INTERNATIONAL



Survivors of the Union Carbide gas disaster in Bhopal hold placards on which former Union Carbide Chairman Warren Anderson is compared to Osama bin Laden during a march to Parliament in New Delhi on Tuesday. The demonstrators protested against Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani's alleged support to Warren Anderson following the world's worst ever industrial accident in Bhopal in 1984 during which more than 4,000 people died.

Pak army plotting to hijack Indian plane: Minister

AFP, New Delhi

An Indian interior minister on Tuesday said the government has uncovered an alleged plot by the Pakistani army to hijack an Indian passenger aircraft.

Minister of State for Home, Vidyasagar Rao, told parliament that security at domestic airports was further tightened at the end of June after the alleged plot was uncovered by Indian intelligence agencies.

"The government has issued instructions to state governments and security agencies (to strengthen) security at all operational airports in the country," the junior minister told parliament's

"Quick-reaction teams have been deployed at sensitive and hyper-sensitive airports, including those at New Delhi and Jammu and Srinagar (in Kashmir) which are apprehended to be targetted," he

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), a paramilitary agency that guards government facilities, has also been deployed at all airports, Rao said.

The minister, however, gave no further details of the alleged Pakistani conspiracy.

Only passengers and personnel on duty have access to India's fortified civilian airports, most of which are heavily guarded by the federal CISF and a host of other security agencies.

An Indian Airlines plane was hijacked in December 1999 by Pakistan-based militants while was flying from Kathmandu to

The Boeing-737 was diverted to Afghanistan by the hijackers and the passengers and crewwere freed only after India agreed to release three jailed Muslim militants who immediately fled to Pakistan.

Lanka FM carries India's concerns to Pakistan

AFP, Islamabad

Visiting Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Tyronne Fernando Tuesday said he conveyed India's concerns over the disputed territory of Kashmir to Pakistan during his meeting with President Pervez Musharraf.

Fernando, who held talks with his Indian counterpart Yaswant Sinha last week in Colombo, began his three day visit to Pakistan Monday by calling on President Musharraf.

"I conveyed to the President the concerns of the Indian Foreign minister," Fernando told reporters here. "But, I do not see a role for myself as a mediator between the two countries."

Asked for President Musharraf's reaction to the "concerns" Fernando said: "He really listened."

Polls violence toll soars to 86 in Philippines

AFP, Manila

Eighty-six people were killed in violence linked to district-level elections across the Philippines, the military said, but President Gloria Arroyo hailed Monday's vote as "generally peaceful".

In a radio address Tuesday, a day after the balloting, Arroyo thanked her countrymen for "our generally peaceful elections."

The authorities are "satisfied with its outcome and the way it was conducted. I hope the postponed balloting in some areas would be held peacefully as well," she said.

Military vice chief of staff Lieutenant General Gregorio Camiling said "the entire activity registered a total of 183 (violent) incidents causing the death of 86 people and injury to 45 others."

US mulls figurehead role for Arafat

AFP, New York

US Secretary of State Colin Powell suggested making Yasser Arafat a figurehead leader for the Palestinians, as he prepared for talks Tuesday with top UN, Russian and European officials on the Middle East crisis.

Israel, meanwhile, reportedly has Egyptian support for a plan to ease restrictions on the Gaza Strip in return for an end to Palestinian attacks, even as the army pressed on with its operations in the occupied territories.

As members of the diplomatic "quartet" assembled in New York, Powell indicated he would be open to the idea of kicking Arafat "upstairs" to a symbolic leadership post as part of a general overhaul of the Palestinian Authority, as demanded by US President George W. Bush.

"It is a formula I'd be more than willing to consider," Powell said in an interview with ABC television. But he made clear there could be no substitute for genuine democratic

reform of Palestinian institutions. In a speech on the Middle East last month, Bush called for Arafat's ouster as a condition for the establishment of a Palestinian state, saying new elec-

tions were essential to remove leaders "compromised by terror" UN Secretary General Kofi Annan was to host a dinner for the "quartet" attended also by the Egyptian and Jordanian foreign ministers, who are then

expected to see Bush with their Saudi counterpart later in the week. "The idea is to bring all of these interested parties together and see if we

will need to achieve it," one US official said. "It won't be easy, but we think that if we can minimise the debate over

Arafat the person and look to the broader question of reform, we can really make some progress," the official said.

can start to make a big push for reform and the assistance the Palestinians

He said Powell and other US officials wanted to emphasise Bush's longrange vision of two states, Israel and Palestine.

