### 29 massacred in Algeria

ALGIERS, Dec 25: Islamic militants opened fire on vehicles at a roadblock Friday, killing 29 people in the largest massacre in this strife-torn nation since Algerians overwhelmingly voted for a peace plan in September, Algerian se-

curity services said, reports AP.

The attack took place close to the town of Khemis Miliana, some 80 kilometers (50 miles) west of the capital Algiers at around 2.30 pm local time (1330

Friday's attack was the most brutal since voters approved President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's plans to foster peace in September.

It was also the bloodiest attack since an armed group killed 29 people in August this year near Beni Ounif in southwestern Algeria.

The Algerian daily Liberte said in its Saturday edition that the militants stopped several vehicles before spraying them with machine gun fire and finishing off the wounded with

In September, Algerians overwhelmingly voted in favour of a peace plan.

COLOMBO, Dec 25 : Sri

Lankan President Chandrika

Kumaratunga, who is undergo-

ing treatment in London for

injuries suffered during an as-

sassination bid, called Satur-

day for mutual trust to defeat

"terrorism and violence," re-

escaped the suicide bombing

blamed on Tamil Tiger guerril-

las a week ago on the eve of her

re-election for a second and fi-

nal term, said that Sri Lankans

courage to all Christians of Sri

Lanka to usher in our country

JERUSALEM, Dec 25: Prime

Minister Ehud Barak on Friday

approved the army's plan for an

Israeli withdrawal from south-

ern Lebanon, Israeli television

said, as hostilities resumed on

the ground after a 48-hour

comment on the report which

said survey work along the in-

ternational border would begin

next week while military offi-

cials begin soliciting tenders

The plan, codenamed "New

Horizon," envisages the builder

ing of a 40-kilometer (25-mile)

fence at the border and new

roads along the Israeli side of

the frontier as Israel ends its

21-year occupation of southern

posts are to be built inside Is-

rael and defence measures to

protect Israeli frontier towns

against small-arms fire are to

The report said four military

The army has decided not to

Lebanon.

be stepped up.

for related construction work.

Barak's office refused to

ceasefire, reports AFP.

"I wish further strength and

should unite to achieve peace.

Kumaratunga, who narrowly

ports AFP.

Chandrika calls for mutual

trust to defeat terrorism

centre of Grozny GROZNY, Russia; Dec 25 Russia's assault to capture the

rebel Chechen capital Grozny has begun, a Russian colonel commanding interior ministry troops entering the city from the east told AFP. Colonel Nikolai Zaitsev told

know where we are going and we will proceed carefully." The main thing is to look after your lives, be careful," he

his assembled soldiers: "We

added. An AFP correspondent on the eastern edge of Grozny could see Russian officers poring over maps as a massive artillery barrage was being unleashed on

the city. At the scene, only small reconnaissance units were moving forward into Grozny while the main body of Russian interior ministry troops were waiting for final orders to go in.

Private NTV television station said that leading the assault were pro-Moscow Chechen volunteers under ex-Grozny

to a new millennium through

released by her office.

ism plaguing the country.

tion attempt.

television said.

at 240 million dollars.

to the withdrawal plan.

troops deployed there.

peace talks.

Barak approves plan for

Lebanon withdrawal

"The days of terror in this

land are numbered, and the

number is small," said Ku-

maratunga, her right eye still

bandaged from injuries sus-

tained in Saturday's assassina-

demolish four Israeli posts in-

side the zone it currently occu-

pies inside Lebanon, in order

not to appear to be carrying out

a "scorched earth" policy, the

drawal operation has been put

paper said Sunday that follow-

ing the resumption of Israeli-

Syrian talks last week, Israeli

military chief of staff Shaul

Mofaz approved modifications

ker in Lebanon, with 35,000

Friday that he had handed the

portfolio for Lebanon to an

army reserve general as the

Jewish state prepares for future

Menahem Einan had been given

charge of the portfolio "to coor-

dinate preparations in case of

negotiations with Lebanon."

