INTERNATIONAL

Democrats vow to bag Asian votes

AFP, Washington

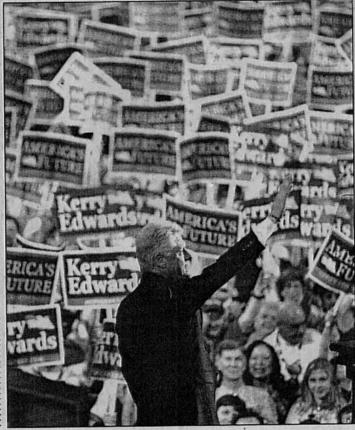
As the race to the White House heats up, Democratic presidential candidate Senator John Kerry is moving aggressively to win the hearts of minority Asian Americans while keeping his foreign policy on Asia

The Asian vote may turn crucial for both Kerry and incumbent George W. Bush in what is likely to be a tight race although foreign policy on the region has not been a central feature of the presidential cam-

The Democrats are sending the biggest Asian American delegation to their national convention in Boston, which kicked off Monday that would officially nominate Kerry as the party's candidate in the November polls.

This year's 211 participants from the Asia-Pacific American community represents nearly four percent of total delegates, up from three percent at the 2000 convention, party officials said.

The Asia-Pacific Americans make up 40 percent of minority



Former US president Bill Clinton waves after speaking to the Democratic National Convention on Monday at the Fleet Center in Boston, Massachusetts.

Clinton invigorates Kerry campaign

Energized by Bill and Hillary Clinton, Democrats castigated George W. Bush as a president who mishandled the economy and bungled the war on terror.

John Kerry will "rally the world to our side," the former president said as the party turned to an aging liberal warrior and Kerry's outspoken wife to define the Massachusetts senator.

Day Two of the Democratic National Convention focuses on what Kerry's campaign describes as his lifetime of service, from a volunteer combat tour in Vietnam to more than two decades in political office.

The Navy veteran campaigned in Florida on Monday and was appearing in the Navy town of Norfolk, Va., on Tuesday, where he was calling for the Sept. 11 commission to continue working past its scheduled end date of Aug. 26 to ensure recommended reforms are put in place.

days on some of the commission's recommendations, a spokeswoman said, as the question of which candidate can best protect America continued to dominate the fight for the

In the absence of Kerry, who was to arrive Wednesday, Democrats were hearing from Massachusetts Sen. Edward Kennedy, the liberal icon whom Republicans love to link with Kerry; and the candidate's wife, Teresa Heinz Kerry, who drew attention this week by telling a reporter to shove it.

Neither seemed likely to match the Clintons' overwhelming crowd

Introducing her husband Monday night as "the last great Democratic president," Mrs. Clinton revved up the packed convention hall by saying Kerry "will lead the world, not alienate it.

When the former president took the stage, delegates jumped up,

screamed, applauded and waved placards. Even as he clearly enjoyed it, Clinton quickly turned the focus to insisting that Kerry would be a good commander in chief.

During the Vietnam War, many young men, including the current president, the vice president and me, could have gone to Vietnam and didn't. John Kerry came from a privileged background. He could have avoided going too, but instead, he said: Send me," Clinton said.

In keeping with the Democratic convention strategy of avoiding strong Bush-bashing, Clinton jabbed the Republicans sharply on the economy, tax cuts and corporate windfalls, while taking more subtle digs at the president himself.

Kerry has "a willingness to hear other views, even those who disagree with him," Clinton said. "John Kerry will make choices that reflect both conviction and common

Turkey warned of 9/11 styled plane attacks

Turkey has received intelligence the al-Qaeda network may try to carry out attacks in the country similar to the plane hijackings in September 11, 2001 in the United States, the Milliyet daily said yesterday.

Officials confirmed that a meeting to review security measures at airports had recently been held, but denied it was linked to a specific warning of an al-Qaeda threat.

Milliyet said Turkey received information from an "important source" on July 16 that al-Qaeda may be planning to either hijack a plane and crash it into a target on the ground or blow up a plane in the air using homemade explosives.

The newspaper said the interior ministry convened an urgent meeting of security and air authorities last week and ordered security measures at airports be raised to 'level yellow", the highest state of alarm after the top "level red".

