

## International

# Militants vow revenge for Azad Kashmir massacre

ISLAMABAD, Feb 26: A militant group today vowed to avenge the massacre of civilians in Pakistani Kashmir, blaming Indian troops for the incident that has sparked widespread anger, reports AFP.

"We will take revenge," the head of Al-Badar, Bakht Zamir Khan, said in a statement.

Pakistan said Indian troops crossed into the Pakistani part of the divided and disputed Himalayan state of Kashmir Thursday night and massacred 14 men, women and children in a border village.

India denied its troops were involved.

"We will not mourn the deaths. Our fighters will inflict heavy blows on the Indian army for what they have done," Khan said.

The brutal, cowardly attack on defenceless civilians is part of the reign of terror unleashed by (the) Indian army in Kashmir," he said.

Al-Badar is one of the more than a dozen Pakistan-based groups fighting Indian forces in Kashmir.

Pakistan's foreign ministry condemned what it called India's "state terrorism" and warned the incident would exacerbate the tense security situation in the region.

India accuses its neighbour and arch rival of sponsoring cross-border terrorism in its zone of Kashmir, where violence linked to a Muslim separatist drive has claimed more than 25,000 lives since 1989.

Islamabad denies the charge.



Activists from the youth wing of Pakistan's largest Islamic party Jamaat-i-Islami hold a burning effigy of Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and chant anti-India slogans during a protest rally in Karachi Friday. The rally was organised to denounce the Indian atrocities in India-held Kashmir, where more than 25,000 people have been killed since the Kashmiri freedom fighters launched a separatist movement in 1989. The Indian Army commandos Friday killed 14 civilians in Pakistani part of Kashmir after crossing the Line of Control, which divides zones of Kashmir between the two neighbours. — AFP photo

but openly pledges political, diplomatic and moral support for the campaign, which it describes as a legitimate Kashmiri

struggle to decide their future. Pakistan and India have fought three wars since 1947, including two over Kashmir,

which is seen now as a potential nuclear flashpoint after tit-for-tat atomic weapons tests by the two countries in May 1998.

## Wahid dissolves councils set up by Habibie

JAKARTA, Feb 26: Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid today announced the dissolution of a panel of presidential advisors and several other top bodies set up by his predecessor BJ Habibie, reports AFP.

"We decided to disband advisors of the president as well as several institutions," Wahid told a press conference at the state palace.

Cabinet Secretary Marsilam Simanjuntak said the disbanding of the panel of 34 presidential advisors set up by Habibie was effected by a presidential decree.

The panel included ministers who served under former president Suharto. Habibie's predecessor and mentor.

Among the other institutions dissolved were the Na-

## US may free up more Iraqi supplies

WASHINGTON, Feb 26: Washington is considering ways to free up more humanitarian help to Iraq while still maintaining sanctions to prevent President Saddam Hussein from rearming.

The councils are no longer needed and they have officially been disbanded to avoid overlapping functions," Simanjuntak said.

The president has also decided to eliminate roving ambassadorships — posts held by ambassador-at-large for special affairs Lopez de la Cruz, ambassador for maritime law Hasim Jalal and special ambassador for non-aligned affairs Nana Sutresna.

They contradict the function of the foreign ministry. Their function should be institutional in this sense," Wahid said.

Clinton was responding to a Washington Post report that the United States, under international and domestic pressure, was considering easing restric-

tions on the import of oil industry spare parts, pesticides and other products.

US officials said the report was misleading. A State Department official, referring to UN restrictions said: "Nothing on sanctions policy has changed."

He added: "What we're looking at is making the system more efficient so that goods get to the Iraqi people more quickly and Saddam is prevented from obstructing the programme and rearming."

The decade-old sanctions, which place Iraqi oil revenue under UN control and bar the country from importing anything without a clear humanitarian purpose, have long been unpopular in the Arab world and in Europe.

## Taiwan president brands China hooligan'

TAIPEI, Feb 26: Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui has called China a "hooligan" for threatening to invade unless the island willingly reunifies with the mainland, and again demanded Taipei be treated as an equal, reports AFP.

Communist China says it is going to use force if we don't talk with them. It's hegemony. China is like a hooligan," Lee told a group of businessmen at a banquet in the southern city of Kaohsiung late Friday.

Lee, who is to retire in May, also renewed his demand that relations between China and Taiwan be on the basis of equality.

Capitalist Taiwan split from the mainland in 1949 when Mao Zedong's communists won China's civil war. Both have since laid claim to be the "real" China.

## Politicians urged to stay out of disarmament move

N Ireland commission should do its job

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 26: As a first step to reviving the peace process in Northern Ireland, Sinn Fein's deputy leader urged all political leaders to stay out of the work of the commission charged with disarming paramilitary groups, reports AFP.

