# The Daily Star

# INTERNÄTIONAL

NATO, founded to defend Europe against a Sovie

invasion, had to change from "trying to guess which

enemy the Alliance will confront years from now" to

focus on what capabilities adversaries could use

against us, on shoring up our own vulnerabilities, and on

exploiting new capabilities to extend our own military

"We are in a new era, facing new risks, and we must

German conservative opposition leader Edmund

"We Europeans must not only rely on Americans. We

US President George W. Bush has this week repeat-

Stoiber picked up the theme in his address, calling on EU

states to answer the US call for more defense spending.

must do more for our own security. It is a truly European

edly called Iran, Iraq and North Korea "an axis of evil,"

bluntly warning they could soon become targets in the

and, above all, more flexible.

advantages," he said.

task," Stoiber said.

US-led war on terrorism.

have new capabilities," he said.

## Death toll of Lagos arms dump blast tops 1,000

#### AFP, Lagos

A fire gutted the main warehouse of the Red Cross in Nigeria, setting back efforts to provide aid to victims of a munitions store blast last week, for which the official toll has risen to more than 1,000 dead, officials said Saturday

Abiodun Orebiyi, secretary general of the Nigerian Red Cross Society, told Lagos radio station Rhythm FM that around 400,000 dollars worth of medical supplies and equipment had been lost in the blaze which broke out late Friday.

Fire services fought the blaze but were unable to prevent it taking hold of the warehouse in the Yaba district of Lagos, he said, appealing for urgent donations to allow the Red Cross to continue assisting victims of last week's munitions blast

## Koizumi's popularity nosedives

#### AFP, Tokyo

Public support for Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's cabinet has crashed to 47 percent after he fired Makiko Tanaka as foreign minister, a poll showed Saturday.

The top-selling Yomiuri Shimbun daily said its nationwide phone survey found the approval rate was down a staggering 31 percentage points from its last phone survey in September

The poll is the first comprehensive newspaper survey conducted since Koizumi late Tuesday fired the controversial but hugely popular Tanaka after she became embroiled in feuding with her civil servants.

The prime minister had enjoyed stratospheric poll ratings in the mid-80s after coming to power last April with a promise to implement hardhitting reforms to salvage the Japanese economy.

## 4 people killed in Meghalaya

#### AFP, Guwahati

At least four people, including two Indian border guards, have been killed in a clash with tribal separatists in the northeastern state of Meghalava, officials said Saturday,

A Border Security Force (BSF spokesman said militants of the outlawed Achik National Volunteer Council (ANVC) and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) attacked border troops near Panda village, 350 km from Meghalaya's capital Shillong.

The US State Department cau-"Three BSF soldiers were on a tioned Americans travelling abroad routine patrol Thursday night when and living overseas that they remain the ANVC and the NSCN made a at risk of retaliation, including kidjoint attack close to the Bangladesh napping, following the US-led border." BSF Additional Deputy

# A royal marriage in style

### AFP, Amsterdam

Dutch Crown Prince Willem-Alexander exchanged vows with Argentine investment banker Maxima Zorreguieta on Saturday in a civil ceremony in Amsterdam's former stock exchange.

The bride wore an ivorycoloured silk gown made by Valentino couture with a five-metre lace train, carrying a bouquet of white roses

Willem-Alexander wore his dark blue navy uniform into the ceremony, which was carried out by the burgomaster of Amsterdam. Job Cohen.

The couple were all smiles and loving gazes as Cohen spoke to

After Willem-Alexander and Maxima said "I do," Queen Beatrix, dressed in purple, signed the wedding act as Maxima's witness. The bride's eyes welled with tears as the ceremony concluded.

The couple will go on to a religious ceremony in the Protestant Nieuwe Kerk church to start at 11:30 am local time (1030 GMT)

"From the merchant to the reverend." Cohen joked.

