

Break-in at Indian navy chief's house linked to bomb plot

NEW DELHI, Dec 2: A break-in at India's navy chief's residence has been linked to a suspected plot to bomb a reception next week to be attended by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and other dignitaries, police said today, reports AFP.

An armed intruder broke into the residence of India's Naval Chief Admiral Sushil Kumar early Friday, triggering a shoot-out in which one guard was wounded in the leg.

New Delhi joint commissioner of police Suresh Roy told Star TV that a "lot of VIPs and top elite" were due to attend a reception at Kumar's high-security bungalow in the heart of New Delhi on Monday.

Among the expected guests are Vajpayee, President K.R. Narayanan and other dignitaries.

Roy said cord wire, used in explosive devices, and a bundle of loose electric wire recovered from the scene of the shoot-out indicated the intruder "must have thought of embedding something in the heart of the place."

Kumar and his family were in the residence around midnight when an alert sentry spotted the intruder, who escaped after the shooting.

Please see page 9 for our weekly page Law and Our Rights.

Palestinians vow to continue struggle

JERUSALEM, Dec 2: Palestinians have vowed to keep up their struggle against Israel despite human and material losses sustained during nine weeks of violence, but the Jewish state said it was militarily and economically stronger than its Arab neighbour and could endure the conflict, reports AFP.

Violence has thrashed the Palestinian territories and spilled over into Israel since late September, sending 300 people, mostly Arabs, to their graves and shattering hopes of peacemaking.

The devastation appears only to have hardened resilience on both sides.

"Despite the human, material and economic losses and the return of a punitive policy (by Israel), the Palestinian people remain determined to continue the struggle against Israel," the Palestinian leadership said Friday after a meeting with leader Yasser Arafat.

Palestinian leaders accused Israel of resorting to military force and collective punishment against their people, killing hundreds and wounding several thousand.

Israel has blamed Palestinian leaders for inciting the violence, which broke out on September 28 when angry Arabs started rioting and pelting stones at Jewish targets after Israel's hawkish opposition leader Ariel Sharon visited a disputed holy site in east Jerusalem.

The following day, Israeli troops cracked down with gunfire, killing seven Palestinians.

On Friday, Israel said it was prepared to stay the course and would eventually win favour with the international community.

West Bengal police arrest sea pirate

CALCUTTA, Dec 2: Indian police have arrested the chief of a gang of sea pirates who kidnapped 60 fishermen from the Bay of Bengal off the country's eastern coast, a police official said today, reports AFP.

D.S. Rudra, a police officer from the eastern Indian state of West Bengal, said the pirate chief, Amanullah Naskar, was arrested late Friday on the remote Paschim Jota Island in the Bay of Bengal.

"His accomplices, however, managed to flee," Rudra said.

Naskar has admitted that he had masterminded the abduction of 60 fishermen, missing from Monday, he added.

Floods in Indonesia kill 14

JAKARTA, Dec 2: Floods which have hit northern Sulawesi in Indonesia have claimed the lives of 14 people and left at least 10,000 homeless, officials said today, reports AFP.

Rescue teams have discovered 14 bodies -- including those of four babies -- in Minahasa district and the provincial capital of Manado, said Riyadi of the state disaster centre.

"Some of them died from being swept away by the floods, while the others died after their homes were caved in by landslides," Riyadi told AFP by telephone from Manado.

The floods, which inundated the area when the Dengdeng and Tondano rivers broke their banks, drove at least 10,000 people to seek shelter in churches, mosques and relatives living on higher ground, Riyadi said.

Pakistan to observe 'maximum restraint' along Kashmir border

ISLAMABAD, Dec 2: Pakistan announced today its armed forces would exercise "maximum restraint" along the disputed border in Kashmir and asked India to reciprocate the initiative, reports AFP.

"With immediate effect, the Pakistan armed forces deployed along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir will observe maximum restraint," Foreign Secretary Inamul Haq told a news conference here.

"The Government of Pakistan expects that the government of India will reciprocate this initiative and cease firing across the Line of Control," that divides the strife-torn Himalayan region between Pakistan and India.

Haq said Pakistan "does not exercise any control" on militant groups fighting against Indian rule in Kashmir, when asked if Islamabad would ask them to curb their activities.

The Pakistani initiative followed an Indian ceasefire offer for the month of Ramadan in Kashmir which went into effect midnight Monday.

