

## Bush to push Vajpayee for troops during talks in US

IANIS, New York

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee arrived here late on Friday on an eight-day visit during which he will meet US President George W. Bush, who is expected to again urge India to send troops to police post-war Iraq.

The meeting, to take place on Tuesday on the sidelines of the 58th session of the UN General Assembly, is the highlight of the trip, which will also see Vajpayee address the UN and hold bilateral talks with several world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Although the Indian stand that troops would be sent to Iraq only after the UN had a "key role" to play in the country had been reiterated often enough by Vajpayee, officials said Bush was expected to bring the matter up yet again.

But, the officials said, New Delhi would stick to its stand, which was again voiced by Vajpayee in Ankara on September 17.

# European trio for rapid power transfer in Iraq

AFP, Berlin

Britain, France and Germany joined forces yesterday to call for a transfer of power in Iraq "as quickly as possible" and a central role for the United Nations, while failing to hide their differences.

At summit talks in Berlin, leaders of the three major European powers said they broadly agreed on the need for a rapid transition.

"We all want to see a stable and democratic Iraq and that the transition to democracy occurs as quickly as possible," Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair said.

"Whatever the positions in the conflict, the entire world has an interest in seeing these things happen. Whatever the differences there are, they can be resolved and I am sure they will be."

He said the fact that discussions were taking place at the United

Nations on a possible resolution for post-war Iraq "indicates the agreement on the key role that the UN should have."

"It is in everyone's interest that we reach agreement and I believe that we will."

But German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and French President Jacques Chirac acknowledged that while they agreed on the broad outlines, there were still differences.

Schroeder said there was a "need for discussions," and Chirac said the concerns of London, Paris and Berlin "were not yet completely convergent."

Pressed on that question, the French president said they did not agree "on the modalities (of a transition) and the calendar."

Saturday's two-hour trilateral talks were designed to heal Europe's bitter diplomatic wounds over the US-led Iraq war, which was supported by Britain but fiercely

opposed by France and Germany.

Washington is currently trying to draft a resolution that would share the financial and military burden of Iraq's reconstruction.

All three posed for photographs before heading inside for a scheduled two-hour working lunch.

Later they were to hold a joint news conference where they were expected to underline a minimum consensus on the need to stabilise post-war Iraq.

The talks were also due to focus on EU reforms, notably a new constitution to underpin the bloc after it expands to 25 members next year and Franco-German aspirations of developing an independent EU military capability.

But Iraq was at the heart of the summit, which comes as Washington prepares to draw up a UN resolution aimed at sharing the financial and military burden of Iraq's reconstruction.

France and Germany, which fiercely opposed the war, want a greater UN role and a faster transfer of power to Iraqi civilian authorities than Washington appears ready to concede so far.

Nevertheless, Berlin and Paris have shown recent signs of compromise, with the former offering to help train Iraqi police and military and the latter now talking of a "symbolic" transfer of power.

The United Nations must play "a central role" in Iraq, Schroeder emphasised in an article Friday in the New York Times.

But in an interview Saturday in a German daily, he reiterated that Germany was ready to help "so that there is a prospect for stability and democracy in Iraq."

Britain, the United States' staunchest ally in prosecuting the war, shares the US view that a transfer should not be rushed.



German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder (L) greets French President Jacques Chirac (C) and British Prime Minister Tony Blair upon their arrival yesterday in the courtyard of the chancellery in Berlin, before a working lunch. The three leaders held talks aimed at finding common ground on stabilising troubled Iraq and healing Europe's diplomatic wounds over the US-led war.



Accompanied by fellow parliament members, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi (C) raises his fist as he yells out after winning re-election as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) at the LDP's headquarters in Tokyo yesterday. Koizumi easily reelected as president of the ruling LDP, virtually ensuring the nation's premiership.

## Ex-president of Bosnia dies

XINHUA, Belgrade

Former President of the Bosnia-Herzegovina collective presidency, Alija Izetbegovic, 78, died of illness on Friday in a Sarajevo hospital, the Tanjug news agency reported.

