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Shun violence, get back to mainstream

Manmohan asks Kashmiri militants; Musharraf reacts to comment on boundary

AGENCIES, Srinagar

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday reaffirmed his pledge to build a "new" Kashmir while appealing to militants to renounce violence and return to the political mainstream.

"I have come with a message that time has now come for a new chapter in Jammu and Kashmir -- a chapter of harmony and development.

"For this, it is very important that there is peace in the state," Singh said at a public rally in Jammu, Kashmir's winter capital.

Hours after Manmohan asserted that India's boundary cannot be redrawn, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has said that the Line of Control (LoC) is part of the Kashmir problem and could never be a solution.

The Indian prime minister will visit a refugee camp for Hindus who fled fighting between Islamic militants and Indian security forces before heading back to New Delhi

Wednesday night with PoK leaders, where Singh's visit to Srinagar is understood to have come up for review. Musharraf said "all sides" have to demonstrate bilateral and mutual flexibility in order to take the peace process forward.

The Indian prime minister will visit a refugee camp for Hindus who fled fighting between Islamic militants and Indian security forces before heading back to New Delhi

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

3-year rolling investment programme reintroduced

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday decided to introduce a 3-year rolling investment programme to spur economic activity for achieving the goals stipulated in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

The new plan will replace the traditional 5-year plan and run in coherence with the PRSP, a development recipe guided by the donors that is expected to be finalised in December this year.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Planning Commission in the NEC (National Economic Council) conference

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Sharon apologises after Israeli tank fire kills 3

Egyptian cops

REUTERS, Jerusalem

An Israeli tank killed three Egyptian policemen on the Gaza-Egypt border yesterday, prompting an Israeli apology for what the army said was a tragic error when it mistook them for Palestinian militants.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon telephoned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to express regret over the incident, which could derail the Egyptian foreign minister's first visit to the Jewish state next week

discuss a planned Israeli pullout from Gaza.

Sharon promised a full investigation and to share findings with the Egyptians. Israeli military officials said soldiers had mistaken the Egyptian policemen for Palestinian militants and thought they were planting explosives against Israeli forces.

"From the bottom of our hearts, we are sorry," Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Ehud Olmert told reporters.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Before dawn Thursday, a tank

The Israeli army took the rare step of putting an Arabic-speaking spokesman on the Arabic satellite news channel Al Jazeera to issue an apology.

The incident, the deadliest in years involving Israeli and Egyptian forces, could raise tensions between the two former enemies at a time when the Jewish state wants Egypt to help secure Gaza after a planned Israeli withdrawal there next year.

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