, Samuel Munaische said, quoted by Antara news agency.

4 killed in blast in Colombia: At least four people including a six-month-old baby were killed and dozens injured on Monday when a powerful bomb, through to have been planted by leftist rebels, tore through a town in southern Colombia, Reuter reports from Bogota.

Police and military officials said the bomb, believed to be the work of Marxist-led Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels, was detonated in the bustling centre of San Vicente Del Caguan as a military patrol vehicle rolled through the area.

Singer Sara dead: Multi-lingual singer of Yeteryears, Sara Gul Mohammed, 83, died in Kochi on Monday. PTI reports from Kochi.

A childhood friend of the legendary singer, MS Subbulakshmi. Sara, who began singing at the age of nine, is stated to have had the distinction of being the first woman to have her songs recorded on gramaphone.

### 8 Pak extremists arrested

KARACHI, Feb 24: Police have detained eight men, seven of them Sunni Muslim extremists, in the wake of two violent attacks on Shiite Muslims in Karachi, police said Tuesday, reports AP.

News of the arrests followed Saturday's daylight attack on two Iranian construction workers. A few hours later in a separate attack, a bomb exploded outside a Shiite mosque, killing one person and injuring two

Karachi police raided offices and mosques of extremist Sunni Muslim groups.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the men who were arrested were being held for questioning or were going to be charged in connection with the attacks.

In Pakistan the law allows police to hold people for up to three months for questioning. In the past one year violence between Sunnis and Shiites in Pakistan killed more than 300 people, prompting the government to pass a strict anti-terrorism law that gives police sweeping powers to arrest suspected militants.

# Benazir challenges Pak anti-corruption law in Supreme Court

ISLAMABAD, Feb 24: Dogged by accusations of graft, former prime minister Benazir Bhutto has challenged Pakistan's anti-corruption law in the Supreme Court, her spokesman said Tuesday, reports AP.

"She filed a petition yesterday to challenge the constitutionality of the Accountability Law," said Farhatullah Babar, her spokesman.

Benazir was dismissed as prime minister in November 1996 amidst charges of runaway corruption, misrule and economic mismanagement.

The interim government that ruled for three months following her dismissal passed an anti-corruption law and established a team to investigate corruption cases. A separate commission also was established to decide whether there is enough evidence for the cases to stand up in court.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was elected three

months after Benazir's dismissal, appointed yet another anti-corruption team with the specific mandate to investigate allegations that Benazir and her family siphoned off millions of dollars from the state.

So far three cases of corruption against Benazir have been returned to the government by the accountability commission saying they wouldn't stand up in court.

Benazir believes the government team is on a "one-sided witch hunt" against her family and her political supporters.

No charges of corruption have yet been laid against Benazir. Her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has been in court since her dismissal from power on a charge of ordering the murder of Benazir's estranged brother, Murtaza Bhutto.

He was killed in September 1996 by police outside his home in Karachi, just two months before Benazir's government was dismissed.

# Off the Record



US pop star Michael Jackson poses for camera with Everland mascots during his visit to the Yongin Everland Amusement Park, east of Seoul, South Korea, Monday. Jackson is here to attend Kim Dae-jung's presidential inauguration ceremony Feb 25. - AP/UNB photo

## Now it's Mr Jefferson the cloned calf

LONDON: The team who gave the world Dolly, the cloned sheep, have produced Mr Jefferson, the cloned calf, it was announced Monday, reports AFP
Scientists at PPL Therapeutics near Edinburgh, Scotland,

said the healthy Holstein cow, weighing 44 kilos, was produced by its US subsidiary PPL Therapeutics of Blacksburg. Virginia. Mr. Jefferson was so named due to his birth on Feb 16, which in the United States was President's Day. Thomas Jefferson was the third US president, from 1801 to 1809.

### What an emergency!

CHICAGO: Medical workers had to borrow heavy lifting gear from a zoo to hoist a 363-kg (800-pound) man, who complained of chest pains, from the basement of his home and get him to hospital, reports AFP.

A crew of 20 people from Cleveland's emergency medical services was needed to carry out the task, according to a spokesman. "He was in the basement. It was tough to get him out of there,"

the spokesman said. "They ended up borrowing a tarp from the zoo, that is used to move large animals. They encapsulated him in the tarp and after reinforcing the stairs, modifying the steps and the

doorway, they got him out with a ramp and pulley," he said.
The 47-year-old man was in stable condition Monday in a Cleveland hospital, hospital officials said.