Since the start of the Muslim holy month, the Indian army and paramilitary troops have ceased operations against militant armed groups waging a separatist campaign in the Indian zone of Kashmir.

Haq proposed that the All Parties Hurriyat Conference (APHC), the Srinagar-based main Kashmiri separatist alliance, hold talks with Pakistan and India separately to pave the way for three-way talks.

He invited the Executive Committee of APHC to visit Pakistan during Ramadan and urged India to do the same, to resolve the dispute "in accordance with the will of the people of state."

"We are testing Indian claims," Haq said, adding the dialogue could start after Ramadan if New Delhi responded positively to the Pakistani initiative.

He said Pakistan would formally convey its peace initiative to India as well as the rest of the world.

Haq also urged India to allow United Nations military observers to monitor the Line of Control.

"Stabilisation of the ceasefire along the line of control will be facilitated by impartial monitoring," Haq said.

"India's announced suspension of military operations against the Kashmiri freedom fighters will be meaningful if it is combined with a purposeful dialogue for peaceful settlement of Jammu Kashmir," he said.

To add credibility to its claim for a peaceful settlement, the Indian government should end "repression" in Jammu and Kashmir, release all detainees and respect the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people, he said.

Pakistan was prepared to enter into a "meaningful dialogue" with India to resolve the dispute, the minister said.

A Ramadan ceasefire, offered by Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on November 19, was rejected by most militant groups and incidents of violence have continued.

It is the first time the Indian government has offered a unilateral ceasefire in Muslim-majority Kashmir since the launch in 1989 of the separatist insurgency.

36 killed, 150 injured in Indian train accident

NEW DELHI, Dec 2: At least 36 people died and nearly 150 were injured today when a speeding passenger express rumbled into a derailed goods train in the northern Indian state of Punjab, police said, reports AFP.

Baldev Singh, a railway official at Sarai Banjara station near the accident site, told AFP the train, running between the northern Sikh holy town of Amritsar and the eastern city of Calcutta, was packed.

Local police inspector Kanwaljeet Singh said: "The latest toll is 36 killed and at least 141 people are injured."

Kanwaljeet Singh said there were still people stuck inside the overturned compartments.

"Welders are cutting through the derailed compartments to rescue the passengers," he said.

"It is a pitiable sight... people are crying for help and are pleading to be let out as soon as possible."

He said about six cranes had successfully managed to remove three derailed compartments of the passenger train.

But the 15 derailed bogies of the goods train is another matter. They need heavier cranes to lift

them... the railway is sending heavy-duty cranes."

The injured have been admitted to nearby hospitals in the towns of Fatehgarh, Patiala and Rajpura.

Punjab's police chief Sarabjeet Singh was supervising rescue work at the accident site.

Railway official Baldev Singh said the crash occurred at around 6:00 am (0630 BST) about 40 kilometres from the northern town of Ambala between the two stations of Sarai Banjara and Sadhu Garh.

Ambala is about 200 kilometres north of New Delhi.

"Fifteen bogies of a goods train carrying foodgrain derailed near a village called Patharsi," he said.

"Before this information had been passed on to the authorities in the two stations, another train was cleared."

"The Howrah-Amritsar Mail then crashed into the derailed train. The engine and five compartments went off the tracks. There are many people still trapped in the compartments."

Another official said local villagers were helping in rescue work.



A South Korean woman cries as she clings onto her 50-year-old separated younger brother Park Myong-Ho (R), 70, as he leaves Seoul for North Korea's capital Pyongyang yesterday. He is being led away by South Korean security guard. One hundred people from South Korea left Seoul for Pyongyang and 100 North Koreans came to Seoul three days ago for the second reunion since the historic summit between their leaders in June this year.

--AFP photo

Troops, separatists clash in Irian Jaya: 7 killed

JAYAPURA, Indonesia, Dec 2: At least seven people were killed, six shot by Indonesian troops, when independence supporters ran amok in a coastal town in Irian Jaya today, police and hospital sources said, reports AFP.

It was the first violence since an agreement to lower separatist flags across the rebellious province went into effect at midnight Friday, the 39th anniversary of a historic but unrecognised claim to self-rule by ethnic Papuans.

The riot in Merauke, on Irian Jaya's south coast and 600 kilometres from Jayapura, contrasted with an uneasy calm in the provincial capital where the Morning Star flag was lowered without incident on Friday night.

First Sergeant Prapto told AFP preliminary reports showed eight people died in Merauke, and at least one was a non-Papuan settler.