"Security and air authorities meet every month to review security mea-

A police spokesman said the meeting was a routine one.

special about al-Qaeda," he told AFP.

Police at Turkey's biggest air hub, the Ataturk airport in Istanbul, denied there was any special situa-

tion in place. "Security measures at airports have already been kept at a maximum

level since September 11," he said. Another airport official said: "I am not aware of such an intelligence but security is always tight at air-

Security fears have haunted Turkey since November last year when suicide bombers detonated explosives-laden trucks at two synagogues, the British consulate and the British-based HSBC bank in Istanbul, killing 63 people and causing massive destruction.

Officials have blamed the bombings on a local extremist cell linked to al-Qaeda, which they said security forces have now dismantled.

In March, two suicide bombers, also accused of being linked to Al-Qaeda, attacked a masonic lodge in Istanbul. One of the assailants and a second person were killed in

US war on terror is 'void' after decision to protect Mujahedeen: Iran

Iran hit out at the US decision to grant protected status to the Iraqbased People's Mujahedeen yesterday, the main Iranian armed opposition group, saying it proved Washington's war on terrorism was a sham.

"The United States is using its fight against terrorism as a tool, and we knew from the beginning that this fight is void and they are not serious," foreign ministry spokes-man Hamid Reza Asefi said, quoted by the official news agency IRNA.

Using the Geneva Convention to protect this terrorist group is naive and unacceptable," he added.

The United States confirmed Monday it had granted protected

the People's Mujahedeen, now confined to a military-run camp in western Iraq.

This contrasts with the US designation of al-Qaeda detainees.

The US State Department stressed, however, that the move had no effect on the US "foreign terrorist organisation" designation for the group, also known as the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq (MEK) or National Council of Resistance of

that are in (Camp) Ashraf have been granted protected persons status,' deputy spokesman Adam Ereli said.

He explained that the move gave the militants rights under the Geneva Conventions but would not shield them from eventual prosecution on possible terrorism charges. status to nearly 4,000 members of

Egyptian diplomat freed

Kidnappers urged to release Pakistanis

AFP, Baghdad

Two Iraqis were killed and more than a dozen US soldiers wounded, as Islamabad made a fresh appeal Tuesday for two Pakistanis threatened with death after an Egyptian diplomat was released by his abductors.

Fears also ran high for two Jordanian hostages, who worked as drivers for a company supplying US forces in Iraq, and an Iraqi being held by Islamic militants along with the two Pakistanis.

The 3,800 members of the MEK Meanwhile, Pakistan issued a fresh appeal for the release of two nationals threatened with death by their Islamic militant abductors.

Islamabad said the two had no connection with international politics and their kidnapping had put the Pakistani people in deep agony. Azad Hussein Khan, a mainte-

nance engineer and Sajjad Naeem, 29, a driver, were kidnapped on Friday by a group calling itself the Islamic Army in Iraq.
The Arab satellite news channel

Al-Jazeera has broadcast a video from the group, showing the hostages identity cards and photographs. Islamabad said the two were not

working for US forces and that Pakistan had not made any commitment to station troops in Iraq. "We appeal to the captors to release the two innocent Pakistanis

in the name of humanity" said a foreign ministry spokesman. Late Monday, Egyptian diplomat Mohamed Mamdouh Koth was released after 72 hours in captivity. His captors told the father of three

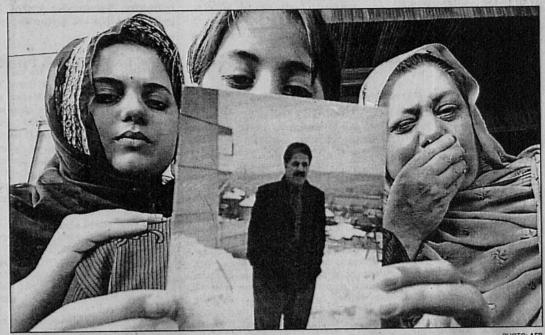
that he was free to go because of his

character and religious faith. "I am free and already at the Egyptian interests section in ghdad," Kotb, Cairo's third ranking diplomat in Baghdad, told AFP by telephone. "I thank God and all those who worked for my release here in Iraq and Egypt.'

