



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (2R) places flowers outside India's Parliament building during an anniversary ceremony to pay homage to nine people killed in rebel attack on the national parliament in 2001 as Parliament Speaker Somnath Chatterjee (4L) and Congress President and chairperson of the UPA government Sonia Gandhi (L) look on in New Delhi yesterday. On December 13, 2001, five armed rebels who stormed into parliament killed eight police personnel and a gardener before security forces shot them dead. A journalist wounded in the attack died months later.

Saddam aides refusing food: US military

REUTERS, Baghdad

Several of Saddam Hussein's jailed deputies have been refusing food but Saddam himself is not on hunger strike on the eve of the first anniversary of his capture, an officer in charge of detainees said on Sunday.

"It appears that some of the other 11 high-value detainees have been rejecting food, although they continue to snack and to take on liquids," Lieutenant Colonel Barry Johnson, deputy director of detainee operations in Baghdad, told Reuters.

"We're trying to ascertain who is turning their food back and why," he said. Johnson said those who had rejected food began doing so on Saturday, but some had also eaten on Sunday morning.

"There are a lot of conflicting reports about what they have eaten and when," he said, flatly denying Saddam, who is held separately from the others, was among those not eating.

5 soldiers killed in Israeli base blast

Hamis military chief killed in shootout

AP, Gaza City

Palestinians tunneled half a mile and used more than a ton of explosives to blow up a heavily fortified Israeli army base at the Gaza-Egypt crossing, killing five Israeli soldiers and wounding five in the bloodiest Palestinian attack since Yasser Arafat's death.

In a coordinated assault, Palestinian gunmen rushed the base after what appeared to be two blasts. Soldiers fired back and two Palestinians were killed.

Hitting back, Israeli helicopters fired at least five missiles at targets in Gaza City early Monday, witnesses said. One missile set fire to an abandoned metal workshop, while the other target was an empty house near the Islamic University, they said.

In Nablus a leader of Hamas' armed wing was killed and three Israeli soldiers injured in a shootout in the northern West Bank town, Israeli and Palestinian security sources said.

The Islamist movement said in a statement that the "martyred" Ihsan Shawahneh had been the head of its Ezzedine Al-Qassam Brigades in the northern West Bank.

The 28-year-old Shawahneh was shot dead during an exchange of gunfire with the troops, according to the Palestinian sources.

An Israeli military source said Shawahneh was wanted for organising suicide attacks against Israeli targets. He was killed after opening fire on troops who had come to arrest him, wounding three soldiers in the process.

Also Sunday, imprisoned

Palestinian uprising leader Marwan Barghout said in a letter that he was dropping out of the Jan. 9 election to replace Arafat and threw his support to mainstream candidate Mahmoud Abbas. The move rids Abbas of his strongest rival and wards off what could have been a split in the leading Fatah faction of the PLO.

For his part, Abbas who has stepped in as interim Palestinian leader until the elections apologised to Kuwaitis for Palestinian support of Saddam Hussein during the 1990-1991 Gulf War his latest gesture to mend fences with Arab nations offended by Arafat.

"Yes, we apologise for what we have done," he said after arriving in Kuwait, responding to reporters' questions about many Kuwaitis' long-standing demands for an apology.

Indian troops on alert along Myanmar border

AFP, Guwahati

Indian troops have been put on alert along the border with Myanmar after rebels entered the northeastern state of Mizoram and shot dead an army captain, a regional minister said yesterday.

"We have sounded an alert after some Myanmar insurgents belonging to the Chin International Army (CIA) sneaked into our territory and gunned down an Indian army captain," Mizoram Home Minister Tawnluia told AFP by telephone from his state capital Aizawl.

He said a group of up to 20 CIA militants entered Vaphai region, 280km north of Aizawl late Saturday and engaged army soldiers.

"We lost a young captain but our soldiers fought back and killed three CIA militants in the encounter," Tawnluia said.

He said the aim of the incursion could be to take "temporary shelter in the dense jungles of Mizoram" after Myanmar troops launched a military operation against rebels groups.

