Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee (L) greets former President of Germany Richard Weizsaecker (R) during the inaugural session of the Global Convention on Peace and Non-Violence in New Delhi yesterday. Large number of delegates from India and abroad participated in the convention which ends today.

## India for peaceful, friendly relations with neighbours: Vajpayee

Asserting that India always believed in having peaceful, friendly and cooperative relations with all its neighbours, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee yesterday said that in the same spirit, government is trying to resolve all the outstanding ssues with Pakistan through dia-

"India has never been an aggres-

summit was a major step forward in regional cooperation.

Strongly advocating that the countries in the region have to work to change South Asia's image and standing in the world, he said "India always believed in having peaceful, friendly and cooperative relations with all her neighbours".

Recalling his speech at the summit that the countries must make the bold transition from mistrust to trust, from discord to concord and from tension to peace, he said "it is in the sanfe spirit that my government has been trying to resolve all the outstanding issues with Pakistan

### US congress mission to make historic Iran visit

announced Friday.

mission by US lawmakers.

The senator, who met the Iranian ambassador to the United Nations, Mohammad Javad Zarif, on Wednesday said: "The delegation is confirmed, they are going next month." Hegave no exact date. The Iranian government is not

willing to have government to government talks but they feel comfortable with a step at a time," he added.

too far and we have gotten to the point where they will accept a small delegation of staffers."

### '10 civilians killed in US bombing 2 weeks ago'

AFP, Kabul

Ten civilians were killed in a US bombing two weeks ago, President Hamid Karzai said yesterday, contradicting the US military, which said only five armed militants died in the incident.

The investigation is completed and the report has reached me, there are casualties unfortunately men and women," Karzai told reporters at the presidential palace in Kabul.

'According to the report that I have received about 10 people have died." Karzai said he had asked the gover-

nor of southcentral Uruzgan province, where the incident occurred, to send the families of those killed to visit him in Kabul "so that I can talk to them and see if I can help them".

# UN gives nations deadline on al-Qaeda sanctions

The UN Security Council turned up the pressure Friday on nations to clamp down on al-Qaeda and the Taliban, saving they must report on the steps taken by April or risk being named in public.

The 15-member council unanimously approved a new resolution that gives countries until March 31 to submit their UN reports on how they are enforcing sanctions on the two groups as well as al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

If they do not file by that deadline, the committee that monitors the sanctions can release their

names to the public. Around 100 nations, more than half the UN's membership, have so far failed to report as required.

"That is a strong signal so that countries do what they have to do," said Ambassador Heraldo Munoz of Chile, the current council president. He called the measure "an expression of unity" in the global fight against terrorism.

One diplomat said it was "unlikely" that nations were enforcing the sanctions and then not filing the

But Munoz, who also heads the sanctions committee, has said in the past that a lack of technical and other resources could be keeping nations from fulfilling the requirement.

Other diplomats said said one main goal of the resolution was to help implement the existing sanctions -- which include an arms embargo, travel ban and assets freeze -- while leaving open the option of toughening them later on.

Munoz noted that the resolution calls on nations to go beyond the simple monitoring of bank accounts, for example, and to examine charities, property and all means

The idea is to renew efforts not only to freeze assets and resources, but very specific reference is made to properties, to concrete resources other than bank accounts," he told reporters.

The resolution also names an experts panel that could help countries decide what to include in their reports, which are intended to track measures against people and groups linked to al-Qaeda and the Taliban. A US-led war toppled the Taliban

from power in Afghanistan months several months after the September 11 attacks on the United States, which were blamed on al-Qaeda.

The Security Council decided to apply the sanctions then in place against Kabul to al-Qaeda and the Taliban, a hardline Islamic militia.

sor nation, a colonizer or a hegemony in her long history. In modern times, we are alive to our responsibility to contribute to peace, friendship and cooperation both in our region and around the world," Vajpayee said inaugurating the Global Convention on Peace and

He said that the Islamabad Saarc

AFP, Washington

A group of US congressional aides is to go to Iran in February on the first official US visit there since the 1979 Islamic revolution, a senator

Senator Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican, said the visit could set the stage for a later

They are skittish about going

## China urged to act on bird flu

### Thais remain defiant

REUTERS, Beijing/Bangkok

China's chances of halting bird flu are dwindling, the United Nations warned yesterday, as the deadly virus extended its reach across Asia and sped toward Thailand's southern tourist hot spots.