Just minutes before, Al-Jazeera broadcast a video apparently showing him being released and even hugging one of his kidnappers.

Yet despite Kotb's release, more than 20 captives are known to be missing or held for ransom, in Iraq's perilous hostage drama buoyed by Monday's snatching of the two

A colleague at Daoud and Partners named the victims as Ahmed Salameh Hassan and Fayez Saad al-Adwan. The firm has been transporting food to US troops in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion and is headed by an American.



Kausar Perveen (R), the wife of Pakistani hostage Azad Hussein who is held by insurgents in Iraq, cries as her children show a picture of her husband in Islamabad yesterday. Perveen along with her five children has appealed for the release of her husbands on the grounds of Islam and humanity.

US using Darfur to topple govt: Sudan

REUTERS, Addis Ababa

Washington is using the Darfur crisis as a pretext to topple the Sudanese government, Khartoum's envoy to the African Union (AU) said yesterday.

Ousman Alsaid also told reporters Western military intervention in its remote western region would risk splitting Africa's largest country and unsettling its neighbors.

"The US government is using the crisis in Darfur to bring down the government of Sudan," he said on the sidelines of a meeting on Darfur of the 53-state AU's peace and security council.

His remarks were the latest attempt by Sudan to compare outside criticism over Darfur with USled pressure on Iraq before the war which ousted Saddam Hussein and was opposed by Arab states.

The policy of the government of Sudan is not liked by the US administration so the Americans are targeting the government of Sudan said, indicating Sudan's anti-American policies on prominent Arab issues such as Iraq and the Israel/Palestinian dispute

Washington is expected to call a UN vote this week on a US-drafted resolution threatening Sudan with sanctions over Darfur, where the UN says one million have been displaced and 30,000 more killed. The European Union on

Monday called on the United Nations to consider imposing sanctions on Arab League member Sudan if it does not neutralize Arab militia which have been attacking African communities. US Congress has called the campaign a genocide.

Attacking what he said was a British contingency plan to send troops to Darfur, Alsaid said Western military intervention could lead to the fragmentation of Sudan. "This in turn could destabilize the nine countries neighboring the Sudan," he said.

4 Guantanamo prisoners handed over to France

AFP, Evreux, France

Four French detainees at the US prison complex at Guantanamo Bay who were handed over to French authorities arrived Tuesday at an airbase west of Paris, officials said. A French airforce plane carrying

the men touched down at the base at Evreux at 12:45 pm (1045 GMT). The four were due to be taken into custody by police working for the domestic intelligence agency, the Directorate for Territorial

Surveillance (DST). Three other French nationals remain at Guantanamo. All seven were seized by US forces in Afghanistan between the end of 2001 and early in 2002, when the United States went after al-Oaeda and their Taliban hosts following the September 11 attacks.

The handover of the detainees had been requested by the French anti-terrorism prosecutor Jean-Louis Bruguiere, who has been investigating the men since November 2002 on possible terrorism charges.

partners to stay in Iraq

US Secretary of State Colin Powell urged Hungary yesterday to remain part of the increasingly shaky coalition of occupation forces in Iraq, saying that was the only hope for the

Iraqi people.
"There is a brighter future ahead for the Iraqi people only if the coali-tion stays together," Powell told the state-run Hungarian television station MTV after he arrived in Budapest at the start of a tour of six European and Middle Eastern

Hungary is one of about 30 countries which contributed troops to the US-led force in Iraq after last year's invasion and has only about 300 soldiers there, out of a total of around 150,000.

But five countries have already oulled out of the coalition, and the United States is worried that continuing armed resistance to its military presence and a recent spate of kidnappings of foreigners, some of whom have been brutally murdered, will encourage others to follow suit.

Powell said that when he meets Hungarian Foreign Minister Laszlo Kovacs here Tuesday that "I will convey our appreciation, our thanks and the thanks of the Iraqi people for Hungarian steadfastness, willingness to stay in the presence of continued danger."

He stressed that "Hungary is a free and democratic country" and said "its parliament will make its own decision" whether to renew the mandate of the Hungarian contingent when it expires at the end of the year. But, he said, "I hope they will at that time take a look at the progress

that is being made and come to an informed judgment". Kovacs said on Thursday that the Hungarian contingent might be withdrawn before the end of the year

if Iraq returns to stability. Hungarian troops are based at Hilla. 100km south of Baghdad under Polish command.