Syria is the main powerbro-

Barak's office said earlier

It said reserve General

The total cost of the with-

The Yediot Aharonot news-

mayor Bislan Gantamirov, followed by the interior ministry

troops. Meanwhile, fierce fighting erupted early today in the Chechen capital Grozny as Russian forces advanced towards the centre from several directions, Interfax reported, citing a top rebel commander.

Deputy Chechen chief of staff, Aslanbek Ismailov, who is directing the defence of city, said if it was not clear if federal troops were launching an offensive to capture Grozny.

"Our commanders cannot for say the moment if this is the start of an assault," he said, cited by the Russian news agency, adding that Moscow's forces could simply be probing rebel defences.

According to an Interfax correspondent in Grozny. Russian armoured columns clouded by smoke to protect them from rebel fire were advancing from the outskirts of city towards Chechen positions in the centre.

The crackle of heavy arms fire and the thud of exploding shells reverberated from all

Russians advance towards

A massive artillery barrage began overnight and at the moment shells "are exploding nearly every minute," the Interfax correspondent said.

The Grozny commander said the rebels had already damaged several Russian armoured vehicles, and admitted to dead and wounded among the Chechens, but said losses were minimal. Earliier report says, Russian

troops stationed on Grozny's edges were painting each other's backs with identification marks Friday to avoid 'friendly fire' ahead of a decisive Russian push into the rebel capital. But separatist Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov issued

Russian forces a three-day ul-

timatum to remove all federal

checkpoints from his republic or face Chechen counter-at-

"If, in the next three days,

Russian commanders do not comply with this order, then I will command all Chechen armed forces to physically destroy all these checkpoints," Maskhadov warned.

would not be held to ransom.

Course Road residence.

what they wanted.

payee added.

family members.

vast arrival hall.

mandu to New Delhi.

leave the plane.

"This is a very cowardly act.

Vajpayee said the hijackers,

"Whatever they want, this is

whose identity has yet to be

confirmed, had not disclosed

not the way to achieve it," Vaj-

Indian Airlines plane with

passenger was killed. Meanwhile, distraught rela-

tives of passengers on board a hijacked Indian Airlines plane held an agonising vigil today at

New Delhi airport, desperate for

news about the plight of their

of whom had been at the airport

since 6:00 p.m. Friday -- were gathered around emergency in-

formation desks set up in the

passengers and crew was taken

over by heavily armed hijack-

ers Friday en route from Kath-

in the southern Afghan city of

Kandahar, having hopped from

the northern Indian city of

Amritsar to Lahore in Pakistan

and then on to Dubai, where 25

passengers were allowed to

tives tried to grab a few hours of

troubled sleep, others remained

glued to television screens in

the arrival hall, hoping for any

cial information desks.

manned by Indian Airlines of-

ficials, who could do little but

repeat the limited information

already made available and of-

turned ugly when officials re-

vealed the identity of one pas-

senger killed by the hijackers,

whose body had been removed

from the plane during its

Ripin Katyal, 25, who had been

in Kathmandu on his honey-

moon, broke down on hearing

the news, and his father had to

Other Katyal family mem-

bers turned angrily on several

television crews who had been

filming the family's grief

bled," said the victim's uncle

now. The least the killers could

have done after killing our boy

"Imagine a girl just 20 years

Ripin Katyal and his wife,

was to release his wife.

helpless in Kandahar.'

"Our whole world has crum-

There is nothing left to us

be given medical treatment.

The parents and in-laws of

But the tense atmosphere

fer some words of comfort.

stopover in Dubai

Others crowded around spe-

While some exhausted rela-

The plane ended up Saturday

The ill-fated flight with 189

Some 200 relatives -- many

reports AFP.

One federal Russian source stationed in a base in Khankala, just east of Grozny, told AFP an all-out assault was tentatively scheduled to be launched either Saturday or Sunday.

However, other officers suggested the raid might be delayed many of the Russian troops surrounding the wartorn city were still unfamiliar with the city's layout.