Recreation vehicles are overturned and scattered in this RV park in Kissimmee, Florida, USA, after a tornado touched down early Monday. A swimming pool and shuffle board courts can be seen at the top - AP/UNB photo

### 43 killed by tornadoes in Florida

MIAMI, Florida, Feb 24: Rescue helicopters carried out frantic search and rescue operations in central Florida Monday after at least 43 people were killed by tornadoes overnight, officials said, reports AFP.

The victims are from towns and cities surrounding the Disney World Amusement park complex, in Orlando, said Miguel Pagan, spokesman for the Osceoloa County Sheriff's Department in central Florida. At least 12 twisters packing

wind gusts of up to 400 km an hour downed electrical wires and overturned vehicles while accompanying rains caused flooding in several counties. "Our thoughts and prayers are with the people in central

Florida," President Bill Clinton said in Washington at a meeting with state governors. Meteorologist Bart Hagemeyer at the US Weather Service Station in Melbourne said the spate of twisters was "the most devastating ... in the his-

tory of the state of Florida." The Tornadoes "are definitely linked to El Nino," said Hagemeyer, who added that unusually warm waters in the Pacific Ocean had wreaked havoc with weather patterns throughout the Americas.

Television reports showed widespread destruction in several towns.

## New ROK president offers summit with DPRK

SEOUL, Feb 24: For decades. he was seen as a dangerous dissident, surviving 15 years in prison and exile, house arrest and assassination attempts by former military dictators, reports AP.

Often called "Asia's Mandela," Kim Dae-jung, takes office Wednesday as South Korea's first president to be elected from an opposition party since the country was founded in

Kim, 74, begins his single five-year term with almost the same moral authority as President Nelson Mandela of South Africa and with overwhelming public support.

Kim already has proposed a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il and indicated that his government would push to expand economic and other exchanges with the North's communist regime. In an apparent response to

Kim's offer, North Korea said last week that it was willing to talk with South Korea's incoming government — something it has refused to do for years. Eschewing so-called "Asian values" that put a premium on personal ties and fostered col-

lusion between governments

and business. Kim contends

that a lack of democracy

brought about the financial cri-

sis afflicting much of Asia.

Although not yet installed in the presidential mansion, Kim has unquestionably been running the country since his election in December, and South Korean's like his leader-Although he was elected with

only 40 per cent of the vote, recent public opinion polls put his approval rating at above 90 per cent. The outgoing president, Kim

Young-sam, gets less than 10 per cent. Kim Dae-jung will need the

public's support as he struggles to restore the nation's once mighty economy. His party is a minority in Parliament and he must share power with former political foes. "At least for the time being.

will go to his predecessor government," political analyst Paik Seung-ki said. Paik, a professor at Kyongwon University, compared Kim's situation with that of US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who took office in

he will be a happy president. In

this crisis situation... all blame

Depression. The UN-educated professor predicted that South Korea under Kim would undergo significant changes in almost all fields, including its dealings with rival North Korea.

1933 in the height of the Great

subpoena Tripp DALLAS, Feb 24: Shortly after signing on with Paula Jones. her new legal team issued a subpoena that would open a new window for her sexual harassment suit against President Bill

Vernon Jordan, reports AP. The subpoena went to Linda Tripp, who told prosecutors about an alleged presidential affair with a White House intern and attempts to cover it up.

Clinton — and rattle the admin-

istration with suspicions in-

volving Clinton and his friend

Jones sued Clinton in 1994, claiming that while he was Arkansas governor in 1991 he summoned her away from a reception desk at a state government conference and propositioned her for oral sex in a Little Rock, Arkansas, hotel.

Over one-third US female doctors faces sexual harassment!

WASHINGTON, Feb 24: More than a third of female doctors in the United States say they have been sexually harassed on the job, a new study reported, reports AFP. Many women doctors said

they were harassed either in medical school or in the first few years of work in an internship, residency or fellowship, according to findings from the latest issue of the American Medical Association's Archives of Internal Medicine. In all, nearly half of all fe-

male doctors reported some form of gender-based harassment, according to scientists from Emory University's school of medicine, in Atlanta, Georgia, who authored the

More troubling, harassment in medical schools "may be getting worse, and we may be continuing to train physicians in an environment where harassment is common," the researchers said.