INTERNATIONAL

The Daily Star



PHOTO: AFP

nstitute of Strategic Studies at

Islamabad's Quaid-e-Azam

University, interpreted Singh's

statement as meaning the two

countries had "turned the corner on

the issue of Kashmir and cross-

Hussain said the two leaders

"would not have expressed such

optimism if they would not have

made real progress towards agree-

ing on some options in the secret

But good feelings are only a first

step in the complicated relations

between India and Pakistan, said C.

Uday Bhaskar of the Institute of

Defence Studies and Analyses in

talks that they have been holding".

border terrorism"

months

New Delh

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh gestures as he speaks with Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf prior to a joint press conference Friday at the Rossevelt hotel in New York after their one-to-one talks. The two leaders held talks at the sidelines of the annual debate of the 59th United Nations General Assembly in New York City

'Long, rough road ahead for Indo-Pak peace'

The joint statement avoided

The Muslim-majority Himalayan

India's then-Hindu nationalist

nuclear powers, which in 2002 were

premier Atal Behari Vajpayee

launched a peace bid in April 2003,

developing a warm working relation-

ship with Musharraf as the two

countries agreed on uncontroversial

way, I and President Musharraf will

Riffat Hussain, who heads the

Singh on Friday hailed a "new

on the brink of their fourth war.

New Delhi

AFP, New Delhi

The leaders of India and Pakistan direct mention of sensitive subjects have brightened South Asia's peace such as India's demands that Pakistan cut off alleged support for hopes with a feel-good first meeting but skirted away from tough issues "terrorists" fighting Indian rule in such as their half-century old con-Kashmir flict over Kashmir, analysts said territory is claimed in full by both yesterday

A carefully-worded joint statement read by Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said he and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh had agreed to explore options for a settlement on Kashmir "in a sincere spirit and purposeful manner."

The one-hour meeting Friday on measures such as issuing more the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York was the first summit since Singh's left-leaning beginning" and voiced confidence that "despite the difficulties on the government took office in a May election upset.

"There are a lot of good words, together work and succeed in writing a new chapter in the history but there is no substance," said Brahma Chellaney, a professor at the Centre for Policy Research in of our two countries.

Sudan 'foils coup plot' **BBC ONLINE**

Sudan says it has foiled a coup plot by backers of detained Islamist opposition leader, Hassan al-Turabi

A statement by the Interior Ministry said members of Mr Turabi's Popular National Congress party had planned to carry out a

over Iraq election

REUTERS, Washington

violent areas.

Iraq's elections should be nationwide, a top Bush administration official said Friday, clashing publicly with Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's suggestion that voting might not take place in the most

Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said the elections scheduled for January will not be perfect, but they should encompass the entire country.

Rumsfeld also appeared to back away from his outspoken remarks on Thursday that while the elections will take place on time, they might not be held in places where security could not be guaranteed. "Every Iraqi deserves the right to

vote," Rumsfeld said on Friday. "We and the government of Iraq intend to see that the elections are held, intend to see that they're held on time, and to do everything possible to see that that happens, and to see that every Iraqi has the right to vote.' "I think we're going to have an

election that is free and open, and that has to be open to all citizens Armitage told a House o Representatives committee. "We've got to do our best efforts to get in troubled areas. ... I think we're going to have these elections in all parts of the country," he said.

Rumsfeld also said Washington would not wait until Iraq "is peaceful and perfect" before beginning to withdraw US troops "because it's never been peaceful and perfect and it isn't likely to be." But he gave no timetable for the

withdrawal, a topic administration officials have avoided as President Bush has vowed to "stav the course" in the conflict that has taken center stage in his election battle with Democratic challenger Sen. John Another senior defence official

who asked not to be identified, said the number of US troops in Iraq likely will rise slightly in December and January as fresh units are sent to relieve soldiers winding up their current year of duty.

