

'al-Qaeda threatens bloodbath if Italy keeps Berlusconi as PM'

AFP, Dubai
A statement posted yesterday on an Islamist website purported to be from the al-Qaeda terror network demanded that Italy withdraw its troops from Iraq...

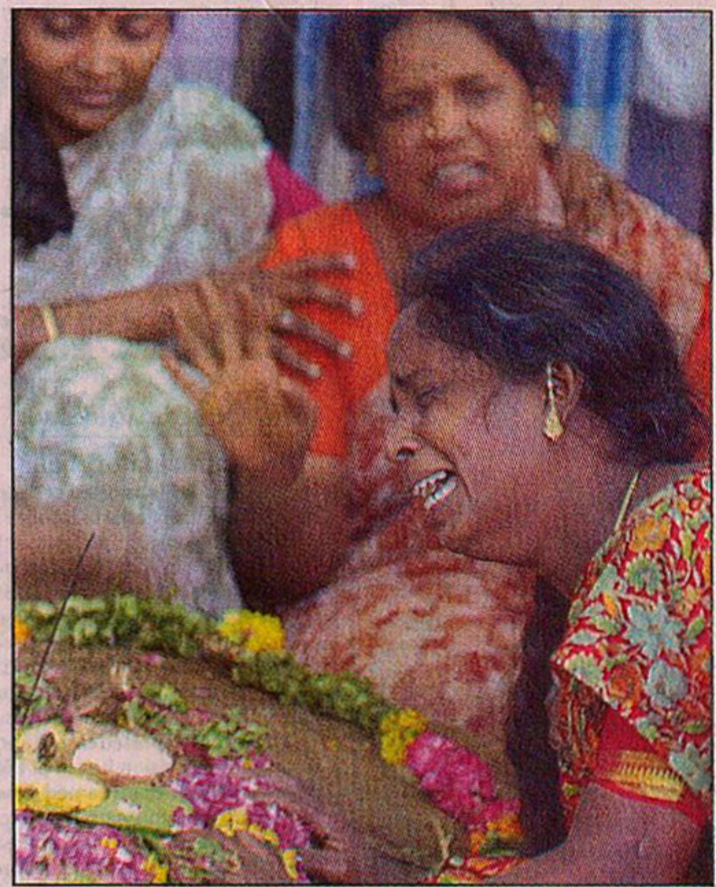
Grief, anger grip Kumbakonam

5 charged over Indian school inferno

AFP, Kumbakonam
Indian police said yesterday they had charged five people with negligence over the deaths of 88 children in a fire that engulfed a primary school in southern Tamil Nadu state.

were expected to be held yesterday but some were performed late Friday in Kumbakonam, 350 km from Chennai, capital of Tamil Nadu.

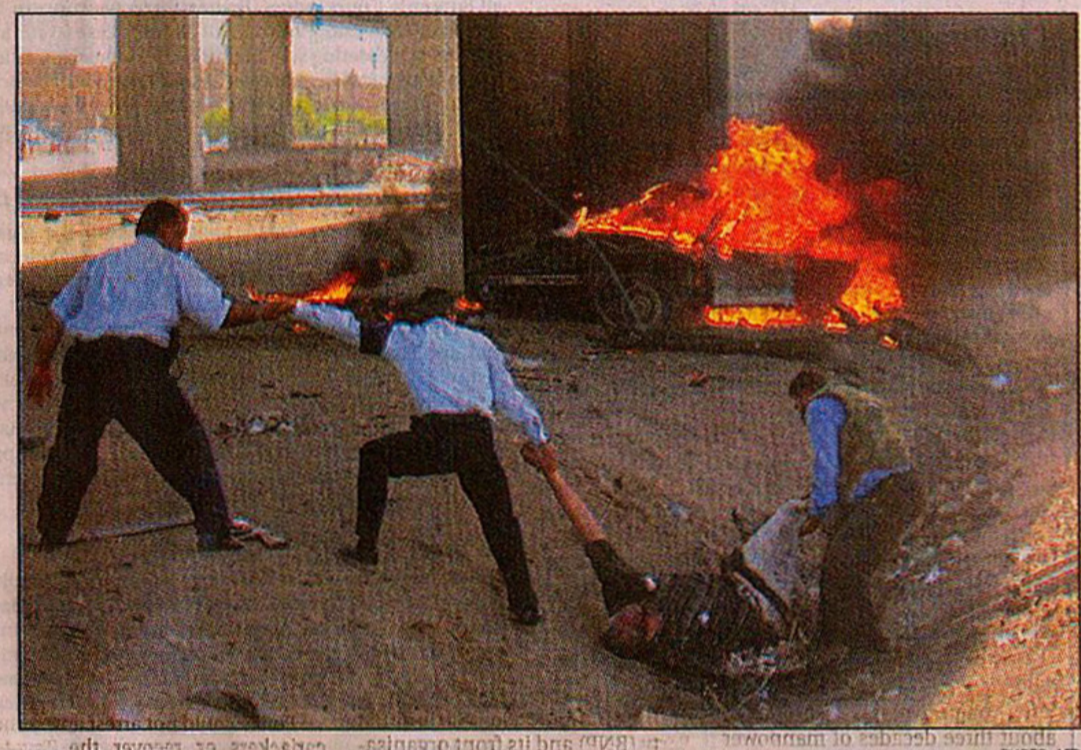
One injured boy, Ramesh, said from hospital that the fire started in the school kitchen which was preparing the noon meals and soon spread.