The Arabs are expected to insist that the Palestinians cannot be expected to fulfil demands for reform while they are subject to Israeli occupation. Bush has made clear he expects an eventual Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territories, saying the troops would have to pull back to where they were in September 2000, when the current Palestinian uprising erupted.

At the New York meeting, the quartet is expected to formalise the agenda of a new international "task force" on Palestinian reform.

The task force -- which includes the quartet and major Palestinian donors Norway, Japan, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund -- met for the first time at the working level earlier this month in London.

The United States, which does not contribute any money directly to the Palestinian Authority, is reportedly intent on pressing other donors to demand strict accounting for their assistance if it is to continue.

But as their army pressed on with operations in the Palestinian territories, Israeli officials have said they did not expect any breakthrough from the New

Rumsfeld for updating Iraq action plan Saddam's son asks Iraqis to prepare for war

AFP, Washington

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said late Monday he had ordered an update of all US contingency war plans, including those outlining possible military action against Iraq.

He also refused to give any details about the plans, even if President George W. Bush decided to bring about a regime change in Iraq through military means.

"You do not let anybody in on war plans," Rumsfeld said in an interview on CNBC television. "If you have plans as to how one is going to conduct an operation, you do not let anybody know what those are.'

The defence secretary said he had recently ordered a review of dozens of Pentagon plans for hypothetical battles and other emergency situations that might involve US troops.

"We're reviewing all of them and updating them," Rumsfeld said. "And we're elevating the risks so that they can be judged, and they can be brought up to an appropriate level of potential value."

Rumsfeld's comments came as Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz

was poised to begin talks in Ankara with top Turkish officials on security cooperation in the region and Turkey's possible role in US efforts to topple the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"We value Turkey's views highly and my colleagues back in Washington will be interested in what I have to report," Wolfowitz said in Istanbul on

The New York Times reported earlier this month that Washington has a secret blueprint for a massive attack on Iraq by land, sea and air with as many as 250,000 troops and hundreds of warplanes.

Meanwhile, President Saddam Hussein's powerful elder son Uday on Monday urged his father's regime, under threat of a US military strike, to prepare the Iraqi population for war.

As the Iraqi parliament pledged its full support for Saddam and his steps to defend the country, Uday recalled the GulfWar:

"The Iraqi population must be ... prepared on the psychological, military and national levels to oppose any enemy attack and support the burden of the war that risks being more ferocious than that of 1991."

Will Pearl killer be executed ever?

AFP, Karachi

The convicted killer of US journalist Daniel Pearl was sitting on death row Monday, but Pakistani legal experts were uncertain whether British-born militant Sheikh Omar will ever be taken to the gallows.

Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, was untouchable, a senior intelligence sentenced to death by hanging after official said. an anti-terrorism court found him guilty of masterminding the abduc-

Prison authorities in Hyderabad of anonymity. city, 160 km north-east of here, moved Omar to the jail's death row after the verdict, where he joined

another 75 condemned prisoners.

His three accomplices were given life sentences, which usually means 25 years in Pakistan.

If Omar is hung, he will be the first "Jihadi" or holy warrior to be executed in Pakistan. Islamic hardliners waging sectarian violence have been executed, but lihadis Omar, 28, whose full name is have traditionally remained

leader has been convicted and tion and murder of the Wall Street sentenced to death, though four to Journal correspondent earlier this five sectarian terrorists have been executed," he told AFP, on condition

Omar's lawyers have vowed to appeal the conviction and sentence. starting with the High Court in southern Sindh province and mov-

ing on to the Supreme Court if they are unsuccessful.

Lawyer Zia Ahmed Awan, from the Sindh Bar Counsel, said the High Court usually tended to be more on the side of appellates, scrutinising the prosecution's case for errors and

"If there are not big errors in the prosecution's case, I think the sen-"This is the first time a Jihadi tence will continue," he said, citing defence lawyers' accusations that the prosecution's case was riddled with conflicting evidence from witnesses and investigators.

