Anti-Bush

protesters

battle cops

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.

A large march against the weekend meeting of 21 leaders of the AsiaPacific Economic Cooperation forum

turned violent when a few dozen

youths broke away from the main group to attack police.

About 100 people were arrested and four were injured, police said.

President Bush arrived late on Friday for a visit that has been a lightning rod for protests.

Tens of thousands of people

streamed through central Santiago

carrying banners and chanting slogans

against the US-led occupation of Iraq,

including "Fascist Bush is a terrorist."

The area hit by the violence was small and had no effect on pre-

summit bilateral talks between Apec

leaders, including Russian President

Vladimir Putin and China's President

Hu Jintao. All 21 leaders meet on

in Chile

REUTERS, Santiago

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

"Eschew violence and join the constitutional process for effective solution," Singh told a rally in Imphal, capital of Manipur state.

"It is not proper to resort to armed struggle when grievances can be redressed through talks. I appeal to all sections of society and youth for nation building to usher a new era of peace and prosperity in Manipur. There'll be development only when there is peace and order in the region," he added.

Singh, who is on a three-day visit to the region of seven states, also known as the "seven sisters", is expected to announce a develop-ment package that could match one he offered this week to rebuild insurgency-ravaged Kashmir, an official in his office told AFP.

Around 30 rebel outfits are operating in the northeast, seeking secession, greater autonomy or independence. They say New Delhi exploits the region which is rich in oil, tea and timber.

Violence in the area has claimed tens of thousands of lives since

India's independence in 1947.

Indian troops were on high alert after several separatist outfits called a "boycott" of the visit were outlawed Revolutionary People's Front of Manipur calling a 24-hour "public curfew"

In Imphal, Singh was also due to formally hand over to the local

An Iraqi civilian car is caught in fire following a suicide bomb attack in Baghdad yesterday. The explosion erupted in

Pakistan will move halfway

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

Pakistan had not dropped its long-

term demand for a plebiscite to

allow residents of the divided

region to choose between rule by

Pakistan or India, both of which

position on Kashmir, and will not

do so unilaterally," he was quoted

as saying by the state-run

have to reconcile to bring peace

and promote intra-regional coop-

"Both India and Pakistan will

He said the options he had

publicly floated on alternative ways

to deal with Kashmir were not

formal solutions, merely ideas to be

debated among the public and help

"I have only identified geo-

graphical, ethnic and religious

realities in Kashmir, just setting a

direction to discuss different

policymakers finalise proposals.

Associated Press of Pakistan.

eration.'

"Pakistan has not left its stated

Musharraf Saturday said

if India does on Kashmir

the peace process.

the center of Baghdad, sending a plume of black smoke into the sky.

MUSHARRAF SAYS

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

India does so," Musharraf told a

seminar of South Asian journalists

Thursday he expressed frustration

at India's refusal to budge from its

long-held stance, saying he was

"not encouraged" by the vibes from

do not encourage a process of

much better than this...there

ought to be a desire to move for-

ward towards peace. While (from)

there we get vibes in the opposite

direction, they do not encourage

His comments come on the eve

of Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz'

normalisation," he told AFP.

"The vibes that are now coming

"Certainly the vibes should be

In an interview with AFP on

in the eastern city of Lahore.

Pakistan will move halfway if

AFP, Islamabad

New Delhi.

government the Kangla Fort, a symbol of the province's rich culture

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.

Singh's visit has evoked tremendous interest with expectations high in the region.

During his Wednesday-Thursday trip to disputed Kashmir, Singh offered 5.3 billion dollars for develop-ment and announced the end of a ban on recruitment to government jobs.

Manipur Chief Minister Okram

Ibobi Singh told AFP he expected Singh to make similar positive gestures by announcing an economic package and employment

party which had amended the Constitution overruling the Supreme Court judgement in the Shahbano case," Singh said.

Denouncing the seer's police remand, the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister said it would have been better had the state government. opted for house arrest or kept the Shankaracharyain aguest house.

dled with care.

BJP severs

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.

"The whole process (of the Tamil Nadu government) with regard to the Shankaracharya issue is unbe-

coming. So there is no more rela-tionship with the AIDMK," BJP

general secretary Rajnath Singh told a press conference in Ranchi.

Demanding immediate inter-vention of the Manmohan Singh

government in this regard, he urged it to "understand" social sentiments

attached with the Shankaracharya.

in the Constitution for taking per-

mission from an appropriate

authority before arresting any reli-gious leader, such a process against any religious leader should be han-

"I doubt Congress' intentions' in the entire episode as it is the same party which had amended the

"As there is nothing mentioned

ties with

PTI, Ranchi

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

The bus, carrying relatives celebrating a wedding from the central town of Sadiqabad to the eastern city of Faisalabad, came off the bridge at around 3:30 am (2200 GMT), a senior policeman said.