"We have repeatedly said there is a brief window of opportunity to act within China," World Health Organization specialist Julie Hall said after Beijing confirmed new outbreaks in the provinces of Hubei and Hunan were the lethal H5N1 strain of avian influenza.

"This latest news strongly suggests that the window is getting smaller with each passing day," she said.

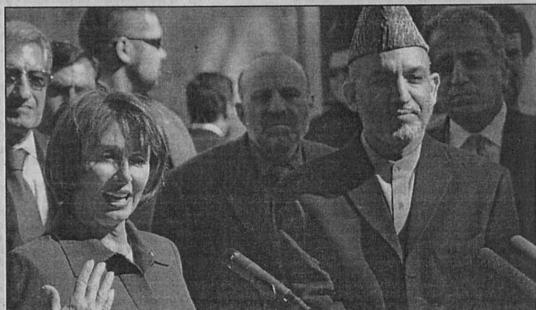
As China announced new suspected infections in two other provinces and the booming city of Shanghai, Thailand -- one of 10 Asian countries hit by the virus -said bird flu had been detected near the tourist resort area of Phuket.

But Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra -- a multi-millionaire who once worked in a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet to pay his way at college in the United States remained defiant and urged the country to eat more poultry.

When it's cooked, it's one million percent safe," Thaksin said in his weekly radio address. "I don't want people to be afraid."

He backed up his words with

deeds, visiting a KFC outlet in Bangkok with aides on Saturday, and tucking into a lunch of chicken



US Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (L) gestures as she speaks alongside Afghan President Hamid Karzai (R) during a press conference at the presidential palace in Kabul yesterday. Pelosi, a Democrat congresswoman is leading a three-member US congress delegation on a one-day trip to the Afghanistan to visit Afghan officials as well as some of the US troops who are operating in the Central Asian country, since the ousting of the Taliban regime in late 2001.

# missteps in attacks

It's long been known that US authorities had opportunities to stop at least some of the Sept. 11 hijackers. Now the extent of the government's failures is coming to

At a two-day hearing this week, the federal commission investigating the attacks revealed US authoristop the hijackers, including many face-to-face encounters.

The missteps included miscommunications about al-Qaeda operatives dating back to the mid-1990s, hijackers who were allowed to repeatedly enter the United States even with false or the wrong visa papers, and missed chances to stop suspects at airport security checkpoints despite warn-

'We were asleep. Opportunities were lost," said former New Jersey Gov. Thomas Kean, a Republican who chairs the bipartisan National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States, "The hijackers analysed our system and developed a plan they felt sure would beat it in every case, and 19 out of 19

Congress established the commission to study the nation's preparedness before Sept. 11, 2001, its response to the attacks, and to recommend ways to prevent such

The errors documented by the commission date back to just after the 1993 World Trade Center bombings and continued until the fateful

## Sept 11 panel details Bush sidesteps call for outside probe on WMD

President Bush Friday sidestepped demands for outside review of prewar intelligence on Iraq, but said it was important to know all the facts surrounding White House assertions that Iraq's illicit weapons justified the US decision to invade.

"I want the American people to facts," Bush told reporters at the White House.

Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain has broken party ranks to join Democratic demands for an independent probe into how US intelligence got it wrong given the failure by searchers to find weapons of mass destruction Bush insisted were in Iraq.

CNN reported that Vice President

leaders about Iraq on Friday and the White House is exploring a range of options on the subject of an investigation related to the weapons.

'McCain is the guiding light on this," said a Republican insider who predicted that the Bush administration may shift its view and accept an CIA probe the pre-war intelligence investigation.