"If there is no quantum evidence to connect Omar to the murder, most probably it will be reduced from death to life," Awan said.

WTC rebuilding plans unveiled

AP, New York

Plans for rebuilding the World Trade Centre include memorials, office space and cultural centres, but none of the six potential designs would include buildings as high as the fallen twin towers, officials familiar with the proposals said. Proposals to be released Tuesday call for replacing the 11 million square feet of office and retail space lost on Sept. 11 with a cluster of buildings much shorter than the 110-story towers, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

They said each of the six plans includes a substantial memorial to the victims of the attacks. The officials said four of the plans would keep clear the ground once occupied by the towers.

The New York Times reported Tuesday that all of the plans include a central memorial park that could take up as much as a third to two-thirds of the 16-acre trade centre site.

Gujarat turns blind to woes of riot-hit Muslims

AFP, Ahmedabad

Four months after a Hindu mob torched their home in this western Indian city's Muslim quarter, the Khan family has yet to receive the bulk of the compensation promised

"We only got 1,000 rupees (20 dollars), enough to buy a couple of windows," said Nasikh Khan, as his wife swept broken glass off the floor.

The attack on the Muslim family's home in February reduced the house to nothing more than blackened walls and the remains of an

iron cupboard. The couple has since taken refuge in a mosque in Ahmedabad, the commercial capital of Gujarat which has recently been torn by India's worst communal riots in a decade. The couple came back for a day

to their home in the Naroda Patiya quarter, where 83 people were massacred on February 28. Since then, the neighbourhood has stood abandoned.

The roads are deserted. Dozens of sandals still lie on the ground; the carcasses of burned-up scooters

ways. The houses, their roofs and windows smashed, are empty.

Since the bloodbath only about 20 people have returned to the district which was home to more than 800 families.

The mob attacked the Muslim area the day after a crowd believed to be Muslims torched a train carrying right-wing Hindu activists in Gujarat, killing 58 people. More than 1,000 people have died in Gujarat since February 27, most of them Muslims.

Bush pledges to consult allies | American Taliban amid charges of unilateralism pleads guilty

AFP, Washington

US President George W. Bush has promised close consultations with allies on the future course of his war on terror amid growing concern in Europe and other parts of the world unilateralist stance.

"I will continue to communicate on the United States. and consult with our friends and the battle front shifts," the president Polish journalists.

grow increasingly critical of what they see as a unilateralist US

issues, citing as an example Washington's plans to use military force to topple the regime of Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

deployed in Afghanistan still have a lot to do in the war-torn country, that Washington may be adopting a hunting down al-Qaida militants blamed for the September 11 attacks

capturing suspected terror mastersaid Monday in an interview with mind Osama bin Laden and his closest aides, said the war in The comment came as US allies Afghanistan was now "a hunt for NATO allies to make a concerted |

approach to key foreign policy at a time, "he said.

But he argued the campaign against terrorism went beyond just

fighting the al-Qaida network. The president said he had deep Bush said the 8,000 US troops concerns about the development and deployment of weapons of mass destruction by some of the nations in the world "who hate freedom."

"Of course we'll need to continue to have deliberations with our The president, who had repeat- friends and allies, and we'll have allies as to every stage of the war, as edly played down the importance of them for future theaters and different operations," the president said. "We talk to them all the time."

At the same time, Bush urged effort to adjust to the new realities of "We're chasing down one person the 21st century and improve their capability to fight the war on terror.

AFP, Alexandria

John Walker Lindh, the "American Taliban" captured in Afghanistan, pleaded guilty on Monday to two charges, leading the government to drop murder conspiracy and terror-

ism charges against him. victory in America's war on terrorism," said Attorney General John Ashcroft. "By going to Afghanistan and fighting shoulder to shoulder alongside the Taliban, John Walker Lindh allied himself with terrorists who reject our values of freedom and democracy and turned his back on the United States of America." His mother, Marilyn Lindh,

disagreed, in comments to the press after emerging from court, she called her son kind and loving. "He did not go to Afghanistan with the intention of fighting against the US, his homeland.'