"The accident victims belonged to one family and were travelling to attend a wedding party," Malik Khuda Bux Awan told AFP.

A doctor at a local hospital near the scene of the crash, at the town of Chicha Watni 112 km east of Multan, said 21 bodies had been brought in and 40 people were being treated for



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.

UN staff blast officials, Bush, Hu push for end

AFP, United Nations

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

spare Annan

But amid frustration bubbling since the deadly attack on the UN's Baghdad compound last year, the union said senior managers had "eroded the trust of staff" by repeat-edly clearing top UN officials of

The move came just days after Annan pardoned the head of the UN's internal oversight office, Dileep Nair, who had been targeted with allegations of harassment and favouritism.

The union resolution said the enquiry into Nair's case was "insufficient and constitutes a failure to properly investigate," and that it underlined "a lack of integrity, particularly at the higher levels of the organisation."

Union president Rosemarie

Waters said Annan nevertheless had the support of the staff union, telling reporters: "He is in a very difficult job under very difficult circum-stances. He is doing his best." That public declaration of sup-

port came amid heavy media scruiny after a leaked draft resolution called to send a vote of no confidence to Annan following a string of scandals that have plagued the UN chiefin recent months.

Another top official, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Ruud Lubbers, was cleared by Annan in July after a female member of his staff complained that he had sexu-

Earlier this year, Annan declined the resignation of his deputy secretary general, Louise Frechette, after a damning report found important security lapses surrounding the August 19, 2003, bombing of the UN's Baghdad offices.

That attack killed 22 people and injured more than 100, and claimed the life of the UN's top official in Iraq at the time, Sergio Vieira de Mello.

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.

Both sides expressed the hope that the issue can be solved peacefully, through dialogue," Hu told reporters during a brief joint appearance on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

"I told the president that I look forward to working with him over the next four years to continue our close work on keeping the peace peace in the Korean Peninsula, peace throughout the Pacific region -- and to spread peace throughout the world," said Bush.

The US president came to Santiago hoping to win support from Apec members China, Japan, South Korea and Russia for a new round of six-party talks aimed at defusing the nuclear crisis.

After meeting with Hu, Bush was

also to sit down with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, South

On Friday, Hu and Roh met in Santiago and agreed on the need for patience in the multilateral efforts, according to a senior Chinese offi-

Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun

and Russian President Vladimir

"Both sides agreed that there was no question that the six-party talks have run into some difficulties and that more sincerity, flexibility and patience was needed," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Kong Quantoldjournalists.

"The two sides agreed that they would cooperate to further play a positive and constructive role and push for a fourth round of six-party talks at an early date," he added.

Three rounds of multilateral talks to end North Korea's nuclear ambitions have taken place since the standoff erupted in October 2002, with the two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the United States partici-

ICRC slams 'contempt' for humanity in Fallujah

AFP, Geneva

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

"We are deeply concerned by the devastating impact that the fighting in Iraq is having on the people of that placed under UN mandate, joint Musharraf repeated his call that country," said Pierre Kraehenbuehl, both India and Pakistan should go the ICRC's director of operations. beyond their "stated positions" on

'As hostilities continue in Fallujah and elsewhere, every day seems to bring news of yet another act of utter contempt for the most basic tenet of humanity: the obligation to protect human life and dignity," he addeds "For the parties to this conflict,

complying with international not an option," Kraehenbuehl said in an unusually tough statement by the relief agency.
The senior Red Cross official said

the killing this week of a wounded insurgent by a US soldier and the death of aid worker Margaret Hassan, who was killed by her kidnappers, had "shocked the world".

"Like any other armed conflict,

this one is subject to limits, and they must be respected at all times," he

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

deputy commander of the US

Central Command, said additional

troops may also be deployed from

the United States if necessary to

Smith said the number of troops

would depend on the situation

following the US-led assault to

retake Fallujah but it will be "proba-

bly an additional brigade's worth of

"We are talking mainly about

extending some units," he told

reporters at a press conference here.

secure the country before the vote.

Lieutenant General Lance Smith,

AFP, AP, Washington

general said Friday.

forces.

Those limits included an "absolute prohibition" of the killing of people not taking part in fighting, and forbid torture, degrading treatment, and hostage taking.

They also imposed protection for the wounded as well as for civilians, the Red Cross agency underlined.

"The taking of hostages, whether Iraqi or foreign, is forbidden in all circumstances," Kraehenbuehl said. The ICRC, which is the guardian of the Geneva Conventions, the

main international laws governing conduct in warfare, said anyone responsible for violating those rules "must be held accountable for their As aid agencies were prevented

from entering Fallujah, Kraeh-enbuehl appealed "for everything possible to be done to allow such organisations to come to the aid of the thousands of Iraqis who are

The ICRC pulled its international staff out of most of Iraq and pared down operations there after a car bomb exploded outside its headquarters in Baghdad in October

2003, killing 12 people.