But Yunus, a nurse at Merauke public hospital said only seven bodies were received, six native Papuans and one settler.

The six Papuans died of bullet wounds and the settler, a taxi driver, was killed by an arrow, Yunus

said by telephone.

John Rumbiak, a human rights activist in Jayapura, also said seven people died.

Rumbiak told AFP 500 Papuans raised the Morning Star flag at 7:00 am (0500 BST Friday) on Merauke's central soccer field in defiance of the government ban.

When they refused to take it down, police pulled it down forcibly and, in the ensuing clash, fired into the crowd. The six dead men were shot in the head, he said.

Rumbiak said the seventh man was killed when Papuans dragged a group of settlers out of a passing taxi and beat them up.

"This is dangerous," a worried Rumbiak said. "What happened in Merauke today won't just happen there. It's going to happen in other parts of Irian Jaya. It could be today and tomorrow."

But in Jayapura, provincial police chief Brigadier General Sylvanus Wenas said another riot outside the town of Fak Fak on Irian Jaya's west coast in which two people died was not related to separatism.

Traffic jam at space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., Dec 2: Astronauts have been living on the International Space Station for just a month, but on Friday they had to deal with their first traffic jam, reports Reuters.

Two Russian spacecraft were already docked to the \$60 billion complex, but with the US space shuttle Endeavour on its way, Russian ground controllers made room for Endeavour by undocking one and parking it out of the way.

Endeavour is on an 11-day mission to hang a pair of solar-power "wings" on the space station. The thousands of photoelectric cells on the panels, which stretch 240 feet from tip to tip, will power the station for years to come.

The shuttle and its crew of five will arrive on Saturday. To make way, Russian ground controllers, working with the three astronauts inside the station, undocked a Progress ship and moved it to an orbit about a mile beneath the station, where it will gradually move ahead of the station.

"I can see separation," Russian astronaut Sergie Krikalyov told ground controllers as the ship began to inch away from the station.

Progress ships, which are virtually identical to the Soyuz spacecraft used to carry Russians to space for about 30 years, arrive as cargo ships and depart as garbage scows.

Coming in, they are stocked with food, oxygen, fuel, clothing and space-station hardware. Once offloaded, the crew uses the craft to stow garbage, eventually sending into a steep reentry into the Earth's atmosphere, where the friction causes it to burn up.

In this case, the Russians may try to redock the ship after Endeavour departs. The reason is that the ship's automatic pilot failed when it arrived two weeks ago, and Russian Yuri Gidzenko, a member of the station crew, had to complete the docking by remote control. The Russians want to see if they have fixed the problem with a software patch.

On the US side of operations, a redocking is somewhat controversial because a degree of risk is always involved. It was a runaway Progress ship that collided with the Russian Mir station in 1997 and caused an air leak that almost forced the crew to abandon ship.

Endeavour, which launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida in Thursday, will be the sixth shuttle to visit the station but the first to arrive with an expedition crew already aboard.

Mir station to fall into Pacific in February

MOSCOW, Dec 2: Russia's 15-year-old Mir space station will be ditched in the southeastern part of the Pacific Ocean between February 26-28 next year, Russian space agency chief Yuri Koptev confirmed today, news agencies said, reports AFP.

Last month, Koptev announced that Russia was finally pulling the plug on the decrepit Soviet-era space station, most of which will burn up on re-entering the Earth atmosphere, the rest plunging into the sea.

Koptev confirmed Saturday that preparations for Mir's descent into the Pacific, scheduled for late February, 2001, were proceeding according to plan, Interfax reported.

Russian space chiefs would commence the operation to bring Mir back to earth at the start of next month, when a Progress cargo ship would be dispatched to the station to give it two last boosts Earthwards, he said.

"In the first half of January we are planning to carry out tests and in case of unforeseen problems two teams of cosmonauts are ready to fly out to the station," the RIA-Novosti news agency cited Koptev saying.

He was speaking to reporters at the Koryolev headquarters of the Russian Energiya space corporation and flight centre, near Moscow.

Post Present & Future

your ultimate choice is ...

GrameenPhone Package Connection* + Handset

Now available at very attractive prices

Call 1212 for Package Info.

