



Lao girls in traditional dance to welcome delegates in front of the venue of the 10th summit of the Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) in Vientiane yesterday. Myanmar, Thailand and economic issues are dominating the two-day meeting.

ZARDARI SAYS

Benazir to end exile, lead party to polls victory

Former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto will end her exile and lead her party to victory in the next election, her husband Asif Ali Zardari said following his release from jail.

Benazir, who governed Pakistan twice -- from 1988 to 1990 and 1993 to 1996 -- lives in self-imposed exile in London and Dubai.

"to break me through physical and mental torture in order to pressure Benazir, but they failed."

Iraqi election creates unusual alliances

Doubts about holding Iraqi national elections on Jan. 30 produced an alliance few believed possible.

million people the rest of whom are mostly Shias.

Turkmen each consider Kirkuk their own.



A marine expert measures dead whales and dolphins yesterday on King Island in Bass Strait off Australia's south coast where 80 whales and dolphins died after stranding themselves.

Top court weighs Ukraine polls

West calls breakup unacceptable

Ukraine's top court convened yesterday to weigh claims of irregularities in the country's bitterly-disputed presidential elections.

quitting both that post and his job as chief of the country's central bank and called for a fresh election.

several hours to several days.

White House nixed early hearing on Rice nomination

At the urging of the White House, a key Senate panel put off consideration of the nomination of Condoleezza Rice to secretary of state.

Malaysia to press on with crackdown on migrants

Malaysia will press ahead with a controversial plan to arrest and deport hundreds of thousands of illegal migrants in January despite a warning by an international rights group.

mal training and would get cash rewards for each migrant arrested.

Nichols admits playing role in Oklahoma blast

Convicted conspirator Terry Nichols admitted to prosecutors he played a key role in gathering and assembling the components of the bomb that destroyed an Oklahoma City federal building.



Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams (C) poses with landmine victims from Cambodia Tun Channareth (L) and Song Kosal at the opening of the Landmine Convention at the UN headquarters in Nairobi yesterday.

Wangchuck could be the last king of Bhutan with absolute power

Bhutan's King Jigme Singye Wangchuck has handed over a draft constitution to the nation's parliament that could make him the last Himalayan monarch to hold absolute power.

absolute power.

Embattled Sharon faces 3 no-confidence motions

The Israeli government was facing three no-confidence motions in parliament yesterday as the opposition ratcheted up the pressure on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's minority administration.

The main opposition Labour party has been providing a safety net on issues related to Sharon's so-called disengagement plan.

Iran okays full freeze of uranium enrichment

Iran agreed not to test any centrifuges as part of a total suspension of nuclear activities that can yield weapons-grade uranium.

apparently ending a dispute that had threatened to escalate into possible referral of Iran to the UN Security Council for defying the agency.

Curfew in Lankan town after grenade attack on bus

The Sri Lankan government ordered a curfew yesterday in the eastern port city of Trincomalee after one person was killed in a grenade attack on a bus that defied a strike call by rebel sympathisers.

New theory blames ducks for bird flu spread: WHO

Domesticated ducks may be the main transmitters of the H5N1 bird flu virus that killed 32 people in two major outbreaks in Asia earlier this year.

Advertisement for 'ইনস্টিটিউট অব হেল্থ টেকনোলজি' (Institute of Health Technology) featuring a graduation ceremony and course details.