Out on the streets the colour Saturday that NATO must learn a lesson from the current was royal orange as spectators crowded the area near the palace on Dam Square and cheered the couple and the royal family.

Dignitaries from round the world will attend the religious ceremony in the Nieuwe Kerk, including UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and many of the crowned heads of

mass destruction before we act to prevent it, he said. Europe. Zorreguieta won over the Dutch port in the current crisis but that the time has come "to launch a reform of the Alliance command structure to with her Latin charm after initial make it leaner, more streamlined, more cost efficient controversy over her father's ministerial post in Argentina's

military dictatorship. Her father, Jorge Zorreguieta, was not in attendance at the wedding

Zorreguieta was agriculture Afghan interim leader Hamid Karzai minister for two years during Argentina's Videla military dictatorship, when up to an estimated 30,000 people were believed to have been killed.

At the time the engagement was announced, there were calls for Willem-Alexander, 34, to renounce his right to the throne.

Maxima, 30, quickly denounced the regime her father had served and declared he would not be north of the capital, around 4:00 am

(2330 GMT Friday), his office said. Zadran was summoned soon after daybreak for talks on Gardez where Karzai's appointed governor was driven out by the forces of Saif Ullah who had seized the province in the power vacuum after the fall of

Wake up call for NATO

"They are meeting to try work out

Zadran's brother -- tried to take up his post through force after Ullah refused to hand over power.

20 civilians, were killed in the fierce exchange of mortar, rocket and

Karzai tackles trouble at home machinegun fire between the forces.

> Khan's troops were forced to retreat after two days of clashes, which ended late Thursday. The government source said the defeat of Padsha Khan was "humili-

ating" for Karzai. "It shows that his power barely extends beyond Kabul. How he deals with the problem will determine whether he will in future be known as the leader of Afghanistan

or only of Kabul. "Padsha Khan supports the deployment of international peacekeepers and is determined to end the fighting, but it seems other warlords have different ideas," he said

## Pakistan claims killing 114 PLO executive body Indian soldiers in Kashmir

#### AFP. Ramallah

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) is withdrawing from the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) until its leader, Ahmed Saadat, is released from a Palestinian Authority jail, the group's second-in-command said Saturday.

"The PFLP is withdrawing from the PLO's executive committee until we have obtained the release of Ahmad Saadat." Abdelrahim Mulaeh told a press conference in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

"The continuing detention of our secretary general strikes against Palestinian democracy," Mulaeh said.

Mulaeh is the PFLP representative on the PLO executive committee

Palestinian intelligence services arrested Saadat on January 15 as one of the conditions imposed by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to allow Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to leave Ramallah, where he has been

# Sindh, and found no evidence Pearl LTTE using truce to recruit child soldiers

A couple of grandparents known as AFP. Colombo the "diabolical lovers" were handed

long jail terms by a court here Friday Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas for a series of rapes and sexua

the Tigers had intensified conscription following the unilateral truce they have been observing since The ceasefire h

demanding children and money to set up offices. "Where the children were

**Terror stalks Americans** napping or other terrorist actions The announcement supersedes noting the January 23 abduction of worldwide caution issued on Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl in Karachi, Pakistan. October 23 by adding concern over

In light of Pearl's abduction, US government sites around the world 'remain at a heightened state of troops in the Philippines but was

possible kidnappings. Meanwhile, a communist insurgent spokesman Saturday warned his forces were ready to fight US

dramatic escalation in tensions

attack on the Indian parliament.

stopping Islamic militants crossing the LoC to take part in the 13-yearold uprising against Indian rule in Muslim-majority Kashmir.

massed on both sides of the LoC. the de facto border in Kashmir, which has caused two of the three wars between Pakistan and India since they gained independence in 1947.