A relative of a victim of a fire that engulfed a primary school in the southern Indian Tamil Nadu state cries over a grave in a burial ground yesterday in Kumbakonam.

al-Qaeda recruiting non-Arabs, says FBI

AP, Washington
The FBI is cautioning local authorities the al-Qaeda terror network may be recruiting non-Arabs less likely to attract notice as they carry out attacks in the United States.



Iraqi policemen rescue one of the victims of an explosion at the site of an attack targeting a convoy for the Iraqi Minister of Justice, Malek Dohan al-Hassan yesterday in Baghdad.

8 states to get \$50m to fight trafficking: Bush

AFP, Washington
US President George W. Bush announced Friday that 50 million dollars would be given to eight countries to help them fight human trafficking.

Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. Bush had pledged the money at the United Nations General Assembly last year as additional funding to support organisations that rescue women and children from bondage and give them shelter and medical treatment in 2004.

Disease fear looms in S Asian flood zones

AFP, Guwahati
Authorities warned yesterday of an outbreak of diseases as surging floodwaters continued to ravage vast swathes of South Asia, killing hundreds and leaving millions stranded and hungry.

ern Assam states, meanwhile, are trapped on rooftops or high ground awaiting rescue, as the army and airforce mount massive operations to reach remote areas and airdrop food packets and water purifying tablets.

Palestinians ask UNGA to press Israel on barrier

UN debate on Israeli wall diverting ME peace effort: US

AFP, United Nations
The Palestinians Friday asked the United Nations to press Israel to accept a world court ruling and tear down part of its West Bank security barrier, vowing to seek sanctions if it does not comply.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has already said he would ignore the non-binding ruling of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, the UN's highest tribunal.

uphold international law," Kidwa said. He again denied that the Palestinians would wait to make a move to the Security Council until after the US presidential election in November, in hopes that a more Palestinian-friendly administration would be elected.

'Filipino hostage's safety more important than foreign policy'

AFP, Manila
The Filipino hostage in Iraq has come to represent all Filipinos working overseas, and his safety justifies Manila's decision to pull its troops from Iraq despite commitments to foreign allies, the presidential spokesman said yesterday.

Gloria (Arroyo). De la Cruz's kidnappers have threatened to behead him if Manila doesn't pull its contingent from Iraq by the end of July.



Indian army personnel rescue residents of Tetariya village in the Muzaffarpur district of the Indian state of Bihar, some 105km north of the state capital, Patna yesterday.

IRAQ INTELLIGENCE FAILURES Bush, Blair face different political fallout

AFP, Washington
US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair both came under fire this week over pre-war intelligence on Iraq's unfound weapons of mass destruction, but they face different political fallout, US analysts said.

the hook. Bush and Blair responded nearly in unison that despite the failures of the spymasters, the war was justified.

(CSIS) a Washington think-tank. "The public in each case reacts quite differently. In the United States, opinion is less excited than in Europe, even in Great Britain, over the fact that the mountains of weapons of mass destruction have not been found," he said.



Palestinian security officers escort a French humanitarian worker (R) after she and another female were released by Palestinian gunmen at the Red Crescent Society headquarters in Khan Yunes refugee camp in the southern Gaza Strip late Friday.

Advertisement for Bangladesh University of Applied Sciences (BUAS) featuring a logo and text in Bengali.