

## Turkey tries to mend US ties after rebuff

REUTERS, Ankara

Turkey rushed yesterday to repair ties with Washington after parliament blocked any U.S. attack on Iraq through Turkish territory, and warned Baghdad not to delay cooperation with the United Nations.

But Turkish leader Tayyip Erdogan, speaking even as U.S. navy ships waited off Turkey's coast for a green light from Ankara, held out little hope to Washington that parliament might hold a fresh vote on the issue soon.

Prime Minister Abdullah Gul, speaking before an emergency meeting of his Justice and Development Party (AKP), said friendship with Washington would survive parliament's rejection of a plan to admit 62,000 U.S. troops as well as warplanes.

Saturday's razor-edge vote shook the party leadership and dealt a blow to U.S. military plans for a "northern front" against Iraq, with war perhaps only a few weeks away.

In rejecting Washington, Turkey stands to lose a multi-billion-dollar U.S. aid package to shore up a frail economy recovering from its deepest recession since 1945. A \$16 billion IMF loan package could also now be seriously in question.

U.S. military planners may now have to abandon plans for a thrust into Iraq from neighbouring Turkey that experts say could limit U.S. losses and shorten any war over Baghdad's alleged weapons of mass destruction.

Ships bearing armour and supplies for the Fourth Infantry Division, now waiting off Turkey's Mediterranean coast, would have to be diverted quickly south to join an invasion force massing in the Gulf area.

"Our friendly relationship with the United States will go on," Gul told reporters.

"The Iraqi leader should not exploit parliament's decision yesterday. If they misunderstand and delay cooperation with the United Nations then the chance of peace will reduce," he said.

The United States and Britain have drawn up a second UN resolution designed to authorise force against Iraq, stating that it has

failed to respect UN demands that it scrap nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programs.

Diplomats said such a resolution could allow Ankara to present a revised U.S. troop plan, or perhaps proposals simply for use of air bases, in a more sympathetic atmosphere. But no Security Council vote is likely for about two weeks.

**Anti-War Protests**  
Gul later held talks with the powerful chief of armed forces General Staff, General Hilmi Ozkok.

Overnight, dozens of anti-war demonstrators gathered in central Ankara to celebrate parliament's vote. A jubilant crowd chanted "No to War," waved flags and some embraced each other.

Erdogan said public anger had played some role in AKP deputies voting against the parliamentary troops motion. Asked if a new one could be considered, he offered little clarity.

"Our government and state is prepared to develop the most appropriate alternatives in line with parliament's democratic preference and is capable of implementing these alternatives..." (but) every alternative has a price."

Financial markets could face a gruelling day on Monday, investors having long assumed the government motion would pass.

Gul said his priority was to protect the economy. "Whatever measure has to be taken will be. There is no need for concern."

Among factors influencing parliament's vote, sharp divisions in Europe over the wisdom of military action raised doubts in party ranks.

President Ahmet Necdet Sezer had also questioned the constitutionality of the resolution -- no small matter for a party already viewed by the powerful military with deep suspicion for its Islamist roots.

In Washington, U.S. officials said they still held out hope that Turkey would come around. Defence officials said they could quickly adjust war plans.

If Turkey does not budge, it may also have less of a say in the future of northern Iraq, where it fears the emergence of a Kurdish state that could rekindle armed Kurdish separatism in its own territory.

## Goswami murder Hearing on charge-framing against accused on March 5

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The hearing on charge-framing against the accused in Swapan Kumar Goswami murder case will be held on March 5.

Shahed Noor Uddin, Judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Dhaka Division, yesterday fixed the date.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police submitted a charge sheet against nine people on January 8.

They are Jalal alias Zillu, Rifat Akhond, Moksudul Rahman Biplob, AKM Mosharraf Hossain Arman, Mahmudul Hasan Johny, SM Sabbir Rahman alias Shantanu, Tanvir Sharif Apon, Parosh and Shahidul Islam alias Shuvo.

Of the accused, Biplob, Arman and Shuvo are still at large while the rest six in jail custody.

Rifat has become an approver in the case.