Associated Press of Pakistan

Argentine Maxima Zorreguieta (L) and Dutch Crownprince Willem-Alexander

(R) smile at each other during their civil marriage ceremony on Saturday in

Indian soldiers in retaliatory fire across the disputed border in Kashmir over the past two months, a

killed when Pakistani troops targeted an ordnance depot in Jallas near Poonch town on the Indian side

AFP. Islamabad

AFP. Washington

mid-December, Brigadier Mumtaz Ahmed Baiwa said.

The attack also destroyed arms

Pakistani troops have killed 114

the Beurs van Berlage (former stock exchange) in Amsterdam.

senior army officer said. At least 87 Indian soldiers were

of the divided Himalayan state in

and ammunition, the official

quoted him as saying at a briefing in Chiri Kot, a forward post near the Line of Control (LoC) unofficial border in Kashmir on Friday.

"Due to the attack there were confirmed reports of 87 Indian soldiers killed while scores received injuries," the news agency said.

Bajwa said the attack was in retaliation for "indiscriminate firing" from across the LoC on civilians in mid-December.

between the nuclear neighbours following a December 13 terrorist India has demanded Pakistar

end "cross-border terrorism" by

Some 800,000 troops are

attending the wedding.

returned home Saturday and immediately began confronting the threat of instability raised by bloody clashes between rival warlords in his week-long absence, officials said He was locked in talks with

AFP, Munich

counter-terrorism."

ons of mass destruction."

US Deputy Secretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz said

Speaking to a 43-nation security conference in Munich, Wolfowitz said "a military transformation

agenda" was needed "to develop NATO's capacities in

against the United States, "terrible though it was, is but a

pale shadow of what will happen if terrorists use weap-

understanding of what terrorists can do with weapons of

Wolfowitz warned that the September 11 terror attack

"We cannot afford to wait until we have a visceral

He said NATO had provided valuable logistics sup-

crisis and adapt itself to fight terrorism.

Border Affairs Minister Amabullah Zadran on the situation at Gardez, the capital of eastern Paktia province where a fierce battle raged during the week, a senior govern-

ment source told AFP. Snow at Kabul International Airport forced Karzai's plane to land at Bagram, the former Soviet air base some 50 kilometers (30 miles)

the Taliban.

solutions," the source said. "The process may take a day or two." The clashes occurred when the appointed governor, Padsha Khan -

Some 50 people, including about

PFLP withdraws from Pak cops rule out death of US journalist AFP, Karachi was dead. Sheikh said.

#### US news organisations said they Pakistani police have "ruled out" the

received an e-mail on Friday, after the execution deadline set by the kidnappers, claiming the Wall Street Journal correspondent had been killed and his body dumped in a graveyard.

"We now rule out the possibility The message said they were 'thirsty for the blood of another that he has been killed as claimed American," CNN reported. by the kidnappers." Sindh province In Islamabad, foreign ministry Home Secretary Brigadier Mukhtar spokesman foreign ministry

Sheikh told AFP Police have followed all informaspokesman Aziz Ahmed Khan said the search for Pearl is continuing. tion contained in the e-mail including an exhaustive search of gravevards in Karachi, the capital of

possibility that kidnapped US

reporter Daniel Pearl is dead

despite an e-mail claiming he had

been killed, a senior official said

Saturdav.

which runs the organization's day-to-day business. blockaded by the Israeli army since December 3.

He said 27 other Indian soldiers were killed in different incidents during the period, which has seen a

To allay public criticism,

Inspector General B.S. Shekhawat said.

Two BSF soldiers died on the spot, he said. "The lone BSF survivor retaliated, killing two militants one each from the ANVC and the NSCN." the official said

### Army defuses 6 Maoist bombs in Kathmandu

#### AFP, Kathmandu

The army in Nepal Saturday defused six bombs, four of which were planted at a bus station in Kathmandu, police said.

Maoist rebels are believed to have planted the devices as antimonarchy and anti-prime minister slogans were found written on banners nearby

Members of the public spotted the bombs at the bus station in the outskirts of Kathmandu and in the nearby suburb of Sanepa, and called the police. Army bomb disposal squads were called in to defuse the explosives.