Top US officials clash Allawi, US seek int'l meet on Iraq next month

Baghdad appeals to world leaders to put aside differences on war

AFP, United Nations

The US administration and Iraq Prime Minister Iyad Allawi are trying to organize an international conference in October to boost Iraq's electoral process, Secretary of State Colin Powell said in a report

published yesterday. "We are planning to have a regional meeting consisting of all the leaders of Iraq and the G-8 (Group of Eight), we hope some time in October," Powell told The New York Times in an interview "That's what Prime Minister Allawi wants, and it's going to be his meet-

ing." The conference would likely involve foreign ministers from major western democracies and "several Middle Eastern countries, including

Iran," the paper said, without giving a possible venue for the meeting.

The report came a day after Allawi appealed to world leaders in a speech at the UN General Assembly to put aside their differences over the war and help rebuild his shattered nation.

Allawi made an impassioned appeal for international support, particularly in the fight against the "terrorists" he said were trying to wreak havoc in Irag after the ouster of Saddam Hussein.

"Our struggle is your struggle, our victory will be your victory. And if we are defeated, it will be your defeat," he told the assembly.

"I appeal to all representatives from the countries gathered here to help Iraq defeat the forces of terrorism and help Iraq build a better future for the people of Iraq," he said He said his nation was facing "a struggle between the Iraqi people and its vision for the future of peace and democracy, and the terrorists

and extremists and the remnants of the Saddam regime who are targeting this noble dream." The United States has been

quietly pressing for the meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly this week, the paper said citing US officials and Arab and European diplomats.

The purpose of the meeting would be to lend legitimacy to Iraqi elections scheduled for January, to enlist participation by dissidents and to persuade neighboring countries not to interfere in the process.

Taliban step up plans to disrupt Afghan polls: US

REUTERS, AFP, Kabul

The Taliban and their al-Qaeda allies are stepping up plans to disrupt Afghanistan's first direct presidential election on Oct. 9, the head of the US-led coalition said yesterday.

"We have seen indications that they have no other option. Lieutenant-General David Barno told a news conference in Kabul. "For all terrorists in the region

disrupting the election is part of their agenda.'

Barno said an insurgency that has seen over 1,000 deaths since August He was referring to media last year was being waged by a "tiny reports that India's National Security minority," and that the rest of the Advisor J.N. Dixit and his Pakistani world owed it to Afghanistan to stand counterpart Tarig Aziz have been by them beyond the election period. meeting secretly over the past few "Our challenge ... is to rise up to the

evel of resolve shown daily here by our hosts, the people of Afghanistan, he said. "We must remain resolute, we must stav the course.'

troops are fighting an insurgency waged by the Taliban, overthrown in 2001 for supporting Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaeda network

architects of the Sept. 11 attacks on he United States. AFP adds: The German army is planning to build a new military camp south of Kabul to boost security ahead of Afghanistan's general

elections set for early 2005, a German defense ministry spokes-The spokesman said a German

The temporary garrison is set to be up and running by January 2005. German Defence Minister Peter Struck, who is to travel to Afghanistan on Sunday to pay a visit to German troops, said Friday the security situation in the country remained "unstable" two weeks ahead of the country's October 9 presidential election. With its 1,480 soldiers. Germany provides the largest number of troops within the

More than 17,000 US and allied

man said yesterday in Berlin. army patrol would travel to the town of Surobi, 60km south of the capital of Kabul Saturday to discuss the parameters of the new camp with local authorities.

Nato-run, 7,000 member

International

Bush, Kerry launch

Attack on senior | 'Immigrants victims of Pakistani forced labour in US' official: 3 cops killed Angeles

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Los

states where immigrants abound,

lent in at least 90 cities across the

cases were concentrated in states

with large immigrant communities,

including California, Florida, New

At any given time, 10,000 or

more people were forced to toil in

sweat shops and farms, to clean

homes and to work as prostitutes

or strippers, said the report

released by the University of

Researchers from Berkeley's

The report said that forced labour

country, reports Xinhua.

California in Berkeley.

York and Texas.

Human Rights Centre and the Washington-based anti-slavery group Free the Slaves conducted Modern slavery not only exists but the study, which covered the period from 1998 to 2003. thrives in the US, especially in

Most victims of forced labour

PHOTO AFF

own war over Iraq your ally in Iraq feels like you ques-

tion his credibility," Bush said a day US President George W. Bush on after welcoming Allawi to the White Friday slammed Democratic rival House to help spread his optimistic John Kerry for questioning Iraqi view of the war-torn nation's future.