In one telling incident a small group of Russian armored vehicles spent several hours Friday searching for the Khankala headquarters as it circled around Grozny.

"The operation (to take Grozny) is scheduled to last five days, but everything will be decided by developments," one source in the Khankala said.

# Discovery's Hubble mission a complete success

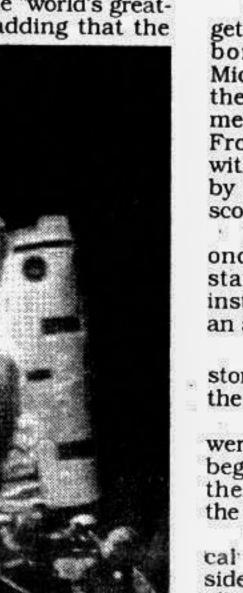
the light of peace, joining together all corners to create ... HOUSTON, Texas, Dec 25: mutual trust by defeating the The Discovery space shuttle's terrorism and violence," Ku-Christmas mission to repair maratunga said in a statement the crippled Hubble space felescope was declared a complete success late Friday as two US During her acceptance speech astronauts completed a third Wednesday, Kumaratunga had and final space walk and revowed to eradicate the terrorturned to the shuttle, reports

> "Full mission success," announced Steve Robinson at the mission control centre here after tests carried out from the earth revealed that all the new equipment installed on board the Hubble telescope was in perfect working order.

"We'd like to congratulate all of you," Robinson said in a message to the seven astronauts aboard Discovery, which blasted off on Sunday on an eight-day mission to repair the

Steve Smith and John Grunsfeld, both of the United States, completed the third and final space walk late Friday after eight hours and eight minutes in space.

An exhausted Steve Smith. speaking after the two had returned to the shuttle, described the Hubble as the "world's greatest telescope," adding that the



US Space Shuttle Discovery Mission Specialist Steve Smith of the US (R) and fellow US Mission Specialist John Grunsfeld (L) work on the side of the Hubble Space Telescope Friday during the third and final space walk to service the telescope. The mission to repair the Hubble Space Telescope was a complete success, the US space agency NASA said in Houston, Texas.

team "hope to see it back in service very soon."

The 12-tonne, four-story

high telescope had been out of commission since November. The two astronauts' key task Friday had been to replace a radio transmitter that had stopped functioning recently -one of the Hubble's two "S-Band Single Access Transmitters" that transmit data on the universe back to Earth via NASA communications satellites in orbit some 33,000 km off Earth.

Grunsfeld, who was unable to get into his own suit and had to borrow fellow astronaut Michael Foale's outfit, mounted the end of the Discovery's 15meter (50-foot) robotic arm. From there, he was working with Smith, who was attached by a security line to the tele-

The pair also installed a second digital, magnetic solidstate recorder, alongside one installed in 1997 and replacing an analogue recorder.

The new one will be able to store ten times as much data as the old one.

Once the electronic chores were done, the two astronauts began work on installing new thermal protective covers on the Hubble.

Thermal protection is critical for the Hubble, since one side of it faces the Sun continually, cooling when it goes behind the Earth from a steamy 80 degrees Celsius (175 degrees Fahrenheit) to a frigid negative 54 (negative 67) -- a range of more than 130 (240) degrees.

The rare ceremony was the

second performed by John Paul

II during his 22-year reign, after an extraordinary Holy Year in

1983 which marked the 1950th

anniversary of Christ's cruci-

suffering from Parkinson's dis-

ease and frail health, arrived at

Saint Peter's aboard a new ve-

hicle specially donated by Lan-

cia for the celebration.

John Paul II, who at age 79 is

This oscillation in temperaof age, now a widow, crying and ture occurs 16 times a day -- the Hubble completes its path around Earth once every 97 who were married on December minutes -- and has been doing 3, had flown to Kathmandu last so for 10 years.