On Friday, Martin McGuinness, said the Disarmament Commission, established under the April 1998 Northern Ireland peace agreement, was not allowed to do its job because Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble was permitted to dictate "unilateral preconditions" on how it worked.

Taiwan-China ties are special state-state relations. It's the basis, nothing else. Only under the fundamental framework can we talk," said Lee.

On Monday China warned Taipei for the first time that its repeated rejection of reunification talks would lead to war.

The statement was timed to coincide with the run-up to the nationalist island's presidential elections on March 18.

Capitalist Taiwan split from the mainland in 1949 when Mao Zedong's communists won China's civil war. Both have since laid claim to be the "real" China.

## Killer gets life-term in US: A man convicted in the "thrill killings" of two pizza delivery drivers was sentenced to life in prison and insisted he is a "shy kid," not a murderer, AP reports from Newton, New Jersey.

Jayson Vreeland, 20, was convicted Friday of helping lure the men to a dark, lonely country road so he and a friend could see what it felt like to kill someone. Superior Court Judge Lorraine Parker sentenced Vreeland to life behind bars for his part in the 1997 murder of pizza shop owner Giorgio Gallara. She tacked on another 20 years for Vreeland's aggravated manslaughter conviction for the death of Gallara's employee, Jeremy Giordano of Hardyston, plus 22 years for robbery and burglary charges linked to the attack.

## New PhD course in Harvard:

Harvard University is establishing a doctoral programme in Afro-American studies, AP reports from Cambridge.

Harvard faculty voted this week to create the new PhD programme. At least four other universities offer the advanced degree. "The study of the African-American experience is as vital to a university education in the 21st century as it was a century ago, when the great (WEB) Du Bois foresaw prophetically that 'the problem of the 20th century is the problem of the color line,'" Henry Louis Gates Jr, Chairman of the Afro-American studies department, said in a speech before professors.

## Acting chief UN arms inspector for Iraq resigns

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 26: The American acting chief UN weapons inspector in charge of disarming Iraq, Charles Duelfer, has resigned in preparation for the establishment of a new UN arms body, he said on Friday, reports Reuters.

Duelfer, 47, joined the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) in October of 1993 after serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for arms control and multilateral defence matters.

UNSCOM, set up after the 1991 Gulf war to scrap Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, is being replaced by the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC).

Duelfer's resignation, in a letter to Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Thursday, comes just days before the recently-appointed head of UNMOVIC, Hans Blix of Sweden, arrives in New York for talks next week on the work of the new agency.



Women prisoners protest at the Santa Monica women's penitentiary Friday in Lima, Peru. An estimated 100 prisoners began a hunger strike and took possession of the main yard demanding improvements in the prison. — AFP photo

## Palestinian students stone French PM

BIR ZET, West Bank, Feb 26: Palestinian students hurled stones at French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin today as he visited this West Bank campus amid fury over comments he made condemning Lebanese guerrillas fighting Israeli occupation, reports AFP.

Panic gripped the French delegation as stones and lumps of earth rained down on Jospin as he left a university building after addressing students.

Aides bundled the French prime minister into a car, frantically trying to ward off the projectiles being hurled at him.

The students then turned their ire on the official limousine causing serious damage to it.

## 21 killed as bus plunges into deep gulley in China

BEIJING, Feb 26: Twenty-one passengers were killed and 27 injured when an overloaded bus plunged 40 metres into a deep gulley in southern China's Guangxi province, state press reported today, says AFP.

Police said the driver lost control of the double-decker bus while speeding in Sanjiang county last Tuesday, sending the vehicle careening off the road, the English-language China Daily said.

The bus was designed to only carry 19 passengers, but was carrying more than twice that number, the report said.

The driver, who was only slightly injured, has been detained and could face criminal charges that could lead to up to seven years in jail.

The bus company may also be held liable for the crash, although there was no clear legal basis for prosecuting it, police said.

The State Department as-

## US sees limited HR gains worldwide

WASHINGTON, Feb 26: Despite scattered improvements in some countries spurred in part by the telecommunications revolution, human rights conditions in many parts of the world remain grim, the United States said Friday, reports AFP.

From Asia to Latin America, Europe to Africa, governments continue to harass, oppress and persecute their opponents and violate the basic civil, political and religious rights of their citizens, the US State Department said in its annual worldwide survey of human rights.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright lambasted countries and governments whose records are poor, saying that being in power was no excuse for committing abuses.

"Sovereignty carries with it many rights, but killing and torturing innocent people are not among them," Albright said while presenting the report.

"It is simply wrong to suggest, as some still do, that human rights violations are just an inevitable byproduct of human nature."