"Clearly, this has been a bad hair week for the administration," the source said, while noting that a probe does carry plenty of risks for the administration in an election

The source noted that it was pressure from McCain that helped to persuade the administration to accept an independent commission to study the events leading up to the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United

Meanwhile, the president gave no public sign yet he planned to

yield to the demands for a probe, though he did not completely shut the door on the idea. Instead, Bush stuck to a position that the US government will compare in an internal with what the weapons hunters have "I want to be able to compare

what the Iraq Survey Group has found with what we thought prior to going into Iraq," Bush said When asked if he would support an independent probe.

Condoleeza Rice, .Bush's national security advisor, on Thursday acknowledged that there may have been some flaws in the

## British press finds Kelly report hard to swallow

A US soldier from the 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment of the 4th Infantry Division, points his weapon during a

raid in Tikrit, some 180 km north of Baghdad early yesterday. Iraq was bracing for more violence on the eve of a major

Muslim holiday after the Dutch embassy in Baghdad was left in flames by a late night grenade attack and three Iraqi

AFP. London

Swallowing hard, the British press struggled yesterday to digest the findings of a judicial inquiry into the death of government weapons scientist David Kelly, which saw the BBC lambasted and Prime Minister Tony Blair vindicated.

soldiers were killed in the north.

At the end of a week of sensational resignations and apologies at the BBC, there was a great deal of spleen vented in the direction of Lord Hutton who had failed, as the press saw it, to hang the noose around the government's neck.

The longer I think about Hutton, the angrier I get," raged Max Hastings in the Guardian.

"It is hard to dissent from his conclusions about the BBC's failures. Yet the damage done by his grotesquely lopsided report vastly outweighs the gravity of the

"I wish Lord Hutton had looked at the relationship through both ends of the telescope. He would then have produced a more balanced and credible report," said The

Independent. Hutton largely exonerated Blair and his government for their actions in the run up to Kelly's suicide in July last year after he was found to be the source of a BBC report that a dossier on Iraqi weaponry had been "sexed up".

BBC director general Greg Dyke and the chairman of its board of governors, Gavyn Davies, stood down after the corporation copped most of the already have reached their judgeflak over the Kelly affair for its "defective" editorial manage-

Andrew Gilligan, the journalist whose report was found to be flawed, became the latest casualty when he resigned Friday, admitting errors but saying the BBC had been the victim of a grave injustice."

week had protested outside the news giant's headquarters in central London, clubbed together to place an advert in The Daily Telegraph expressing their "dismay" at Dyke's departure.

Underneath the headline, "The Independence of the BBC", the

"Greg Dyke stood for brave, independent and rigorous BBC journalism that was fearless in its search for the truth."

"We are dismayed by Greg's departure, but we are determined to maintain his achievements and his vision for an independent organisation that serves the public above all else."

A rash of opinion polls published in the wake of Hutton's report show that the BBC is still more trusted than the govern-

Blair hopes desperately that Lord Hutton's judgement will enable him to win back the public's trust," said The Independent. 'My hunch is that he will be disappointed, and that -- on the

question of trust -- the people

ment on him," the newspaper

Blair's Labour party showed a one percent increase in the polls to 36, still three points behind the opposition Conservatives, after the publication of the report, according to a YouGov poll published Saturday in The Daily Telegraph. BBC staff, who earlier in the

What's the point of Tony Blair?" asked the Financial Times, complaining that mere survival is not enough for a prime minister with ambitions to make a mark on The aftermath of the Hutton

report had been a public relations fiasco for the BBC, the FT said and wondered where the world's bestknown and largest public broadcaster would go from here. "The seismic shock from Lord

at the top could not have come at a worse moment," it said. The corporation is effectively rudderless; morale is shot," said one unnamed senior executive quoted in the newspaper.

But, in an interview with the

newspaper, Culture Secretary

Tessa Jowell moved to reassure

Hutton and the double execution

the BBC about its future funding. Iowell told the FT that it was somewhere between unlikely and improbable" that the licence fee -- obtained from the British public by way of a tax on TV sets -would be replaced by other sources of funding.

## Palestinians urge World Court to rule on barrier

The Palestinian Authority said yesterday it had submitted its formal affidavit to the World Court supporting its right to rule on the legality of a huge barrier Israel is building in the West Bank.