"We managed to avert a possible disaster in the capital," a police source said.

## Milosevic denies ordering atrocities

AFP, Moscow

Former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic said in an interview Saturday he never ordered his military to commit atrocities in the Balkans.

Milosevic, due on trial for genocide, crimes against humanity and other charges over events in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo, said his army commanders acted on their own

"Decrees are being attributed to

"They (the military commanders) acted on their own, while defending themselves from attacks by bandits, who were burning down homes and killing innocent civilians," he said.

military campaign in Afghanistan. According to Friday's statement, US citizens and interests "remain at increased risk of terrorist attacks, including by groups with links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida organisation.

Those are individuals that "do not distinguish between official and civilian targets," the statement

reads. The State Department also has "unconfirmed reports" that US citizens "may be targeted for kid-

Those sites "may from time to time temporarily close or suspend public services as necessary to review their security posture and ensure its adequacy," the statement notes

The State Department "remains deeply concerned about the secu-rity of Americans overseas," and urges Americans abroad "to review their circumstances carefully and to take all appropriate measures to ensure their personal safety.

alert.

evasive on an incident in which a US airforce plane taking part in a military exercise was fired upon.

Gregorio Rosal, spokesman of the communist New People's Army (NPA), said in a statement read over the radio that the communist guerrillas were the next target of US soldiers deployed in the southern Philippines for joint operations against the Abu Sayyaf Muslim kidnapping group.

aggressions on nine little girls over a five-year period.

'Diabolical

in France

AFP, Chartres

lovers' jailed

Lanfranco and Liliane Giordani, aged 65 and 52, remained impassive as they were sentenced respectively to 18 and 12 years' imprisonment. The prosecution had called for 20-year sentences for the couple.

They were found guilty of raping and abusing nine girls aged from seven to 14 between 1994 and 1999 at their home and their country cottage west of Paris.

nave stepped up their forced con scription of child soldiers -- some as young as 12 -- despite a truce with government forces, a human rights group said Saturday.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is forcing families to send at least one child to join the rebel movement and has set fire to homes of those who failed to do so, the University Teachers' for Human Rights (UTHR) said.

In its latest report, the UTHR said

reciprocated by the government.

Military officials too have reported stepped up recruitment drives by the rebels who have openly entered government-held areas under cover of the truce.

The problem was acute in the multi-ethnic eastern province, the UTHR said.

"In areas... where the LTTE's movements were hitherto inhibited, the LTTE came in and started

Indonesia should follow the lead of

Singapore, including the US

The envoy, speaking before diplomats, academics and busi-

nessmen, said there was a need for

preater border controls in Southeast

Asia to reduce the ease with which

suspected terrorists move to evade

Sindapore to tighten controls at its

main port to curb any attempts by

terrorists to use the world's busiest

He said Washington has asked

security forces

embassy, had fled to Indonesia.

demanded a written declaration from the parents that they would give the first child that comes of age reportedly 12 years," the UTHR said, adding childless couples were

asked to pay money to the LTTE. When residents complained to the army and the police they were told that the new government would take offence if they tried to stop the LTTE's activities, the UTHR said.

PHOTO: AFF

ndonesians escort a makeshift-raft in a flooded area in Jakarta on Saturday. The midnight rain brought more misery to almost 200.000 Jakartans who have been forced to evacuate their homes since the massive flooding hit the capital. The death toll from flood-related incidents in Jakarta and satellite towns since Tuesday stands at 24.