Swapan Kumar Goswami, a teacher of the Government Laboratory High School in the city, was shot dead on October 26 near his residence at Bhutergola.

Later, a murder case was filed with Dhammondipolice station.

## Iraq attack

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four rockets on Saturday, meeting a key deadline set by chief inspector Hans Blix.

UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) missile experts went to Taji base, 40 km north of Baghdad, yesterday spokesmen for the inspectors Hiro Ueki said.

An Iraqi official later said six al-Samoud missiles were being destroyed. Another team went to a site south of the capital to destroy a casting chamber, Ueki added.

Iraq destroyed four missiles on Saturday at Taji by crushing them with large bulldozers. One casting chamber was destroyed at another site.

UN experts say the roughly 100 surface-to-surface missiles must be destroyed because their range exceeds the 150km limit allowed under previous UN resolutions.

Blix has told Iraq all the missiles and most components should be destroyed. The process is expected to take around two weeks.

## All the sewers

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crere rehabilitation project -- Improvement of Sewerage System in Dhaka City -- were held back after disagreement over KAFCO. But WASA officials are optimistic about securing the funds from Japan through a debt relief grant (DRG).

WASA officials said one-third of the city -- mostly south and old Dhaka -- is now covered by the Pagla sewerage treatment plant.

But Uttara, Baridhara, Badda, Rampura, parts of Kalyanpur, Mohammadpur, and the cantonment areas are yet to come under the sewer network.

The North Dhaka (east) sewerage project is supposed to cover these places. With its completion, 75 per cent of the city area will come under the sewer network.

Residents of many areas have linked their sewer lines with the surface drains, built to carry rain water only, in the absence of the sewer network. This pollutes the rivers and canals around the city.

Under the sewerage system improvement project, one of the two trunk lines of Pagla sewerage plant is supposed to be rehabilitated.

The Pagla plant has a capacity to treat 1.20 lakh cubic metres of sewer daily, but only 50 to 55 thousand meters goes into it owing to leakage and damage in one of the trunk lines in different areas including Tejgaon to Bashabo and Jurain to Pagla. As a result, 65 to 70 thousand cubic metres of sewer flows into the city's water-bodies including the Buriganga.

If it continues, say WASA experts, water pollution will assume unmanageable proportions in near future.



A UN official signs a document to be handed to Iraq that its missile team has finished destroying the casting chamber used in the manufacture of the al-Samoud missile at the al-Rashid facility on the southern outskirts of Baghdad yesterday.

# Fighting terrorism Musharraf ready to work with India but can't 'compromise too much'

AFP, New Delhi

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said yesterday he was willing to join hands with India to fight extremism, but warned he would lose power if he compromised too much over Kashmir.

"If someone says in a positive manner that we want to solve it, then we are together on this issue of controlling every extremist," Musharraf told the Indian Hindi-language news channel Aaj Tak in an interview broadcast yesterday.

But he added that India and Pakistan should resume talks to "set the strategic direction" in the fight against extremism.

"Then we will solve this problem and all problems," he said.

Dialogue between India and Pakistan has been stalled for more than a year with tensions spiralling after an attack on India's parliament complex in December 2001.

India blamed the attack on Pakistan-based Islamic extremists and the two sides deployed a mil-

lion troops to their borders. The troops began to pull back in October after India said Musharraf had promised a US envoy he would stop support for the Islamic insurgency against Indian rule in Kashmir.

In the interview, Musharraf warned that no Pakistani leader could survive if he brushed aside the half-century Kashmir dispute and began mending relations with India in other areas such as trade.

"You need to understand the pulse of Pakistan. No Pakistani leader can come into politics and survive if they start doing all kinds of things with India -- talking trade, commerce, economy with India. He will be kicked out," Musharraf said.

"Let us understand the ground reality and let us start talks. Let us start talks on all issues including Kashmir."

New Delhi says Islamabad trains and funds rebels fighting for 14 years in Kashmir, a third of which is also administered by Pakistan.

Pakistan says it only provides moral and diplomatic support to an "indigenous" movement for self-determination in Kashmir, India's sole Muslim-Majority state.