## week for their honeymoon. Sikhs hijacked plane, say passengers

DUBAI, Dec 25: The hijackers of an Indian Airlines jet plane are Sikhs, freed passengers said today after the plane took off for an unknown destination, reports AFP.

Reports from India had said Sikhs were suspected of carrying out the hijacking of the airliner en route from Kathmandu to New Delhi on Friday.

Officials said the hijackers had not announced their demands. Sikh militants waged a

bloody campaign in the 1980s for a homeland in northern India which would be called Kalis-The plane was first forced to land at the holy Sikh city of

Amritsar, in the Indian Punjab, after being diverted from Delhi. It then flew a short distance to the Pakistani city of Lahore, where it was refuelled.

From Lahore it went into Afghani air space but was refused permission to land in Kabul. It went on to Muscat, Oman, but was again refused

#### Kashmiri group denies involvement in plane hijack

KARACHI, Dec 25: A Kashmiri Muslim guerrilla group 'denied today its hardline outfit was involved in the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane, reports AFP.

Armed hijackers forced the aircraft with more than 150 people on board to land in Kanin southern dahar, Afghanistan, the fourth stop in a terrifying ordeal in which at

least one passenger was killed. A member of India's ruling coalition said Saturday the hijackers were members of the Lashker-e-Taiba, a Kashmiri Muslim guerrilla group.

"I believe the hijackers belong to the Lashker-e-Taiba group and they have demanded the release of two Kashmiri militants," senior Akali Dal party leader S.S. Barnala told reporters in New Delhi.

But a senior member of the group in Pakistan denied any involvement.

"This is a pack of lies. The hijackers do not belong to us,' Yahya Mujahid, the group's central information secretary told

#### NEW DELHI, Dec 25: Indian Indian Airlines airbus hijacked Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee described today the hijacking of an Indian Airlines Situation on Dec. 24 at 1600 GMT plane as a barbaric act, and AFGHAN. stressed that the government LAHORE Amritsar India will never be cowed down CHINA by such barbaric acts," Vajpayee told reporters at his Race PAKISTAN NEPAL Stopover for NEW DELHI refuelling: 4 passengers Scheduled route INDIA Armed hijackers forced an more than 150 people on board to land in Afghanistan today, the fourth stop in a terrifying ordeal in which at least one Bombay

India won't be cowed by

'barbaric' hijacking: PM



The mother and father of a passenger killed on board the hijacked Indian Airlines Airbus, grieve at New Delhi's International Airport yesterday.



Pic ure taken from Dubai television of released hostages the Indian Airlines hijacked plane at Al-Manhad Military Base, about 40 km southeast of the Gulf emirate of Dubai, early Saturday. - AFP photo

# BRIEFFIY

30 missing in Indonesian boat mishap: Thirty people are missing after a speedboat capsized off the eastern coast of Indonesia's Jambi province, the official Antara news agency reported yesterday, AFP reports from Jakarta. "The accident took place on Wednesday but the report only

reached me yesterday," the Jambi port administrator, Dirmansyah, was quoted by Antara as saying. 20 bodies found in Philippine ferry: Searchers plucked more bodies from swirling waters in the central Philippines yesterday raising the death toll in the

military said. AFP reports from Cebu, Philippnes. Major General Santos Gabison, chief of the army's central command, said the bodies were found drifting off Negros island near Bantayan island.

sinking of an overloaded Philippine ferry to at least 20, the

New govt named in Algeria: Algerian Prime Minister Ahmed Benbitour named a new government of 30 ministers on Friday, one day after he was appointed by President Abdelaziz Bouteflika, the official press agency APS said, quoting an official statement, AP reports from Algiers.

The new government includes members of four of the coalition government parties, plus new democratic parties that supported Bouteflika in his presidential campaign this year. But the moderate Islamists saw some loss of power.

> Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Commissioner of Taxes Tax Zone-8, Dhaka 74, Bijoynagar, Dhaka

File No. 2 Sha-5/99-2000

Dated: 30.11.99

# **Notice Regarding Survey Work** in Gulshan, Banani Areas

This is for information for valued tax-payers and members of public of Gulshan, Banani and adjacent areas under Ward No-19 of Dhaka Municipal Corporation that outdoor survey in areas stated will begin shortly. A team of inspectors led by a Deputy Commissioner of Taxes of the zone will conduct the survey work. Each member of the survey team will bear identity card and survey team will enter the place of business/house by producing it publicly. Valued earning taxpayers through business/profession of Gulshan, Banani and adjacent areas are requested to show TIN to the survey team under section 184C of Income Tax Ordinance 1984. The taxpayers who have not yet collected TIN certificate are requested to have the same without delay. All classes of tax-payers including owners/tenants of firms and houses and the members of the public are requested to extend their allout cooperation in the survey work in the interest of the realisation of national revenue. All concerned are advised to contact the undersigned regarding any issue related to the survey work.

Ashim Kumar Roy Commissioner of Taxes Tax Zone-8, Dhaka Phone: 8312404

#### Last midnight mass of millennium at birthplace of Jesus Christ

BETHLEHEM, West Bank, Dec 25: Thousands of pilgrims crowded in and around the Church of Saint Marie here today, close to the birthplace of Jesus Christ, to celebrate the last Christmas Eve midnight mass of the millennium, reports AFP.

Those who could not fit into the church watched the mass on giant screens erected in Manger Square in front of the nearby Church of the Nativity where, according to Christian tradition, Christ was born 2,000 years ago.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was in attendance as he has been every year since 1995, when Israel transferred Bethlehem to Palestinian control.

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, head of the Roman Catholic Church in the Holy Land, was due to deliver the mass to an audience of dignitaries who, besides Arafat, included Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar and Italian premier Massimo D'Alema.

## 'Body art' gains popularity among

new generation

WASHINGTON, Dec 25: He is poster boy for his trade. Stripes of blue ink snake across his face and neck, disappearing under the collar of his shirt and bursting into the open from under the cuffs, reports AFP.

Skitch, the only name he wants the public to know, exudes pride and confidence in his designer skin.

Comfortably perched atop a stool in Graffixx Tattoo, a parlour just two blocks from the White House, he talks about his obsession with "body art," which, in his view, is winning the souls of the New Age generation and with them overall

public acceptance. "It's definitely more popular than when I started out about 10 years ago," he said as a glint of sunshine danced on a big pin piercing the skin between his

"People who wouldn't even think about having a tattoo then now have them. There are no officials statis-

tics bearing Skitch out. "If 10 years ago only 40 per cent of our clients requesting tattoos were women, now they make up 50 per cent," notes Skitch. "For body piercing, it's 80 per cent."

# Pope opens Holy Door

fixion.

VATICAN CITY, Dec 25: Pope John Paul II, in a highly emotional ceremony, opened the Holy Door at Saint Peter's Basilica Friday, kicking off the Roman Catholic world's Jubilee celebrations which mark the 2000th birthday of Jesus

- AFP photo

Christ, reports AFP. In a gesture to be repeated by bishops in 5,000 churches throughout the world, John Paul II, clad in a shiny cape with hues of gold, fuchsia and blue, pronounced the traditional Latin sentence: "Aperite mihi portas justitiae" (Open the Doors of Justice).

He then symbolically pushed open the two wings of the door, also called Paradise Door, the third millennium.

or basilica workers.

those who enter this door with a new commitment and firm faith," John Paul II said in a

seven days before the start of In fact, the door wings were pulled open from the inside by

the two so-called "sampietrini"

"Oh Lord, grant salvation to

Before the pope, the Holy Door frame was decorated with flowers by groups of Asians and people from the Pacific region as Japanese koto harp music was played. Earlier the Sistine

Chapel Choir chanted a hymn to the glory of Christ. The pope knelt silently for a few moments, focusing on the "mystery of the Son of God's in-

carnation," according to his spokesman Joaquin Navarro Cardinals read mass along

with the pope at midnight.