Although it said 1999's elections in Nigeria and Indonesia had brought more people under democratic governance since any year since the fall of the Berlin Wall, crises in Kosovo, East Timor and brutal civil strike in Africa served as reminders of work still to be done.

As in previous years, Serbia, Cuba, China, North Korea, Iran, Iraq, Sudan and Myanmar were singled out for repressive policies.

The State Department as-sailed Chinese authorities for

having "broadened and intensified their efforts to suppress those perceived to threaten government power or national stability" in a massive 110-page screed.

Serbia, led by US nemesis Slobodan Milosevic, came at the top of a list of "certain countries (which) seem to take particular pleasure in restricting the right to democratic dissent and religious rights of their citizens," the US State Department said in its 110-page report.

Fires caused substantial damage to three of the target buildings after they were attacked by about 30 hooded youths at around 3:00 am BST, Friday, police said.

No arrests were made, but police attributed the attacks to the Basque independence movement.

## 3 Bilbao banks, post office firebombed in Spain

BILBAO, Spain, Feb 26: Unidentified attackers hurled Molotov cocktails at three banks and a post office in the suburbs of Bilbao, Spanish Basque country, police sources said today, reports AFP.

Fires caused substantial damage to three of the target buildings after they were attacked by about 30 hooded youths at around 3:00 am BST, Friday, police said.

No arrests were made, but police attributed the attacks to the Basque independence movement.

## Baywatch beauties to leave Hawaii?

HONOLULU, Hawaii, Feb 26: Despite recent warnings that Baywatch beauties would be leaving Hawaii if the state did not cough up millions of dollars in funding, the owners of "Baywatch Hawaii" are now promising that the series will stay in this island state for a second season of television shows, reports AFP.

Greg Bonann, the show's creator and executive producer, warned earlier this month that he may have to discontinue production of the syndicated series if the state didn't offer 2.5 million dollars in aid for production.

But Pearson Television, which owns the series, issued a statement from Los Angeles saying it is "committed" to the show and future productions in Hawaii.

## Regional parties emerge stronger in Indian state polls

NEW DELHI, Feb 26: Powerful regional groups overshadowed national parties as Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's governing coalition Saturday won major victories in Indian state elections, reports AP.

Vajpayee's alliance defeated the main opposition Congress Party in the eastern state of Orissa and Haryana state in the north.

But the alliance failed to win in two states, his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party suffered a rude shock as it emerged second to powerful Biju Janata Dal in Orissa state and the Indian National Lok Dal in Haryana state.

Though Vajpayee's alliance won in two states, his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party suffered a rude shock as it emerged second to powerful Biju Janata Dal in Orissa state and the Indian National Lok Dal in Haryana state.

Prime Minister Vajpayee's federal government will thus become more dependent on powerful regional allies for its survival, analysts said.

"Once again the regional par-

ties have demonstrated their strength, putting both national parties, the BJP and the Congress party, to shame in the states for which legislative elections were held," wrote Arti Jerath in the Indian Express newspaper.

Vajpayee's 15-party federal coalition controls 296 seats in 545-seat Lok Sabha, the powerful lower house of parliament. His BJP's share is 182 seats.

In last week's state elections, the voters have punished the governing Congress Party in Orissa state due to anger over poor relief work during a super cyclone last year.

Prime Minister Vajpayee's federal government will thus become more dependent on powerful regional allies for its survival, analysts said.

The BJP and its regional ally together won from 103 of 140 voting districts.

## Biman Bangladesh Airlines

HEAD OFFICE, BALAKA, KURMITOLA, DHAKA-1229, BANGLADESH. CABLE: AIRBANGLA. PARX: 897400-10 LINES. 897410-20 LINES. FAX: 880-82-893005. TELEX: 642649 DABC BJB

### বিমানে চাকরির সুযোগ

বিমানে বাংলাদেশ এয়ারবাইলেক্স পদে নিয়োগের জন্য যোগ্য বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকের প্রার্থীদের নিকট হাইতে দরবারত আহান

করা যাইতেছে।

১. পদের নামঃ লিপ্যাল অফিসার খালি পদের সংখ্যাঃ ১টি

পদবোধ্যতাঃ

(ক) এলেক্ট্রিক সকল পরীক্ষার মধ্যে কমপক্ষে ১টিটে প্রথম বিভাগ/শ্রেণী পাস করিবে এবং বিভাগ/শ্রেণী এবং পদের সংখ্যা নথি প্রদান করিবে।

(খ) এক কাউন্টেল হাইতে আইজিবী হিসাবে আদালতে প্রেসার্বে দেবা প্রদানের সময় অ্যারিফিকারযোগ।