The insurgency has left more than 37,500 people dead, according to India, or twice that according to Pakistan and separatist groups.

Musharraf defended the role of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency, which New Delhi repeatedly charges has supported anti-Indian extremists.

"You also have an intelligence agency," Musharraf said of India. "Don't think it's pure and absolutely above reproach."

"We too have our intelligence organisation and it works," he said.

"All intelligence agencies the world over work in the same fashion and do the same thing. So let's not get involved (in talking) about what intelligence agencies do."

The interview with Musharraf was taped a week ago when he attended a summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Malaysia.

## Dhaka: Iraq crisis

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'moral support' in the event of a war on Iraq.

UNB adds: The prime minister said she had made it clear in all international fora, including the just-concluded NAM (Non-Aligned Movement) Summit, that whether it be Iraq, North Korea or Israel, Bangladesh is against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

"Bangladesh strongly rejects buildup of such weapons," she was quoted as telling the US official.

Khaleda Zia said Iraq must comply with the UN Resolution 1441 and other violators like Israel should also be pressured to comply with UN resolutions.

"It is important to find a just solution to establish an independent Palestine at the earliest," the prime minister pointed out.

On bilateral matters, the prime

minister reiterated her concern at the inclusion of Bangladesh in the US list of terror-risk countries.

"We are disappointed and upset that Bangladesh has been included in the list," she told Rocca.

Khaleda Zia also sought Rocca's support so that Bangladeshis in the US do not face problem in sending remittances.

Rocca assured her that Bangladeshis are being treated fairly and would not be subject to any harassment.

Our correspondent adds: Morshed Khan, after his meeting with Christina Rocca at foreign office yesterday, told newsmen, "She (Rocca) did not seek any support from Dhaka on Iraq issue."

However, Rocca avoided any direct reply on the issue. She even avoided questions on her discussion with Khan on Iraq issue.

Morshed Khan said even if the UN security council takes a decision in favour of a war on Iraq, Dhaka cannot readily support without going through the detail of the resolution.

"We think Iraq must comply with the UNSC resolution. Bangladesh believes in multilateral responsibility and the UN should be the hub," Khan said.

Earlier on Saturday, after signing a scientific and technological cooperation agreement with Bangladesh, Rocca at a briefing praised Dhaka's help in fighting terrorism.

She had said, "We (US and Bangladesh) do not always agree on every issue, of course. I don't think there are any two countries that do. But we value Bangladesh's contributions in many areas, its role in the world and its voice of moderation in international fora."

## Key planner of Sept 11 attack

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without US aid.

The United States, under criticism for failing to arrest the top leaders of al-Qaeda while focusing on a possible war on Iraq, was jubilant and took credit for the arrest.

"The United States commends Pakistani and US authorities on the completion of a successful joint operation, which resulted in the detention of several al-Qaeda operatives," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said in a statement.

President Bush views Pakistan as a key supporter in the war on terror he declared after blaming al-Qaeda for the September 11, 2001, suicide plane attacks on New York and Washington.

Mohammed was reported to have narrowly evaded capture last September when Karachi police identified him as a man hit by a police sniper in a shootout with militants that netted al-Qaeda operative Ahmed Omar Abdel Rahman, known as Binalshabh.

The United States had put a \$25 million price tag on his head and

the FBI posted him on its "most wanted" list of 22 individuals in October 2001.

No information was available on the second Arab held in the weekend raid. The Pakistani was identified as Ahmed Qadoos. His family said he was arrested at about 3:30 a.m. on Saturday (2230 GMT on Friday) by armed security officials, who also took away a computer. No one else from the house was arrested.

"They shut family members in a room at gunpoint," his cousin Omar Khan told Reuters. "He is not linked with anything."

Ahmed has a wife and two children and lived with his parents. His father is a retired microbiologist who had worked for the United Nations and had lived abroad, his mother is a member of one of Pakistan's most prominent Islamic parties.

But Mohammed's arrest is key.

In June 2002, US investigators identified him as the probable mastermind behind the September 11, 2001, attacks.

He was indicted in the United States in 1996 for his alleged role in

a plot to blow up 12 American airliners over the Pacific.