Iraqi police guard arrested kidnappers at their station after they were detained during a raid against their hideout in the Iraqi Security Assistance southern city of Basra yesterday. Police also rescued Hisham Kasim, an agent of al-Athir mobile phone Company, who was Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. kidnapped last week

coup after Friday prayers.

The statement said a number of arrests had been made and that the security forces were looking for the alleged coup leader al-Haj Adam Youssef

Some 30 PNC members were held earlier this month in connection with a coup

The PNC had earlier denied involvement in a coup to topple the government of President Omaral-Bashir.

The Interior Ministry statement said the coup plotters had planned to strike at 1400 local time (1100 GMT) on Friday in the capital, Khartoum.

"On the information provided by those arrested earlier in connection with the plot, your gallant security forces moved in and with the help and blessing of Allah, arrested the high leadership of the plot," the statement said.



US Secretary of State Colin Powell (R) greets Bangladesh Foreign Minister Morshed Khan at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York on Thursday prior to their talks. They discussed bilateral and international issues during the meeting.

Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's upbeat forecasts for his country.

AFP. Janesville

Kerry in turn said that he would run "a tougher, smarter, more effective" war on terror than the Republican president who he said had rushed to invade Iraq instead of concentrating on catching Osama bin Laden.

Allawi has been drawn deeper into the campaign for the November 2 presidential election with his visit to the United States and United Nations to bolster support for Iraq's nterim government.

"This brave man came to our country to talk about how he's risking his life for a free Iraq, which helps America, and Senator Kerry held a press conference and questioned Prime Minister Allawi's credibility," said Bush. "You can't lead this country if

Allawi and Bush downplayed the scope of the insurgency in Iraq and insisted national elections would go ahead as scheduled in January.

"In Iraq, despite ongoing acts of horrible violence, that country has got a strong prime minister and it's going to have elections in January. Bush said firmly at a campaign rally near here.

Kerry said Allawi was contradicting himself about the scope of the terrorist influx into Iraq and described Allawi's visit as a public relations effort to help Bush "put their best face" on Washington's Iraq policies.

Bush campaigned in Wisconsin before going to his Texas ranch to prepare for his first of three televised debates with Kerry Thursday.

an attack by unidentified gunmen vesterday on a senior Pakistani police officer in this southwestern provincial capital, police said.

At least three policemen were killed in

AFP, Quetta

Deputy police superintendent Nisar Kazmi was critically wounded in the attack that also left two other policemen with bullet injuries.

Police said Kazmi had been active in hunting down al-Qaeda-linked fighters in the restive Baluchistan province which borders Afghanistan.

"The gunmen were waiting near his home and opened fire as Kazmi's vehicle passed by, killing three policemen, seriously wounding the officer and also injuring two others," a local police officer said.

Kazmi had supervised the investigation that led to the recent arrest of one of the most wanted alleged terrorists Daud Badini, accused of masterminding the killings of more than 100 Shia Muslims in three attacks in the province since June 2003.

according to a new study. were trafficked into the US from at least 38 different countries, with The study, named "Hidden China, Mexico and Vietnam topping Slaves: Forced Labour in the US", found that forced labour was preva-

the list. Some were born in the US and held captive. A lack of official monitoring helps

unscrupulous employers and criminal networks to gain complete control over workers, according to the report. The study found that perpetra-

tors used a range of crimes, including fraud, coercion and physical and psychological violence, to hold their victims captive.

Although new federal laws have been passed to combat these crimes, the researchers said much nore needs to be done.

Number of US 'green cards' drops AFP, Washington

The stringent security measures adopted after the September 11 attacks in 2001 contributed to a 34 percent drop in the number of permanent-resident visas awarded in the United States last year, according to a government report

In fiscal year 2003, nearly 706,000 immigrants were given permanent-resident visas, known as "green cards," compared with nearly 1.1 million immigrants in fiscal 2002, according to a Department of Homeland Security report. The fiscal year ends in September.

This 34 percent drop was "due primarily to security checks that affected application processing at USCIS (US Citizenship and Immigration Services)," according to the report, known as the Yearbook of Immigration Statistics

In 2003, the top two regions of origin of green-card immigrants were North America (Canada and Mexico), representing 36 percent, and Asia, representing 35 percent.