Most aid agencies have withdrawn over the last few months amid kidnappings and attacks targeting international and Iraqi aid workers, or have relied upon local Iraqi staff to try to keep up deliveries.

US plans to beef up force



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 Saraswathl. Members of the BJP addressed a public rally to demand the immediate release of Saraswathi who was arrested on November 12 for alleged involve-

African presidents pledge peace in Great Lakes

AFP, Dar es Salaam

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

The declaration calling for the region's transformation into a area of "sustainable peace and security, of political and social stability, of shared growth and development was signed at a landmark conference in Dar es Salaam.

The signatories were 14 presi dents from the Great Lakes region, as well as Annan and Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo attending in his capacity as African Union chairman.

On Friday, the first day of the conference, Annan called on the presidents to widen the declaration into a global peace accord for the

The region notably includes the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) which has hardly known peace and stability since its independence in 1960; Rwanda, whose 1994 genocide caused repercusions

that are still felt to this day; Burundi, which is struggling to emerge from 11 years of civil conflict; and Uganda, the north of which has been ravaged by a rebel conflict since the

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 mili-tary official said Saturday. But the claim was denied by a

spokesman for the country's main Muslim separatist group who charged that the attack had hit members of his organisation in violation of a ceasefire in place with

the government. Four MG-520 helicopters and two OV-10 planes blasted two houses in the marshlands of the southern province of Maguindanao on Friday, where about 50 Abu Sayyaf members were believed meeting with two Indonesian Jemaah Islamiyah members, said regional military chief Major General Raul Reland

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, Relano said.

Two Huey helicopters tried to land troops in the area but could not touch down due to the deep water, he said, and this had forced the military to resort to airstrikes due to the difficulty of entering the marsh by foot.

One Huey helicopter was slightly damaged by return fire, the general

Relano said the attack in the central part of the main southern island of Mindanao did not violate a ceasefire in place between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the main Muslim separatist

Iran readies uranium for nuke: **Diplomats**

Musharraf's suggestions

include dividing Kashmir, currently

administered in parts by India and

Pakistan, into seven regions, which

would be demilitarised and either

Kashmir, which has triggered two of

their three wars and made them

brink of a nuclear conflict two years

stressed that he would be flexible,

but only if India matched his flexi-

The dispute drew them to the

On Thursday Musharraf

"We will be flexible, never uni-

"Why leave the plebiscite when

the vibe on the other side is they

don't want to move an inch beyond

their stated position, that 'we are

to Kashmir rejected division of the

Singh during a visit Wednesday

enemies since 1948.

lateral," he told AFP.

not moving an inch'?"

Himalayan region.

control or given independence.

REUTERS, Vienna

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. "The Iranians are producing UF6 (uranium hexafluoride) like hell," a non-US diplomat on the governing board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) told Reuters. The machines are running."

Iran denied the information, which was confirmed by multiple diplomatic sources in Vienna. "This is a sheer lie. I strongly reject

it. In contrary, Iran is preparing itself to suspend production of UF6," Iran's top IAEA delegate Hossein Mousavian told Reuters in Tehran.

6 Nato allies refuse to help train Iraqi troops "We will make further assessment as we get a little bit closer and under-

stand what the impact of Fallujah has been in the entire country." "The issue by the way is not just numbers. The issue is really about experienced troops during this period of time of expected increased

The US offensive in Fallujah set off a wave of insurgent attacks elsewhere in the Sunni Arab heartland north and west of Baghdad, as well as in the Iraqi capital.

The top Marine commander, Lieutenant General John Sattler, said Thursday the assault on Fallujah has "broken the back of the insurgency," but Smith said it was still too early to make that claim.

AP adds: At least six Nato allies are refusing to send military instructors to help the United States train Iraqi officers, another impediment in the US' drive for support for its effort to pacify Iraq.

ment in the murder of a temple official.

The six nations Germany, France, Belgium, Spain, Luxembourg and Greece had refused to contribute troops to the US-led coalition that overthrew President Saddam Hussein and to the postwar campaign against insurgents.

The US administration was hoping to forge a consensus on postwar peacemaking. The project to train Iraqi officers will not involve combat duties and is part of a broader security programme.

AState Department official close to the dispute said on Friday that all the 26 Nato allies voted on Wednesday at alliance headquarters in Brussels for the training programme and agreed to



Bangladesh Krishi Bank

Krishi Bank Bhaban 83-85, Motijheel C/A Dhaka-1000

CORRIGENDUM

A tender notice of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, 83-85, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, captioned "INVITATION FOR TENDER" in The Daily Star bearing Memo No. HO/Engg-8 (54)/2004-05 dated 07/11/2004 in column No. 8 "Tender closing date & time" wrongly printed 02/12/04 instead of 04/12/04. Now all concerned are requested to read 04/12/04 instead of 02/12/04 in column No. 8.

All other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.