The Tanjug news agency quoted local "BN" TV as reporting on Friday night that Izetbegovic died of "long and serious" illness on Friday, but Tanjug emphasised that the news had not been officially confirmed.

"The authority in Sarajevo won't announce the death now" because a memorial ceremony is scheduled for Saturday and former US President Bill Clinton is to attend the ceremony, Tanjug reported by quoting "BN" TV.

The Beta news agency said in a report Friday night that "trusty sources" from the hospital denied the news of Izetbegovic's death, saying that "health condition of Izetbegovic is serious, but it hasn't changed, comparing with recent three days."

## Confused BJP waits for PM to decide on Joshi

THE STATESMAN/ANN, New Delhi

The confusion within the BJP, sparked off by Murlidhar Joshi's sticking to his stand and resigning from the government after being charged with the Special Court in Rae Bareilly, could continue until Atal Behari Vajpayee returned from an extended foreign tour.

Closely linked to the manner in which the party will deal with the situation arising from the orders of the Special Court will be its election campaign in Madhya Pradesh. Would Miss Uma Bharati continue to be projected as the chief ministerial candidate?

There is also an element of doubt over the implications for LK Advani against whom the Special Court did not file charges. Would he have emerged politically stronger if he too had been charged? There were rumblings this evening that he had got only himself out of a corner.

## 11 killed in Kashmir gunfights

AFP, Srinagar

Nine suspected Islamic rebels and two Indian soldiers were killed yesterday in gun battles in Kashmir, including an army raid on a meeting of top militants, defence sources said.

The Indian army acting on a tip-off surrounded a suspected rebel hideout in Wabugh village of Pulwama district, 45 km south of Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar, defence sources said.

The militants, who were in a residential area, opened fire on the soldiers as the army closed in. Six rebels were killed and three soldiers sustained injuries, a defence source said.

"The fighting lasted for several hours and a few militants are believed to have escaped," an army officer told AFP.

A spokesman for the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen rebel group said its district commander and another district commander of the hardline Jaish-e-Mohammad were among the militants killed.

"The army raided the hideout when an important meeting was taking place," the spokesman told a

local news agency.

In an encounter in southern Kashmir, three Islamic rebels and two Indian soldiers were killed in the Bimber Gali area of Rajouri, 190 km west of Kashmir's winter capital Jammu, army spokesman Colonel Bhanwar Rathore said.

He said the fighting erupted during a search operation by the Indian army in the area, which lies close to Pakistan-administered Kashmir.

A 14-year Islamic insurgency against Indian rule in Kashmir has left more than 38,000 people dead by official count. Separatists put the toll at between 80,000 and 100,000.

The scenic region has seen a surge in violence since troops gunned down top Jaish-e-Mohammad commander Gazi Baba in Srinagar on August 30. Since then at least 244 people have died in Kashmir, most of them rebels and civilians.

Troops from India's Border Security Force (BSF) backed by police Saturday unearthed a Jaish-e-Mohammad hideout hidden under a kitchen in Srinagar's Qamarwari area, BSF spokesman Tirtha Acharya told AFP.

## Train-bus collision kills 40 in Pakistan

AFP, REUTERS, BBC ONLINE, Lahore

At least 40 people were killed in a powerful collision early yesterday when a train ploughed into a packed bus on a railway crossing in central Pakistan, police said.

"At least 40 people have died. Their body parts are scattered on both sides of the train track," said Khalid Ahmed, a police officer based in the central Punjab town of Malikwal near the accident site.

According to one police official quoted by Reuters, the death toll was at least 40.

The east-bound train rammed into the 44-seater bus as it drove across the railway tracks at around 8:25 am (0325 GMT), Ahmed said, killing most of the bus passengers. Eight others were critically wounded.

"The bus was on the railway line at the crossing," police

officer Mohammad Naem told AFP by telephone from the twin town of Mandi Bahaudin.

"No one was hurt on the train and the train did not derail. There is nothing left of the bus," Ahmed said.