# 5 more killed in Jakarta as floods hit city centre

#### AFP, Jakarta

Five people were killed in the Indonesian capital Jakarta as heavy overnight downpours extended floods to the city center, prolonging a crisis which has forced 200,000 people from their homes and killed 50 nationwide.

found floating in rivers in south and center, told AFP on Saturday.

agency reported.

misery to almost 200,000 Jakartans

who have been forced to evacuate their homes since the massive flooding hit the capital and other

The death toll from flood-related incidents in Jakarta and satellite towns since Tuesday now stands at 24. At least 26 more people have died elsewhere in the archipelago, according to officials and media

slide that hit a neighbourhood in West Java province, Antara said.

Jakarta's main thoroughfares and the National Monument land-

# US asks Indonesia to take action against terrorists

#### AFP, Singapore

harbour to smuggle contraband, and was assured of the passage of legislation for that purpose when parliament convenes next month.

"I think it's a little unclear what the nature of the challenge is in Indonesia," Lavin told the United Nations Association of Singapore.

"We saw a substantial number of arrests in Singapore, we saw equally aggressive ... moves in Malaysia, (but) we have not seen that kind of response yet in Indonesia and it is a matter of concern," he said.

As the head of the embassy that was reported to be a key target in the attacks, Lavin said: "It is very disturbing to read the news reports that these planners are now in Indonesia and we do expect the Indonesian government .... to take action."

"The bodies of four men were

outside a high-rise building in downtown Jakarta, apparently of electric shock, the official Antara news

central Jakarta this morning," Edi Susanto, an official at the flood relief Another man was found dead

The midnight rain brought more

Singapore and Malaysia in taking firmer action against suspected regions on Tuesday. terrorists, US Ambassador Frank Lavin said here Saturday. Lavin said it was "disturbing" to read reports that some of the suspected terrorists who had planned to attack American targets in

reports. A woman was killed by a land-

mark near the presidential palace were 50 centimetres (one foot eight inches) under muddy brown water early Saturday, causing heavy traffic

# Peep at US persecution in Korean War

#### AP, London

American commanders repeatedly ordered their troops to kill civilian refugees during the first months of the Korean War, according to a new documentary which claims to expose previously unreported massacres carried out by US soldiers.

The British Broadcasting Corp. says its film "Kill 'em All," which was broadcast Friday, also features new American witnesses of the so-called No Gun Ri massacre in which retreating US troops shot refugees hiding under a railroad bridge in South Korea in late July 1950

Drawing on "newly unearthed" military documents, the documentary says that US commanders sanctioned killings with orders such as "Shoot all refugees," and "All refugees ... are fair game" as they feared North Korean infiltrators might be sheltering among them to cross US lines.

South Korean survivors also describe a massacre by US soldiers of 82 villagers cowering in a small shrine and the slaughter of up to 400 civilians. killed when a US warships shelled a crowd of refugees on a beach.

Details of the documentary leaked in the South Korean capital Seoul have reignited the debate about the killings. A spokesman for President Kim Dae-jung's Millennium Democratic Party has called for a reopening of the US investigation into the killings.

"We demand that the US administration reinvestigate the truth behind the No Gun Ri incident because of new evidence and testimony that counter the US investigators' conclusion one year ago," spokesman Lee Nak-yon said last month.

In January last year, the US government admitted its soldiers killed or njured an unconfirmed number of refugees, but denied US commanders issued "oral or written orders to shoot and kill Korean civilians" at No Gun Ri.

Director Tom Roberts said Friday the film developed and broadened American news reports on No Gun Ri

A story on the massacre by a team of Associated Press reporters won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for investigative reporting.

A book by the same team, "The Bridge at No Gun Ri" describes 19 examples of American commanders ordering their soldiers to fire on civilian refuaees

"By picking up where American news reporting left off, we have been able to shed a broader light on a dark underside, a hidden chapter, of a major 20th century war," said Roberts

The filmmakers said Pentagon officials declined to be interviewed for the



A large number of Afghan families wait for the opening of the Pakistan-Afghanistan border at Tourkham on Saturday for returning to their homeland.



me that I never signed, and which were carried out on specific initiatives of the military," Milosevic told the Izvestia daily