Defence Minister Ferenc Juhasz has said that a decision on the mission would have to be made by parliament, where a two-thirds majority would be needed.

Powell urges coalition | DPRK threatens to quit talks

200 N Korean defectors land in Seoul

firepower.

North Korea said yesterday it may consider pulling out of talks aimed at resolving the nuclear standoff in an angry response to the passage of a US human rights bill critical of the Stalinist state.

The US House of Representatives last week unanimously passed the bill, called "North Korea Human Rights Act of 2004," which moves to the Senate for a later vote before becoming law.

The bill calls for concrete steps on North Korean human rights

abuses including aid to human Meanwhile, more than 200 North rights groups and defectors.

North Korea's foreign ministry, in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, branded the bill a tissue of lies that slandered the Stalinist state by raising "non-existent" human rights

Faced with such "ceaseless political provocations," the statement attributed to an unnamed ministry spokesman said North Korea could pull out of talks with the

United States and boost its military

biggest influx yet of defectors from the Stalinist state. Officials said the mass arrival was 'sensitive" and refused to discuss details, disclosing only that an Asiana Airlines flight airlifted the North Koreans from a Southeast

Koreans arrived in South Korea

the government played down the

yesterday benind a w

Asian nation. "This is a very unusual situation which shows how sensitive the whole thing is," said a spokesman for the foreign ministry.

Bomb threat forces UA flight to return to Sydney

AFP, Sydney

A bomb threat found mid-flight on a United Airlines plane carrying 264 people forced an emergency return to Sydney yesterday, sparking a full alert in airspace along Australia's eastern seaboard.

A government spokesman said the pilot of Los Angeles-bound flight UA840 decided to turn back 90 minutes into the journey after he was told of a note scrawled on a sickbag found in the toilets.

Transport Minister John Anderson said the note, found by a passenger, claimed there was a bomb onboard. The plane dumped excess fuel on

the trip back to Sydney, landing safely at Australia's largest airport at 5.50 pm (0750 GMT). Transport Minister John Anderson said the security scare resulted in a level three alert, the highest emer-

gency rating in international aviation. 'It triggered the very real course of action right along the eastern seaboard and indeed airports across Australia as airspace was closed and everything from fire trucks and medical services were put on a very high level alert," he said.



Indian activists of the left-wing All India Popular Women's Committee listen to speech as they display banners during a demonstration near Parliament in New Delhi yesterday. The demonstration was held to urge India's new Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government to adopt a parliamentary bill to ensure a 33 percent reservation of seats for women in the parliament.

Tigers insist on self-rule in talks with peace envoy

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels Monday called for self rule during talks with a top Norwegian envoy Monday, a day after the guerrillas killed eight rivals from a breakaway group, officials said.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) told Norway's deputy foreign minister Vidar Helgesen that any resumption of negotiations with the Colombo government must be based on their proposal for regional autonomy. The LTTE's peace secretariat said

in a statement that its political wing leader S. P. Thamilselvan also told Helgesen that they were concerned about truce violations in the island's east where a renegade led a split in "Mr. Thamilselvan briefed the

Norwegian team that included Mr. Hans Brattskar, the Norwegian Ambassador, that there is no change to the position of the LTTE," the statement said. It said the Tigers wanted their

October 31 proposal for an Interim Self Governing Authority taken up for discussion, a demand rejected by President Chandrika Kumaratunga. Helgesen held talks with the Tigers in the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi, 330km north of

Colombo. "His visit is part of the shuttle diplomacy to take the peace process forward," a Norwegian diplomat said. "We do not want to raise expectations of a breakthrough."

On the eve of his visit to Sri Lanka, the LTTE killed eight men at a "safe house" of the breakaway faction of renegade regional commander V. Muralitharan, better known as

The government in a statement Monday condemned the killings and said resort to "terrorist violence does not conform to the spirit and the letter of the ceasefire agreement and does not augur well for the smooth commencement of direct negotiations with the LTTE."

ble for Sunday's massacre of the eight men. The Tigers in a statement posted on their peace secretariat Internet website said the men who killed top aides of Karuna "surrendered" to

them in the eastern district of

It did not say who was responsi-

Ampara, 350km east of Colombo. They reported that they were with the Karuna faction till Saturday and had strong difference of opinion all the while and at 01.00 hours today, shot dead seven of Karuna's men," the statement said.