The crash happened near Malikwal, a town about 150 km south of the capital Islamabad, as the bus was attempting to cross the railway track, local police chief Waqar Haider said.

He said all those killed had been on board the bus.

The BBC's Zaffar Abbas in Islamabad reports that nearly all the train passengers escaped unhurt in the crash, which happened early on Saturday between the towns of Lalamsa and Surghuda in Punjab province.

But nearly all the bus passengers were killed - at least 20 of them on the spot - and the impact reduced parts of the

vehicle to twisted metal. A number of people were injured, six critically.

The police chief said the railway crossing did not have a gate, nor any warning lights to alert vehicles to oncoming trains.

All train services have now been suspended on the line and a full investigation is under way.

A spokesman for the Pakistan Railways said the crash appeared to have been caused by the bus driver's negligence.

Local villagers say it is the third collision at the unmanned level crossing in less than two years, but despite repeated demands, the railway authorities had failed to install a gate.

Many railway crossings in the Punjab, Pakistan's most populous province, are without gates and warning signals.

## UN observers call for truce along LoC

AFP, Islamabad

UN military observers monitoring skirmishes between Indian and Pakistani troops in disputed Kashmir urged the nuclear neighbours to lay down arms for good.

The ceasefire call by the United Nations Military Observers Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) came ahead of this Sunday's International Day of Peace.

The day "should be regarded as a chance to cease all hostilities for as long a time as possible," it said in a rare public statement on Friday.

"The conflict over Jammu and

Kashmir has cost many lives, caused much tragedy and could, sadly, continue to affect the stability of the region for years to come."

"It is UNMOGIP's hope that the parties to the conflict will embrace this opportunity to lay down their arms and observe the International Day of Peace on 21 September, and preferably not only that day."

Pakistani and Indian troops trade fire almost daily across the 767 kilometre (475 mile) Line of Control (LoC), a de-facto border drawn up in 1971 along ceasefire lines dating back to the neighbours' first war over Kashmir in 1948.

## Arafat praises UN vote urging Israel to drop threat

AFP, Ramallah

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat yesterday thanked all the United Nations member states which voted in favour of a resolution urging Israel to drop its threat to "remove" him.

"This resolution was very important and I thank all the states who voted for it," the veteran leader told reporters outside his battered compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

"It shows that the position of the international community is to

support Palestinian rights and stress that the Palestinians are under occupation, an occupation which does not respect any resolution, any law or humanity."

The UN General Assembly on Friday overwhelmingly passed a resolution by 133-4 votes calling on Israel not to go ahead with its threat to "remove" Arafat from the West Bank.

AP adds: The incoming Palestinian prime minister condemned President Bush's refusal to deal with Yasser Arafat, saying fail-

ure to treat the Palestinian leader as a partner only hurts peace efforts.

Prime Minister-designate Ahmed Qureia's criticism of US policy on Friday signalled that he will not challenge Arafat as did his predecessor, Mahmoud Abbas.

Abbas resigned Sept. 6, after months of wrangling with Arafat. Israel and the United States had pressed for the creation of the post of prime minister in hopes of sidelining Arafat, who they say is tainted by terror.

## Millions still in dark as Isabel fades away

AP, Baltimore

The floodwaters of Isabel ebbed away from city streets and suburban docks across the Mid-Atlantic, but millions of people remained without power and faced the drudgery of cleaning out basements and yards over the weekend.

Isabel raced into Canada on Friday, dumping less rain and packing less of a punch than expected. By the time it reached the frontier, it had shriveled from a 100 mph hurricane into a 30 mph tropical depression.

Despite its rapid weakening, the storm caused at least 23 deaths and potentially billions of dollars in damage. Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown warned that Isabel's flooding threat may be a delayed reaction.

"Because Isabel moved through so quickly, we're going to see some blue skies and people will think it's all over with. But indeed we still have a very good chance of some flash flooding. We will still have some rivers that continue to creep up on their banks and overspill," Brown said.

Gary and Kate Hathaway, who live off a cove on Middle River in Baltimore County, said they would

probably need to re-landscape their backyard - ruined by flooding that covered their back porch - and possibly make foundation repairs to their home.