"Given his key position and role, it would be very surprising if he does not know the general location of Osama bin Laden," said Husain Haqqani of the Carnegie Endowment in Washington.

"Whether he will turn them in is something we don't know," he said. "The higher you are, the more devoted you are likely to be."

Mohammed was born in Kuwait, but his family is from Baluchistan, one of two Pakistani provinces bordering Afghanistan.

He is an uncle of Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, now serving a life sentence for involvement in the 1993 bombing of New York's World Trade Center, later destroyed in the September 11 attacks.

Pakistani security agencies have been hunting al-Qaeda members with the help of US intelligence agents since the ousting of the hardline Islamic Taliban government in neighbouring Afghanistan in late 2001.

Hundreds of al-Qaeda members and their Taliban allies are thought to have crossed into

## Bichel blows England

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Australia, chasing England's seemingly modest 204 for eight, collapsed to 29 for four and later 135 for eight.

They needed 13 off 11 balls when Bichel hoisted James Anderson for a huge six that struck the giant electronic scoreboard and next ball drove him for four.

England captain Nasser Hussain somehow chose not to bowl out Andrew Caddick even though the Somerset paceman had routed the top order with four for 35 in nine overs.

Australia needed just two off the final over, bowled by Andrew Flintoff.

With four balls left Flintoff failed to cling onto a fiercely hit Bichel drive. A Michael Vaughan misfield then gifted Australia a single before Bevan hit the winning runs.

Bevan hit six fours and one six to see Australia into the Super Sixes with an all-win record and to a 14th one-day win in a row against England.

Hussain's men must now hope Pakistan beat Zimbabwe on Tuesday and that their run-rate is superior to the Asian giants'. A Zimbabwe victory will knock England out.

Bichel, standing in for the injured Jason Gillespie, who was still suffering from the Achilles' injury that kept him out of Thursday's record 256-run win against Namibia where Glenn McGrath claimed a World Cup record seven for 15 easily surpassed his previous-best of five for 19 against South Africa in Sydney in 2002.

"I missed the last World Cup and was looking forward to this one and worked hard to get here," said Bichel.

"The conditions obviously helped me but stepping into the shoes of someone like Gillespie is not easy. He has big shoes, big shoulders and is a big man."

Earlier Caddick made a treble breakthrough as Australia stuttered to 33 for three in the fifth over.

First Matthew Hayden skied the New Zealand-born quick to mid-off where left-arm spinner Ashley Giles, recalled for this match in place of Ronnie Irani, held the catch.

Next to fall to the 34-year-old

## Road accidents kill two in Cox's Bazaar

UNB, Cox's Bazaar

Two persons were killed and 10 others injured in two separate road accidents here yesterday, sources said.

The victims were identified as Syeda Jesmin Akhter Jesi, 21, a third-year student of Political Science Department of Cox's Bazaar Government College and Mozaher Ahmed, 80.

Jesi was killed on the spot when a bus hit her and others near a bus stand in the town.

Ten persons were also injured in the accident. Of them, Shefal Sharma, 22, and Rashid Ahmad, 20, were taken to the Chittagong Medical Hospital in critical condition.

Police arrested bus driver Rokan and seized the bus.

Angry students of the college protesting Jesi's death blocked traffic on the Chittagong-Cox's Bazaar highway and damaged some vehicles.

The other victim Mozaher Ahmed was killed on the spot when a motorcyclist hit him from behind at Mithaichhari in Ramu upazila.

## Khulna blasts

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Police arrested 17 people: Uthan Gazi, 30, Shahidul Islam Bappi, 28, Delwar Hossain, 40, Selina Begum, 38, Mostafa, 20, Abul Hossain, 24, Badal Shaikh, 20, Mizanur, 27, Kabir Shaikh, 25, Anwar, 25, Rezaul, 23, Khaleda, 30, Moniruzzaman, 25, Saber Mollah, 40, Abul Kalam, 25, Noor Alam, 30, and Hafizur Rahman, 26.

Meanwhile, the body of the sergeant was sent home to Nagorikoya village under Kumarkhali Upazila, Kushtia.