সূত্র নং আবিবি-১/১১৮

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী) ১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ কাওরান বাজার বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১২১৫

তারিখঃ ২৫.০৭.০৪ইং

পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

২০০৪-২০০৫ অর্থ বৎসরে তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর আওতাধীন নিম্নবর্ণিত প্রকল্পের অধীনে গ্যাস সংযোগের লক্ষ্যে সার্ভিস/বিতরণ লাইন নির্মাণ, রাইজার স্থাপন/কিলিং এর মাধ্যমে গ্যাস সরবরাহ/বন্ধকরণ এবং আরএমএস ফ্যাব্রিকেশনসহ আনুষঙ্গিক কাজ সিডিউল অনুসারে সম্পাদন করিবার জন্য অনুরূপ কাজের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন কোম্পানীর হালনাগাদ তালিকাভুক্ত ১.৩ শ্রেণীর ঠিকাদারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্র দলিল সম্মলিত সীলমোহরকৃত খামের উপর প্রকল্পের নাম এবং দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম, ঠিকানা স্পষ্টাক্ষরে লিপিবদ্ধ করিয়া টেভার বাব্রে ফেলিতে হইবে অন্য কোন ভাবে দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে না।

নিয়ন্ত্রণকারী বিভাগ	প্রকল্প এলাকা	কাজের বিবরণ	, আর্নেষ্টমানি (টাকায়)	দরপত্রের মূল্য
আঞ্চলিক বিক্রয় বিভাগ-১	নারায়ণগঞ্জ, সোনারগাঁও ও মুন্সিগঞ্জ	সার্ভিস/বিতরণ লাইন নির্মাণ/স্থাপনসহ রাইজার স্থাপন/কিলিং এর মাধ্যমে গ্যাস সরবরাহ ও বন্ধকরণ এবং আরএমএস ফ্যাব্রিকেশনসহ আনুষঙ্গিক কাজ।	যে কোন তফসিলভুক্ত বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হইতে টাঃ ১,২৫,০০০.০০ (এক লক্ষ পঁচিশ হাজার) এর ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার।	প্রতি সেট টাঃ ২,০০০.০০ (অফেরতযোগ্য)

দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময়

দরপত্র দলিল বিক্রয় করা হইবে। নির্দিষ্ট তারিখে ও সময়ে প্রধান কার্যালয়ে দরপত্র কমিটি কর্তৃক দরপত্র গ্রহণ এবং মহাব্যবস্থাপক (আবিডি)-এর দপ্তরে প্রাপ্ত দরপত্রসমহ খোলা হইবে। ০১.০৮.০৪ইং হইতে ০৮.০৮.০৪ইং পর্যন্ত সকল কার্যদিবসে প্রত্যহ সকাল

১০:০০ হইতে ১৩:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। ঃ ০৯.০৮.০৪ইং বেলা ১২:৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ও সময়

দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময় ঃ ০৯.০৮.০৪ইং বেলা ১৩:০০ ঘটিকা। দরপত্র দলিল (কারিগরি) ও দরপত্র দলিল (আর্থিক) অংশের সমন্বয়ে দরপত্র দলিল সেট প্রস্তুতপূর্বক বিক্রয় ও একই খামে গ্রহণ করা হইবে।

অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্ধারিত সময় ও তারিখে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হইলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে নির্ধারিত স্থানে ও সময়ে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে। এ ব্যাপারে আলাদা কোন নোটিশ প্রদান করা হইবে না। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত কোন কারিগরি তথ্য ও উহার ব্যাখ্যা সংশ্লিষ্ট বিভাগীয় প্রধানের নিকট হইতে জানা যাইবে। অন্যান্য সকল প্রয়োজনীয় তথ্যাদি/শর্তাবলী দরপত্রে লিপিবদ্ধ আছে।

বিনা প্রয়োজনে গ্যাস জ্বলতে থাকা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়। ডিভাস/জনসংযোগ-০১/০৪-০৫

উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক আবিবি-১