

Manmohan urges rebels in restive northeast to lay down arms

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on his first visit to India's troubled northeast appealed yesterday to insurgents in the region to lay down their arms and join the political mainstream.

known as the "seven sisters", is expected to announce a development package that could match one he offered this week to rebuild insurgency-ravaged Kashmir, an official in his office told AFP.

government the Kangla Fort, a symbol of the province's rich culture and traditions. The fort, which has served as the headquarters of the paramilitary Assam Rifles, was the palace of the Manipuri royalty when in 1891 the British forces defeated the local king and converted it into a garrison.

BJP severs ties with Jayalalithaa

The BJP said yesterday it has severed its ties with the AIDMK for the way the Jayalalithaa government in Tamil Nadu handled the arrest of Kanchi Shankaracharya Jayendra Saraswati in a murder case.



Protesters march during a demonstration against the Apec Forum and US President George W. Bush's visit to Chile Friday in Santiago. Chilean anti-riot police fired water cannon and tear gas at stone-throwing protesters in a massive rally against a major Asia-Pacific summit.

Anti-Bush protesters battle cops in Chile

Hooded anti-American marchers protesting an Asia-Pacific summit in Chile Friday hurled Molotov cocktails and stones at police who retaliated with water cannons and tear gas.



An Iraqi civilian car is caught in fire following a suicide bomb attack in Baghdad yesterday. The explosion erupted in the center of Baghdad, sending a plume of black smoke into the sky.

21 killed in Pak bus plunge

At least 21 people were killed and more than 40 injured when a bus crashed off a bridge and plunged 40 feet (12 metres) into a ravine in thick fog, police and hospital officials said yesterday.

UN staff blast officials, spare Annan

The UN staff union on Friday passed a resolution highly critical of the world body's senior management while declining to pin the blame directly on Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Bush, Hu push for end to N Korean nuke crisis

US President George W. Bush and Chinese President Hu Jintao agreed in a meeting here yesterday to push for a diplomatic end to the crisis over North Korea's nuclear programs.

also to sit down with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun and Russian President Vladimir Putin.

MUSHARRAF SAYS Pakistan will move halfway if India does on Kashmir

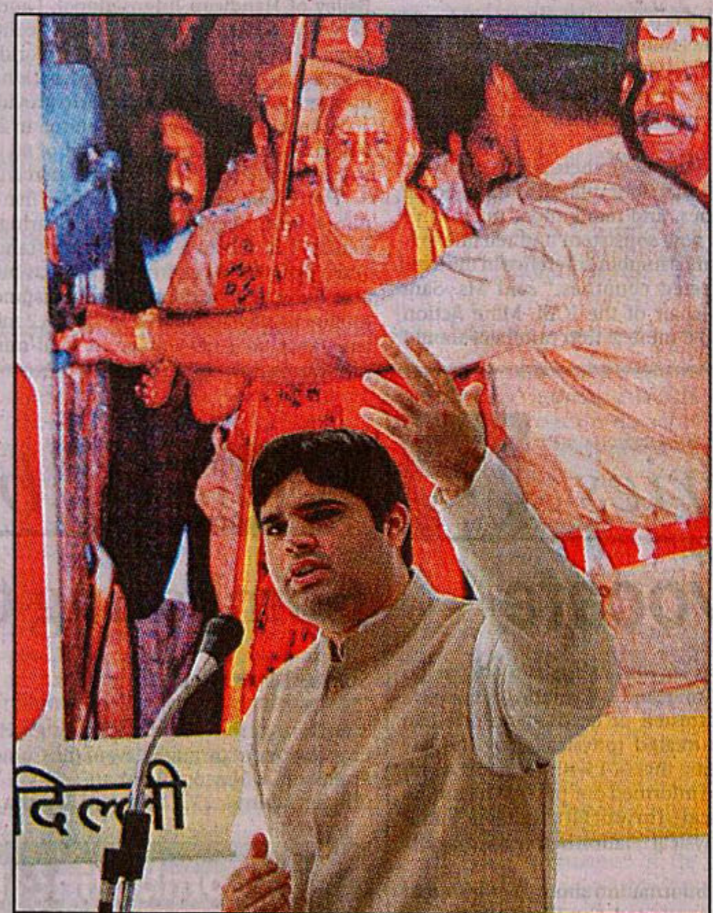
Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf yesterday asked India to meet him halfway in exploring solutions to the decades-old Kashmir dispute, after lamenting that India's latest attitude was "not encouraging."

departure on a three-nation tour that will take him to New Delhi for his first official visit and talks with counterpart Manmohan Singh on the peace process.

options." Musharraf's suggestions include dividing Kashmir, currently administered in parts by India and Pakistan, into seven regions, which would be demilitarised and either placed under UN mandate, joint control or given independence.

ICRC slams 'contempt' for humanity in Fallujah

The International Committee of the Red Cross Friday sharply criticised the "utter contempt" for humanity shown by all sides in Iraq amid fierce fighting between US forces and insurgents for control of the city of Fallujah.



Grandson of late former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member Varun Gandhi delivers his speech during a rally to protest against the arrest of Hindu religious leader Jayendra Saraswati. Members of the BJP addressed a public rally to demand the immediate release of Saraswati who was arrested on November 12 for alleged involvement in the murder of a temple official.

African presidents pledge peace in Great Lakes

Fifteen African presidents and UN chief Kofi Annan yesterday signed a common declaration pledging to promote peace and security in the continent's volatile Great Lakes region.

Airstrikes on al-Qaeda linked militants in Philippines: 10 killed

The Philippine military has killed up to 10 people in an air raid on a suspected meeting between the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang and Jemaah Islamiyah extremists, a senior military official said Saturday.

regional military chief Major General Raul Rellano. As many as 10 bodies were seen floating in the marsh waters after the attack but it could not be confirmed if they were Abu Sayyaf or Jemaah Islamiyah members, Rellano said.

Iran readies uranium for nuke: Diplomats

Iran is preparing large amounts of uranium for enrichment, a process that can be used to make nuclear weapons, days before its promise to freeze all such activities takes effect, Western diplomats said on Friday.

US plans to beef up force 6 Nato allies refuse to help train Iraqi troops

The United States plans to extend tours of duty of more troops in Iraq to increase force levels there through the elections, which are planned for January 27, a top US general said Friday.

"We will make further assessment as we get a little bit closer and understand what the impact of Fallujah has been in the entire country."

Iraqi officers, another impediment in the US' drive for support for its effort to pacify Iraq.

Advertisement for Bangladesh Krishi Bank. It includes the bank's name, head office address (Krishi Bank Bhavan, 83-85, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000), and a corrigendum regarding a tender notice for the bank.