Stock Finished

Philips

Tk. 5,900

Stock Finished

Bosch

Tk. 6,400

Philips Savvy Vogue

Tk. 7,900

Motorola M Series

Tk. 7,400

Philips Genie

Tk. 8,400

Ericsson 41018s

Tk. 6,900

Ericsson 42618s

Tk. 9,900

Philips Genie

Tk. 10,900

Alcatel-Easy

Tk. 9,400

Nokia 5110

Tk. 9,900

Siemens C35

Tk. 13,400

Nokia 3210

Tk. 11,900

Ericsson T 10s

Tk. 12,900

Motorola v2088

Tk. 12,900

Stock limited

*Post-paid mobile to mobile connections

Minimum 72 hours required for activating post-paid subscriptions

GrameenPhone

Rush before stocks exhaust
Dhaka Zone: GrameenPhone Info Centre: 9885261-2, Grameen Telecom: 900527-59 Ex 1292, 017538152, 017538154, 017522427, 017524524, Mobile Mart: 8012880, 017695401, 017546051-2, 017540069, Flora Telecom: 9567846, 9684399, 501323, 9667236 Ex 139147, 8917525, 8613690, 8611095, 600836, 8916892, 017546045, 9661361, Star Tel: 8123326, 01723024, 017686789, 017548907, 017849737 Brothers Limited - 4100137, 8824738, 8618523, 017589600, 017586000, 017525440, 017526551, Butterfly Telecom Limited: 8313144, 017546507, 017546509, 017546538, 8612620, 017546510, 01749560, 9663331, 017546508, 9664644, 8128234, 8617498, 8315349, 9008848, 8011590, 8316391, 7113896, 7413165, 9340053, 0172706, 017816796, Telemedia: 017697638, 017541301, 7318080, Telestars: 9554192, 017546040, City Link Cellular Phone Service: 9567063, 9556400, 017527019, 017660328, Panasonic Electronics: 9562963, 017685964, 017530203, 9568666, Cell Telecom: 9133105, 9125337, 017544800, 017663388, 017321555, Tale World: 9334328, 017546039, Excel Technologies Ltd.: 9663857, 9664385, 017526434, 017620761, 01740003, Future Tech International: 9122778, 017682676, Sales Agent: Dhaka: Milon 017546068, Nazmul 017540420, Razzak 017534367, Nizam 017546036, Dolon 017546037, Rubel 017546049, Mostafar 017546065, Saiful 017530637, Salim 017540971, Solaiman 017546061, Siraz 017546066, Kewarigan: Jasm 017532404, Bhabar: Shafiq Monir 017539016, Narsiddi: Mahmud 017535440, Madhobi: Amjad 017641222, Ruppang: Monir 017546064, Narsiddi: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 0621-3097, Mobile Mart: 017631697, 017638176, Madhobi: L D Telecom: 017357325, 017699338, 017633687, 017323909, Narayanganj: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 01715558, 017546514, 017531143, 017546513, Savar: Bulbul Electronics: 7710300, 017541300, 017683122, 017685628, Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 017320842, Mymensingh: Mobile Mart: 091-55392, 017546071, 017681034, Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 09152857, Brothers Limited: 017686600, Sales Agent: Atfal 017564590, Mahboob 017546067, Jamalpur: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 0981-3431, 017664767, Bapji Electronics: 0981-3164, 017680102, 017541333, Kishoreganj: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 0941-983, Sayed Enterprise: 0941-55535, 017686934, Sales Agent: Towfiq 017530711, 0941-55588, Joydevpur: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 017685662, 017667000, Tongi: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 9801521, Sk. Ehatashamul Haque 017618080, Md Abu Huraish 017323344, Asir Uddin Ahmed 7390338.

Chittagong Zone: GrameenPhone Info Centre: 59, Agrabad (1st floor), 017129192, 724519, Grameen Telecom: 017165616, 017720138, Flora Telecom: 017166923, 616927, 017761014, Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 0171741784, 653375, G.S.M. Shoppe: 0171622035, 017796158, Chandrika Private Ltd.: 0171721112-3, 017322825, 017796238-9, E.E.L Tel (1): 017175556, 017320897, 018310541, E.E.L Tel (2): 017630074, Advance Tele Network: 017748865, 017748651, Mobile Care: 017853078-9, 017760339, 017320045, Purbachal Network: 017612070, 017320626, 017748869, Sales Agent: Saiful 017762321, Anis 017762355, Zahangir 017748689, Hanz 017749568, Comilla: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 017818684, 0177762612, Oshie Telecom: 017785336, 01731213, 017381222, 017560135, Sales Agent: Wahiduzzaman 017749833, Akhaura: Arin 017782619, 017323215, 017824555, Feni: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 017750940, Telecom: 033173990, 017760116, Sales Agent: Humayun 017356900, Farooque 017354488, Laksmi: Sales Agent: Mostafar 017321585, Mizan 017321554, Brahmanbaria: Mobile Mart: 017320000, Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 085153593.