"When it blew in, it landed in our backyard," Kate Hathaway said. "Our house was like a moat."

She said she could hear their pier, as well as pieces from other piers, hitting their home during Thursday's storm.

President Bush has declared federal disasters in Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina. Delaware officials say they probably would make a disaster request next week.

In all, about 6 million people from North Carolina to New York lost power from Isabel - 1.6 million of them in southeastern and central Virginia, where uprooted trees and downed power lines closed hundreds of highways and secondary roads. Debris was scattered everywhere. Long lines spilled around gasoline stations that managed to stay open.

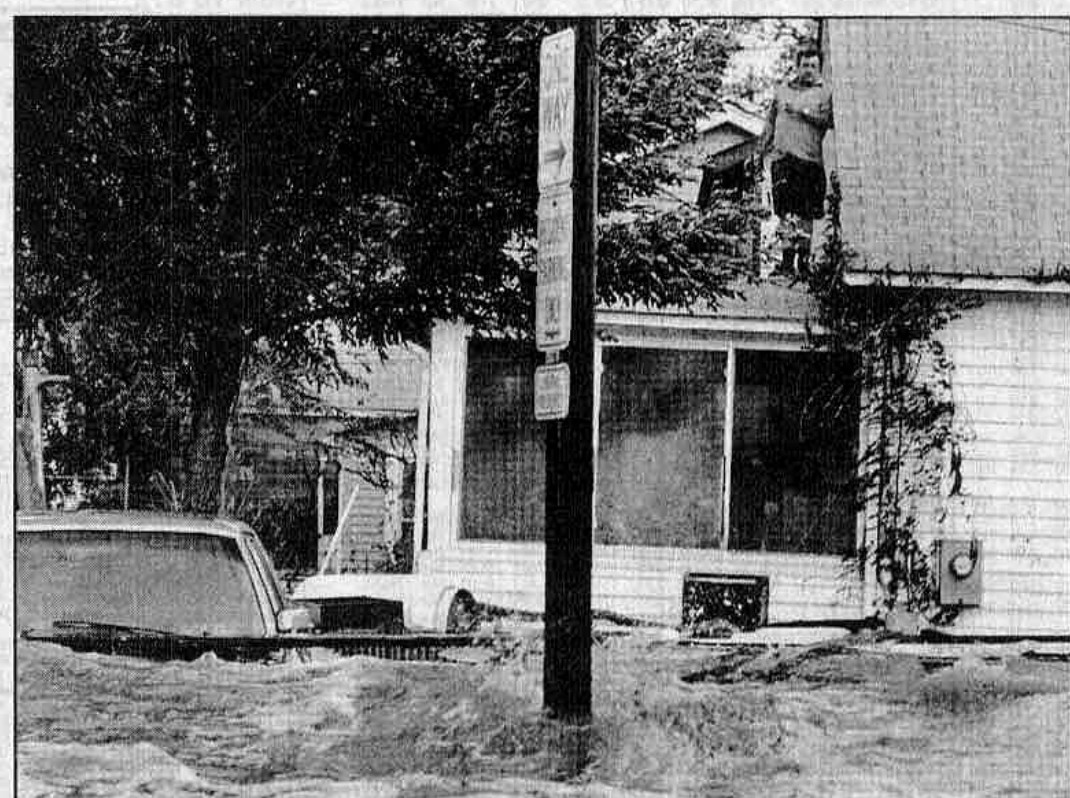
By late Friday, nearly 1.3 million Virginians were still without electricity. A quarter-million people remained without power in North Carolina, and outages were widespread in other Mid-Atlantic states.

Along North Carolina's Outer Banks, where Isabel first made land Thursday, Friday's brilliant sunshine brought the first real glimpse of the destruction. In the town of Kitty Hawk alone, at least three fishing piers crumbled into the surf and about 25 oceanfront homes were destroyed or ripped from their foundations.

