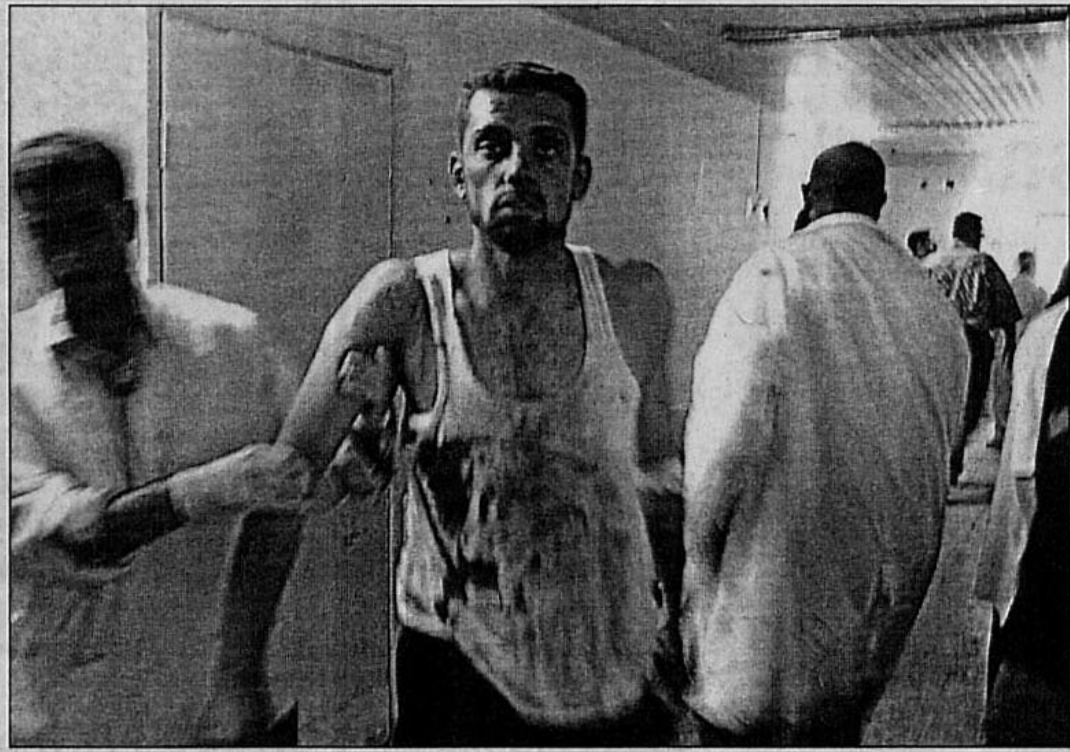


MSF doctors leave over security fears in Afghanistan

International aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres said it would pull out of Afghanistan after 24 years, blaming the government for an increasingly fragile security situation.



An injured Iraqi is rushed into a hospital in Baquba, 60 kms northeast Baghdad, following a car bomb blast yesterday.

Kerry pledges more effective 'war on terror'

Democrat John Kerry said he could fight a more effective war on terror than President Bush and vowed to help keep America safe by extending the Sept. 11 commission's work for 18 months.

Portraying himself as a viable alternative as commander in chief and seeking to erode Bush's advantage on homeland security, Kerry told a rally in Philadelphia that "the world is waiting" for the United States to lead.

World's largest navy base. "Leadership requires that we act decisively," he said. "Back-pedaling and going slow is something America can't afford."

Egypt won't join force to protect UN in Iraq

Egypt said yesterday that it would not be in favour of joining a multinational force to protect the United Nations mission in Iraq, if asked to contribute troops.

US General witnessed Iraq prison abuse

The American general who headed the US military prison at Abu Ghraib personally witnessed abuses there, an Iraqi man alleged in a federal lawsuit protesting his treatment.

and laughing as he was being tortured," Hourigan said. He said Aboud did not know Karpinski's identity until he told him.

Norway fails to revive Sri Lanka peace talks

Sri Lanka's peace broker Norway has failed to secure an agreement with Tamil Tiger rebels to resume talks with the Colombo government, President Chandrika Kumaratunga's office said Wednesday.

Lanka and the LTTE, the president's office said in a statement. It added, however, that the LTTE had made it clear it remained committed to the Oslo-brokered ceasefire which has been in place since February 2002.

held town of Kilinochchi in the island's north. The LTTE's peace secretariat said in a statement Monday that its political wing leader Thamilselvan told Helgesen they were concerned about truce violations in the island's east where a renegade led a split in March.