#### Ivory Coast President may permission to land. go where he wants' ABIDJAN. Dec 25: Cote tary coup Friday, was at Abidjan airport early Saturday

d'Ivoire's new strongman, General Robert Guei, said today following negotiations with the French embassy, that President Henri Konan Bedie "could go where he wants". "We haven't imposed a coun-

try on him, it's up to him," Guei told AFP, adding that he had discussed the matter with French ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Francis Lott. Guei announced a coup d'etat in Cote d'Ivoire Friday and de-

clared himself the country's new president, an act quickly condemned by world leaders. A French official said Bedie, who had not been seen since in public since Wednesday, had left the French ambassador's

residence late Friday and was

in "safe" hands. In an interview with Radio France Internationale from an undisclosed location, Bedie said: "I invite all active forces in Cote d'Ivoire, military, civilian and traditional, to resist and do everything to oppose and rapidly defeat this grotesque and backward attempt at a military coup."

Bedie at airport, set to flee Meanwhile, Cote d'Ivoire

President Henri Konan Bedie,

kicked out of power by a mili-

ready to flee, the country's new strongman General Robert Guei told AFP. Guei, who announced a coup

d'etat on Friday and declared

himself the country's new president, said Bedie had been brought to the tarmac by helicopter. A plane was expected to come to fetch him within hours. Guei said Ivorian military were not at the scene and that

Bedie's security was being ensured by French soldiers. A few hours earlier, Guei announced that he would allow Bedie's departure after negotiating the question with France's ambassador here.

if possible on Saturday morning," he added. Bedie, who was overthrown in a military coup on Friday, had sought refuge at the residence of the French ambas-

Marine Batallion (BIMA) had

taken control of the airport, al-

though General Guei said his

mutineers were still firmly in

place there.

"I hope he leaves in a hurry,

Earlier Bedie had defiantly called on the people to put up resistance. There were unconfirmed reports meanwhile that members of the 43rd French Infantry

> Lashker-e-Taiba does not believe in such terrorist activities and never target civilians

# **Roads and Highways Directorate Tender Invitation Notice**

number Name of work

Time

Tender notice: 25 BRD of 1999-2000 year. Construction of brick pavement

Estimated Taka Security Taka

for

Division during 1999-2000 year Tk 32,86,923/-Tk 65,739/-45 (forty-five) days.

completion of work Eligibility contractors to submit tender

Offices in which

tender schedule

will be available

'A' to 'C' class general category contractors enlisted with Roads and Highways Directorate. Will be available in the offices of Divisional Commissioner,

on the 10th K metre and 11th K

metre of Barisal-Bhola-Laxmipur

road under Barisal Road

Barisal/Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Barisal/ Patuakhali/Bhola/Pirojpur/ Barguna/Jhalokathi/Planning Division (PD), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, R&H, Road Sub-Division-1/2, Barisal/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Barisal on all working days except holidays during office hours. No tender form will be available on the day of opening tender.

Additional Chief Engineer, R&H,

Last date and : Till 02-01-2000 up to 5-00 PM. time of selling tender schedule

Offices of the officials in which tenders will be received in sealed condition

Barisal Zone, Barisal/Divisional Commissioner, Barisal/ Superintending Engineer, R&H, Road Circle. Barisal/Superintending Engineer, R&H, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle (PD), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Barisal/ Jhalokathi/Pirojpur. Till 03-01-2000 up to 12-30 PM.

10. Last date and time of receiving condition

sealed condition

tender Date and time of

lottery

17-01-2000 at 11-00 AM. 20-01-2000 at 11-00 AM.

Md Harunur Rashid Executive Engineer, R&H

DFP-28336-21/12 G-2162

tender in sealed Date and time of : 03-01-2000 at 12-45 PM. filing tenders in

Place, date and Office of the Executive Engineer, time of opening R&H, Road Division, Barisal, on

Barisal Road Division.

# DFP-28552-22/12 G-2161