Participants of the fair expressed concern over the incident, but organisers are willing to continue the fair until March 9, said sources.

Another bomb attack left three constables injured on January 10 at the PTT crossing in Khulna.

**Sylhet City polls**

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number of votes. Kamal was twice elected chairman of Sylhet Pourasabha earlier. Shamsuzzaman is former district organising secretary of BNP. Several attempts to arrest him was foiled last month.

Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad also addressed a public meeting held in favour of local party leader Kazi Kamal Ahmed, also in the mayoral race.

As many as 14 candidates are contesting for the post of mayor, 259 for 27 posts of ward commissioner and 69 for nine seats reserved for women. The polls will be held on March 20.

## Artho Rin Adalat Bill

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The court will not accept any written reply from the accused after 40 days of his or her presence in the court, and settle the issue unilaterally.

However, the court can extend the time limit by 20 more days on condition that the accused has to bear a cost between Tk 2,000 and Tk 5,000.

The government will appoint judges for the Artho Rin Adalat from among deputy district judges after consultation with the Supreme Court.

The court can also dispose of a case through 'camera settlement conference' where both the parties and their lawyers will be present. However, the judge can not press the parties to accept his or her proposal at such conferences, the bill said.

According to the proposed law, financial institutions will not file any case with the Artho Rin Adalat without selling off the mortgaged properties of the accused on which it has legal control. The financial institutions will have to adjust the amount realised from selling the mortgaged properties with the loan.

However, if any financial institution files any case without selling the mortgaged properties, it would have to sell those as soon as it files the case.

The plaintiff and the accused, if they depend on documents which are not under their possession, they can submit a list of the docu-

## Moudud protests SC Bar resolution

BSS, Dhaka

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister Moudud Ahmed yesterday rejected the allegation that he had ordered demolition of a pandal built for a sit-in by Supreme Court lawyers and termed a resolution in this regard politically motivated.

"The resolution-5 adopted by Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday is totally untrue and I strongly protest it," he said in a letter to SCBA president advocate Ozzair Faruque.

He said the premises of the Bangladesh Supreme Court (SC) are under the full jurisdiction of the Chief Justice and the SC.

"The police press release published in newspapers yesterday suggests that the step was taken on the ground of the SC Registrar's letter to the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner. The letter mentioned that the pandal was built without the Chief Justice's approval," he said.

He said the letter proved that the allegation was politically motivated and urged the SCBA president to withdraw the false allegation against him.

ments with names and addresses of the people who possess those.

Both the plaintiff and accused will have to submit affidavit with the written prayer and reply. The affidavits and written submissions will be treated as documentary evidences.

## Termination

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The demand came at an executive committee meeting of the FBUTA at the Dhaka University Teachers' Club, with Professor Habibur Rahman, FBUTA president, in the chair.

A 12-point resolution drafted at the meeting demanded that new teachers should be recruited to the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology.

The shortage of teachers has been hampering academic activities of the university for one and a half years, said the resolution.

The resolution also criticised the government for harassing university teachers like Professor Muntasir Mamun.

## Imran says Mandela can 'umpire' Indo-Pak dispute

AFP, New Delhi

Pakistani cricket champion turned politician Imran Khan called yesterday for a "neutral umpire" like Nelson Mandela to resolve disputes between India and Pakistan.

Speaking to a conference in the Indian capital, the Pakistani MP said it was "important for the leaders to begin talks" between the South Asian rivals.

"If the mistrust between the two is too much, then let us agree on bringing in neutral umpires like Nelson Mandela to mediate," said Khan, quoted by the Press Trust of India news agency.

"I wish the UN could have come to the rescue of the people of the two countries and successfully waded them away from the air of mistrust prevailing for quite some time," Khan said.

India and Pakistan have been at loggerheads, often violently so, over the Himalayan territory of Kashmir for a half century.

India rejects any third-party mediation in the dispute, as it considers Kashmir part of the Indian union.

Khan, a former all-rounder, said earlier on his visit here that South Asia's most popular pastime could help ease tensions between India and Pakistan.