On the only highway through the 120-mile barrier islands, long stretches were simply erased, or left pocked with asphalt craters. Near the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse, Isabel's storm surge tore a new inlet that stranded 300 residents and floated at least one house into the Pamlico Sound. Authorities were still working to account for all of the 4,000 coastal residents who refused to evacuate.

Brooks Stalnaker of Harlowe along the Neuse River in Craven County described riding out the storm in a neighbor's house while watching the river destroy his own home.

"The water was banging against the center (window) pane, and I told my wife, 'It can't take much more of this.' About 10 minutes later, she started crying and said, 'Oh my God, there it goes.' We saw it go. It looked like it just collapsed within."



A man stands on a roof as water from the Chesapeake Bay crashes down Friday in North Beach, Maryland. Hurricane Isabel gave the Maryland Bay area the highest flooding in recent memory.

রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রণ দপ্তর

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের অধীনে ১৯৯৬ সালের এলএলবি শেষ ভাগ পরীক্ষা আগামী ১৫/১০/২০০৩ তারিখ থেকে শুরু হবে। ১৯৯০-৯১ শিক্ষা বর্ষে ভর্তিকৃত ছাত্র-ছাত্রীরাই কেবলমাত্র শেষবারের মত ১৯৯৬ সালের এলএলবি শেষ ভাগ পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে।

পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ করার জন্য নিম্নলিখিত তারিখ এর মধ্যে ফি ও ফরম সংশ্লিষ্ট কলেজ অধ্যক্ষের মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের দপ্তরে জমা দিতে হবে। পরীক্ষার ফি ও ফরম অবশ্যই দায়িত্বপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তির দ্বারা আগামী ৩০/৯/২০০৩ তারিখের মধ্যে পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রকের দপ্তরে জমা দানের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের জন্য কলেজ কর্তৃপক্ষকে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

| পরীক্ষার ফরম প্রদানের তারিখ |                      |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| জরিমানা ছাড়া               | কুড়ি টাকা জরিমানাসহ |
| ২০/৯/২০০৩                   | ২৩/৯/২০০৩            |
| পরীক্ষার ফিসের হার          |                      |
| ১। পরীক্ষা ফি-              | ২৫০/-                |
| ২। টাউলেশন ফি-              | ৫/-                  |
| ৩। নন কলেজিয়েট ফি-         | ৬০/-                 |
| ৪। রিটেনশন ফি-              | ৬০/-                 |

বিঃ দ্রঃ-১৯৯৬ সালের এলএলবি শেষ ভাগ পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণের সুযোগ আছে কিনা এবং ফরম ঠিকভাবে পূরণ করা হয়েছে কিনা তা সংশ্লিষ্ট দলিলাদির সঙ্গে পরীক্ষা ও যাচাই করে দেখার দায়িত্ব কলেজ অধ্যক্ষের। অধ্যক্ষ কর্তৃক যাচাইকৃত ফরম চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে। বাংলায় টাইপ করে ৬ কপি রোলশীট পরীক্ষা ফরমের সঙ্গে এবং সমুদয় পরীক্ষা ফি রেজিস্ট্রার রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর নামে অত্রী ব্যাংক রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এর অনুকূলে ব্যাংক ড্রফট-এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক দপ্তরে জমাদানের জন্য কলেজ কর্তৃপক্ষকে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে। ফরমের সংশ্লিষ্ট দলিলাদি অবশ্যই সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।

- ১। ১৯৯৫ সালের এলএলবি শেষ ভাগ পরীক্ষার মূল প্রবেশ পত্র।
- ২। রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের রেজিস্ট্রেশন কার্ড এর সত্যায়িত কপি।
- ৩। সংশ্লিষ্ট কলেজ অধ্যক্ষের দ্বারা সত্যায়িত দুই কপি ফটো।

উল্লেখ্য, ক্রটিপূর্ণ ফরম বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে। ইতিপূর্বে যারা এ পরীক্ষার ফরম পূরণ করেছে তাদের নতুন করে ফরম প্রদানের প্রয়োজন নেই।

পরীক্ষা নিয়ন্ত্রক

রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

জিডি-৮৪২