Mexicans led the pack, with 115,864 immigrants, followed by India (50,372), the Philippines 45,397), China (40,659) and El Salvador (28,296)

Taiwan vows to retaliate Chinese attacks amid anti-arms deal protest

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan Premier Yu Shyi-kun yesterday vowed to retaliate should China launch missile attacks against the island as thousands of Taiwanese took to the streets to protest against the government's massive arms

package 'You (China) have the capability to destroy me and Taiwan should have the capability to counter. You

strike me with 100 missiles and I should at least strike back with 50, Yu told a gathering of government officials.

"You strike Taipei and Kaohsiung and I shall strike Shanghai. This way Taiwan will be safe," he added. Yu's rebuff, his strongest ever

came as thousands of people rallied in the rains against the government's plans for an 18 billion US dollar arms deal they say will lead to an arms race with rival China.

"Refuse raising debts to purchase weaponry," chanted protestors, while marching towards the Presidential Office.

"I think the government should focus on improving the sluggish economy instead of spending so much money on buying weapons,' Huang Chung-chang, a 42-yearold engineer who marched with his two children, told AFP.

Thousands in Florida asked to flee hurricane

AP, Fort Pierce

PHOTO AP

A "love and peace" concert is

scheduled to take place outside the

Presidential Office in the evening.

Organizers expected more than

10,000 people to take part of the

rally but police estimated a turnout

Many protestors also held cups

Taiwan, to mock the defense

The ministry drew criticism after

Taiwan's cabinet on June 2

it called on the public to consume

ess bubble milk tea to save money

approved the special budget of

610.8 billion Taiwan dollars (18.2

billion US) to purchase weaponry

from the United States. It is pending

on the island with critics, including

about 170 retired generals, warning

the hefty military spending would

further provoke China and heighten

would be forced to raise debts or cut

social welfare and education bud-

Others worry the government

It has stirred up heated debate

for the mass arms spending.

final approval by parliament.

cross-Strait tensions.

gets for the arms deal

of "bubble milk tea," a popular drink

ministry's "drinking less bubble milk

tea for arms procurement" adver-

of about half that.

tisement campaign

Hurricane Jeanne forced the evacuations of more than 800,000 residents yesterday as it bore down on Florida with winds near 105 mph and threatened to strengthen into a major storm

If it hits Florida's Atlantic Coast today as predicted, it would be the fourth hurricane to slam the state this season, a scenario unmatched in more than a century. It would be a Category 3 storm with winds of at least 111 mph if it gains strength as predicted

Jeanne, churning across the Bahamas, was poised to slam some of the same areas hit by the earlier storms, potentially transforming still-still-uncleared piles of debris into deadly missiles

"This is all we have left," said Pam Curtis, shedding tears Friday as she glanced at a heap of smashed furniture in front of her stripped Fort Pierce condominium. The debris pile left by Hurricane Frances matched her own height. "When this other hurricane comes, this pile is going to be knocking down the rest of it.'

No state has been struck by four hurricanes in one season since Texas in 1886. Jeanne could turn into the latest in a devastating chain of hurricanes that have rattled southwest Florida (Charley), the state's midsection (Frances) and Florida's Panhandle (Ivan).

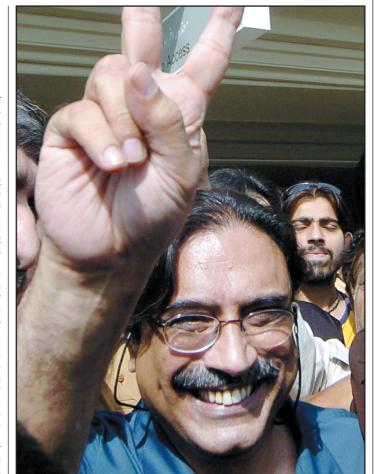


PHOTO: AFF

Asif Ali Zardari, husband of exiled former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto, flashes the victory sign following his arrival at the airport in Lahore yesterday. Zardari arrived in Lahore for a hearing on drugs charges against him.