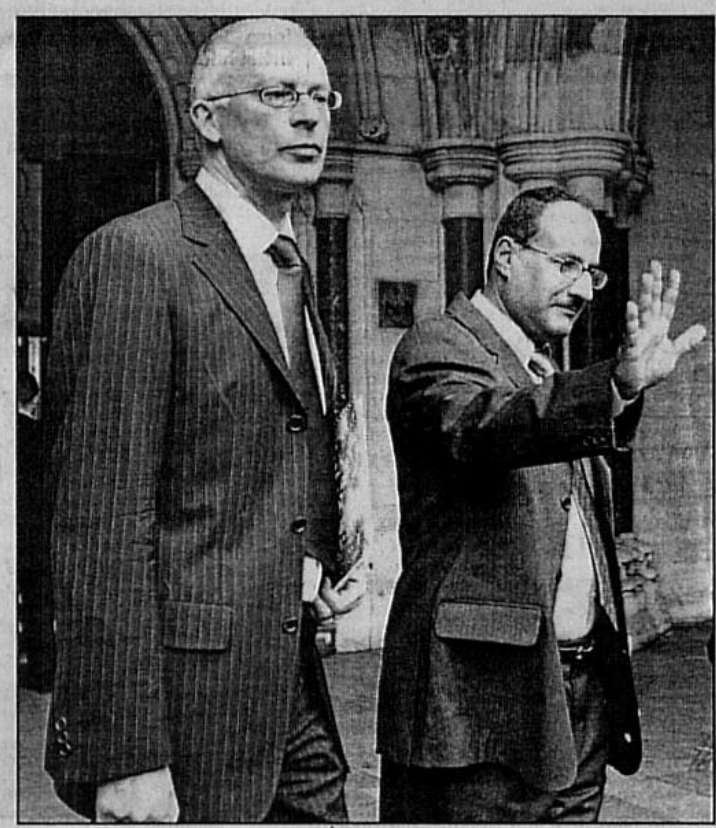
Indo-Pak talk on water dispute today

Pakistan and India will resume talks for the first time in six years this week over a 19-year water dispute as nascent dialogue between the traditional foes inches forward.

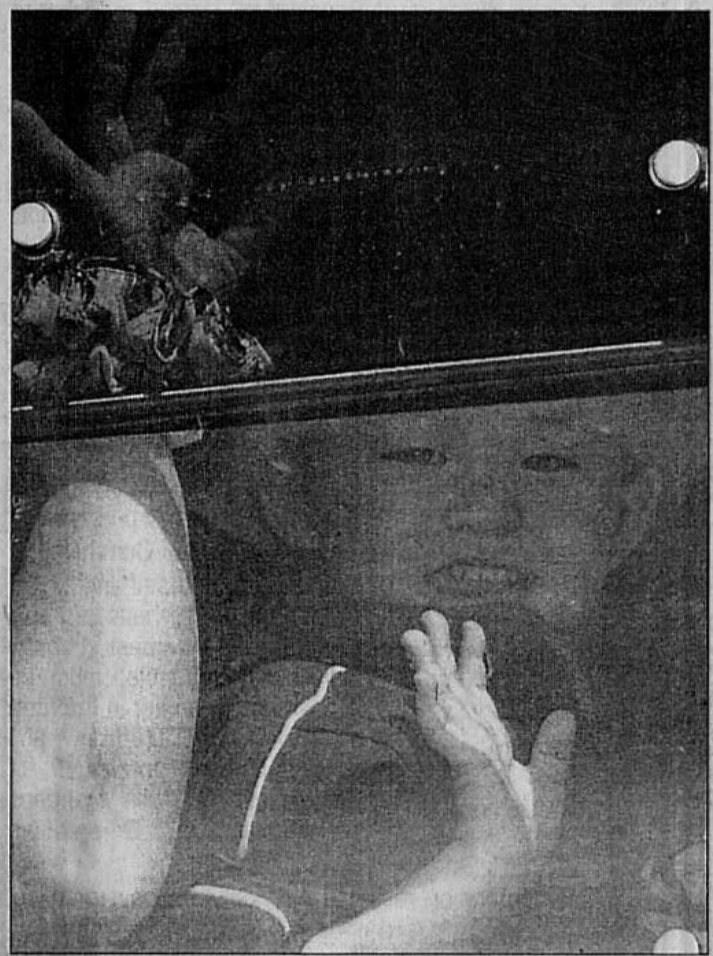
British court reviews Iraqi deaths

The families of six Iraqi civilians who say their relatives were unlawfully killed by British troops are beginning a judicial review. They are challenging the UK government's refusal to hold an independent inquiry into the deaths.

the end of the Iraq war include the shootings of four Iraqi civilians, allegedly by soldiers from the Kings Own Regiment. The victims were either at home, walking in the street or driving when they were shot.



Lawyer Phil Shiner (L) and his client Kifah Al Mutari pose for pictures at the Royal Courts of Justice in London yesterday.



A North Korean child waves from a window on a bus after arriving from Incheon International Airport west of Seoul yesterday.

More N Korean refugees reach South

More than 200 North Koreans fled into South Korea on Wednesday, the second day of a secretive operation that has spirited refugees from the communist North from an unidentified Southeast Asian country.

FLOODS IN EAST INDIA Disease adds to woes as waters recede

Disease and fear of epidemics have added to the woes of millions of people displaced by floods in east India, even as the waters begin to recede, officials said Wednesday.

turned into lakes, submerging railway tracks, bridges and highways. However, for the more than 21 million affected people, returning to their homes is still not easy as the much of the infrastructure has been damaged.

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