Lindh, 21, pleaded guilty to one of the 10 charges that were originally "Today marks an important brought against him: that he had aided the former Afghan Taliban regime in violation of US law. And he pleaded guilty to an 11th charge, added Monday, of carrying explosives to commit a felony.

His plea ended the prospect of a trial, as his lawyers reached a deal with federal prosecutors who dropped the other nine charges against him.



Security men take ballot boxes of the Indian presidential election into the Parliament House in New Delhi on Tuesday. Indian politicians cast ballots on Monday to elect the country's new president and the architect of the country's missile arsenal, Abdul Kalam, is almost certain to get elected.

Artistes on a stage built on the shore of lake Bodensee in Austria go through the final rehearsals of Puccini's opera "La Boheme" on Monday ahead of the premiere of the opera on Thursday.

Cops killed 5 civilians branding them militants: Kashmir CM

AFP, Srinagar

Indian-administered Kashmir's leader said Tuesday that police had killed five innocent civilians, claiming they were militants linked to the massacre of 37 Sikh villagers two years ago.

Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah said DNA samples taken from the five bodies on April 2 this year confirmed relatives' allegations that the men were not involved in the out-

"The fresh report received by my by Pakistan in January 2002. government clearly indicates that all the five were innocent civilians," Abdullah said.

"I will ask the CBI (India's Central Bureau of Investigation) to find the officials who were involved in the fudging of the DNA (tests) and those who were involved in the killing of the five and bring them to book," he said at the state assembly in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital. He identified the five men as

Juma Khan, Zahoor Ahmed Dalal,

Mohammed Yousuf Malik, Bashir

Ahmed Bhat and Jumma Khan of the

southern Anantnag district. 37 Sikhs in the village of Chattisinghpora in the southern

district of Anantnag were massacred on March 20, 2000 on the eve of a visit to India by then US president Bill Clinton. Police said four days later they

had killed five men involved in the killings and identified them as foreign separatist rebels belonging to the pan-Islamic movement Lashkar-e-Taiba, which was banned Local residents have long

civilians who went missing after being arrested by the counterinsurgency police and army. In April 2000 there were massive protests over the incident and police

killed eight people to quell one of

insisted the men were innocent

To placate the angry residents. the government agreed to exhume the corpses for DNA sampling to match them with genetic data of relatives who claimed the bodies.

Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation

Adamjee Court (5th floor), 115-120, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000

Ref. No. BSFIC/PD-2/All Mills/MP/2002/

Date 14-07-2002 Re-Tender Notice for Purchase of 9,500.00 M.Tons MOP (Muriate of Potash) Fertilizer (In Bag)

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide importers/suppliers by Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation for purchase of 9,500 M. Tons MOP (Muriate of Potash) fertilizer (in bag) to be supplied to the different Sugar Mills on free delivery at Mill site basis. Offer for any part quantity will not be acceptable. Earnest money @ 2% of the total quoted value should accompany the tender in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee in favour of Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation. Sealed tenders will be received in tender box up to 12.00 noon on 27-07-2002 on the following addresses. Tender box will be

Purchase Division, BSFIC, 2. Head Office, 58, Dilkusha Com. Area, Dhaka-1000.

opened at 12.05 pm on the same day and the offers will be kept in sealed condition: BSFIC Shipping Office 68, 3. Agrabad Com. Area, Arag Chamber, Chittagong.

Director, Managing Mobarakganj Sugar Mills Ltd, Naldanga, Jhenidah.

The quotation received at the above places will be opened on 28-07-2002 at 12.00 noon at the office of Chief (Purchase), BSFIC, H.O., 58, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 in presence of the tenderers (if any). Tender documents with detailed specifications and terms and conditions will be available from the (a) Additional Chief Accountant (Cash) of this Corporation at Adamjee Court (4th Floor), 115-120, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 (b) BSFIC, Shipping Office at Arag Chamber, 68, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong and (c) Managing Director, Mobarakganj Sugar Mills Ltd, Naldanga, Jhenidah on cash payment of Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) only per set (non-refundable) on all working days between 10.00 AM and 3.30PM. No tender documents will be sold on 27-07-2002. The Corporation reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

S.F-29 GD-611 N.A.S. Iqbal Hussain Chief (Purchase)