Khulna Zone: GrameenPhone Info Centre: 181 Khan A Sabur Road (1st floor), 041732071, 732185, 732391, Flora Telecom: 041731713, Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 041724885, Dowlatpur: 041763690, Dak Bangla Mor: 041722377, 723226, Aims: 041720019, 017296045, 017561289, Rahman Telecom: 041723862, 017295488, 017817999, Alpha Telecom: 041731703, 017296454, 017340103, M.A. Chowdhury Ltd.: 041732352, 017339222, Sales Agent: Alimur Reza 017275332, 017814500, Chuadanga: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: Shahid Abdul Kashem Road: 017325448, Shonali Aash: 07613535, Sales Agent: Poradash: Hasan 017298302, Mobarikganj: Kaliganj: Ashraf 017298867, Chuadanga: Khusrud 017814353, Bagerhat: Talim Telecom: 04012785, 2424, 017321740, 01729816, Mongla: 04658-202, 335, 017295239, M.A. Chowdhury Ltd.: 04013369, 017359975, Jessore: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 042172856, 017328377, Nowapara: 04222-239, 017296597 R.N. Road: 04212421, M.K. Trade International: 04214044, 3609, 017297277, Sales Agent: Shariful Hoque 017298306, 04231-4058, Satkhira: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 042133965, Evergreen Telecom: 042113386, 017814566, 017299744, Romeo Enterprise: 0421-3303, 017299777, 017351122, Benapole: Tele Talk: 017320379, 01832181, M.K. Trade International: 017345747, 017297277.

Rajshahi Zone: GrameenPhone Info Centre: 017822862, Star Tel: 072171931, 01781011, 017816555, Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: Station Road 072177680, 017811122, Sahab Bazar 0721773527, Cell Phone: 0721772766, 776600, 017810910, Monalisa International: 017348148, 017810810, Sraiganj: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: Station Road 075172568, 017480990, Gulf Electronics: Station Road: 075172588, 017450577, Ishwardi: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 0732982, 01733808, Ullapara: S.M. Saiful Islam 017833922.

Sylhet Zone: Flora Telecom: 0821-720332-3, 017996262, Star Tel: 0821-720377, 017996050, 017343677, 017344111, North Eastern Telecom: 0821-723593, 017995188, 017995189, Hussain Telecom: 017995111, Mobile Emporium: 017995222, Sree Mongol: Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 082626-88111, 017328378, Air Connection: 017334666, Sales Agent: Shaokot: 017995003, 0821-723306, Golam Rahman 017996004, 0821-723165, Md. Amin 017321808, Kulaura Ashfaq 017338222, Shaystaganj Mizan 017996399.

Barisal Zone: Star Tel: 01737222 Butterfly Telecom Ltd.: 0431-54162, City Heart Mobile Center: 0431-55314, 017328100, 017329865, Mallika Telephone: 0431-55596, 017329855, Sad Telephone: 017329832, Sales Agent: Liton 017328877, Mehmed 017664211.

Chile judge orders arrest of Pinochet

SANTIAGO, Dec 2: Chilean former strongman Augusto Pinochet was ordered placed under house arrest Friday, court sources said, after a judge charged him with masterminding the 1973 "caravan of death" that killed 75 political opponents, reports AFP.

Prosecutor Jose Galeano announced that the charges of "intellectual author" and "co-author" of the crimes had been handed down by Judge Juan Guzman Tapia against the ailing 85-year-old general.

Pinochet, who late Thursday travelled to his country residence south of Santiago, still has to be personally notified of Guzman's order -- a move expected shortly, according to the jurist Hiram Villagra.

Chile's armed forces chiefs gathered in a closed-door meeting,



as he left the meeting which was called by Pinochet's successor as army chief General Ricardo Izurieta, who returned to the capital upon learning the news.

Judge Guzman is coordinating 186 criminal complaints filed here against the former dictator who rose to power in a 1973 coup and left office in 1990.

Seven of the lawsuits are related to the "caravan of death" case.

In Santiago, a police van has been posted outside Pinochet's residence, but no activity was otherwise visible.

On Pinochet's order, the Chilean army