Israel, the United States and Britain submitted their own affidavits by the deadline on Friday, opposing hearings on the issue to be held by the Hague-based International Court of Justice.

Saeb Erekat, a Palestinian cabinet minister, said the court had "full jurisdiction" and that the Palestinian position was submitted on Thursday based on how the barrier, which cuts deep into Palestinian land, affected the Palestinians' daily lives

"The fact that it's being built in Palestinian territory is a flagrant violation of international law," he told Reuters.

Israel says completed sections of razor wire and concrete are already keeping out suicide bombers from reaching its territory, Hundreds of Israelis have died in suicide bombings since a Palestinian uprising erupted three years ago.

Palestinians call the barrier an 'Apartheid Wall" designed to loop around Jewish settlement blocs and seal a permanent hold on land Israel has occupied since the 1967 Middle Erekat said the Palestinian affida-

vit was in line with U.S. and British

calls to Palestinians to pursue diplo-

matic means, not violence, in order to establish an independent state.

Washington filed its argument on Friday saying the World Court is not the proper forum to decide the legality of the barrier. London handed the World Court a statement protesting a hearing on the barrier held without Israel's agreement.

Both countries have previously protested against the route of the internationally criticized barrier in the West Bank.

The tribunal begins deliberations on February 23 in response to a UN General Assembly request to rule whether Israel is legally obliged to tear down the barrier. The court has authorized the Arab League to take part in the proceedings in support of the Palestinians.

AFP adds: The United States said Friday the International Court of Justice (ICJ) should refuse to hear a UN General Assembly request for a ruling on Israel's controversial West Bank separation barrier. The State Department said

Washington, which has raised concerns about the route of the barrier, had filed a brief with the ICI in The Hague saying the UN referral could damage Middle East peace efforts and set a dangerous precedent. "The US statement expresses the continuing US view that the referral

is inappropriate and may impede

efforts to achieve progress towards a

negotiated settlement between

man Richard Boucher said.

SDR will be accepted.

## Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishtan

Jirani, Savar, Dhaka **Re-Tender Notice** 

Memo No: BKSP/Admin-2/473/4057 Dated: 31 January, 2004 01. Sealed offer are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No. 2908 from 1st class enlisted contractor/supplier of govt/semi-govt/autonomous bodies having up-to-date renewal of the firm for the following works under "Establishment of Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishtan (BKSP) 4th phase (revised)".

up to 1:00 PM on 28-02-2004 and will be opened at 1:15 PM on the same date in presence of the contractors who may like to remain present. The tender form will be sold from 07.02.2004 to 26.02.2004.

SI No	Name of the work	Earnest money	Cost of tender document	Time allowed	Place of selling & dropping of tender document
1)	Supplying & Installation of Machineries & Equipments (Remaining part) for Sports Science	2% of the quoted value	1000/- (one thousand)	2 (two) months	BKSP & Divisional Commissioner office, Dhaka

The tender form will be received by the undersigned at his office & Divisional Commissioner office, Dhaka

Department. 03. Place of work: Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protishtan, Jirani, Savar, Dhaka.

04. Tender documents may be purchased by the contractor himself or his authorised representative after prior permission from Executive Engineer (BKSP)/concern officer of Divisional Commissioner office of Raishahi on production of original Enlistment Book, up-to-date income tax certificate, bank statement with solvency certificate, TIN & VAT registration certificate, certificate for successfully completion of the similar

works during the last 5 (five) years and a prayer in his/their own letter head pad. 05. All the relevant attested documents mentioned in SI-4 must be submitted with the tender, otherwise tender will be considered informal.

06. Earnest money as Pay-Order or Bank Draft from any schedule bank of Bangladesh duly placed in favour of Director (Admn & Finance), BKSP, Jirani, Savar, Dhaka must accompany with the tender. No

07. Incomplete tender will not be accepted.

08. All Taxes will be deducted from the bills as per govt rule.

09. Bill will be paid with the availability of fund.

10. The acceptance of tender will rest with the competent authority of BKSP and authority reserves the right to reject or accept any or all the tenders received without showing any reason.

Mohammad Kabirul Hasan **Executive Engineer** BKSP

Israelis and Palestinians," spokes-