US still seeking final success in Iraq

A year after Saddam capture

AFP, Washington

One year after the capture of Saddam Hussein, the United States is agonising over how to end the insurgency and create the "new Iraq" promised by President George W. Bush.

A US magazine reported Sunday that Saddam planned the guerrilla campaign that has claimed more than 1,000 US military lives in Iraq well before his capture on December 13 last year.

US News and World Report quoted military intelligence as saying that in late 2002 Saddam sent more than 1,000 security and intelligence officials to two military facilities near Baghdad for two months of

special training. "Anticipating his defeat, intelligence reports show, the Iraqi dictator began laying the foundation for an insurgency as Washington worked to convince the United Nations and allies around the world that Saddam had to go," said the magazine.

Baath party operatives still close to Saddam's organisation and Sunni Muslim extremists from inside and outside of Iraq play central roles in the insurgency, according to the report which quoted the work of US analysts and military intelligence and assessments by British intelligence.

About 1,300 American troops have died in Iraq since the March

2003 invasion, more than 1,000 in combat.

The insurgency, the protection of US troops, and troubled preparations for elections still scheduled for January 30 now dominate US headlines rather than Saddam and moves to bring him to trial.

A year ago, Bush said the capture of Saddam had been essential for the emergence of a free Iraq. He called upon Iraqis to reject violence and come together build a new Iraq.

Detaining the ousted Iraqi leader boosted the stock market and the dollar, the price of oil fell. Opinion poll support for the Iraq war rose and the US public also showed itself more confident that Osama bin Laden would be caught.

Abbas set for victory in Palestinian election

AFP, Ramallah

PLO chairman Mahmud Abbas appeared yesterday guaranteed of victory in the Palestinian presidential election after the withdrawal of his chief rival but an upsurge of violence underlined the scale of the challenge ahead.

Jailed Intifada leader Marwan Barghout's decision late Sunday to drop out of the contest cleared the path for Abbas who is now expected to romp home in the January 9 contest to succeed Yasser Arafat as head of the Palestinian Authority.

Barghout's withdrawal followed massive pressure from the dominant Fatah faction which had been stunned and angered by his original decision to run, announced just hours before the close of nominations on December 1.

EU asks Maldives to ensure free elections

AFP, Colombo

European Union diplomats yesterday urged Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom to ensure free elections in his restive archipelago, but dissidents said key politicians were still behind bars.

Diplomats accredited to the Maldives, but based outside the Indian Ocean atoll nation, said they expected the Male government to ensure the December 31 election to parliament would be free and fair.

Political parties are not recognised in the Maldives where people vote for individuals.

The dissident Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), which operates out of Sri Lanka, said it did not expect a fair election as several key opposition figures were still in detention.



Undated file photo shows an unidentified flying object (UFO).

UFO explodes over Chinese city?

AFP, Beijing

An unidentified flying object, or UFO, passed across the large northwestern Chinese city of Lanzhou and apparently exploded in the suburbs, state media said yesterday.

The unusual sighting of two bright trails of light, reported by several witnesses, took place Saturday shortly before midnight, the China Times reported.

Police, working on the theory that it was a meteorite, went to investigate the matter, but as of early Monday they had found no evidence of what caused the nightly phenomenon, an officer told AFP by telephone.

A taxi driver told the paper

he was in his car when everything suddenly became "as bright as day."

When he pulled over, he saw a fireball with a tail of about three meters (10 feet) darting across the sky, he said.

One witness who was on the late shift at his company reported the courtyard outside his office was suddenly bathed in a ghostly red light as the object passed overhead, the paper said.

Others said they heard a huge explosion and felt as if an earthquake had struck.

China has been hit by several waves of UFO sighting in recent years, and the country has a research association devoted to the study of possible extraterrestrial visits.

'India, Pakistan must crack down on drug trade together'

AFP, New Delhi

India and Pakistan must fight together against the growing trade in drugs from Afghanistan through the notorious "Golden Crescent" region, a Pakistani official said yesterday.

"We have to fight the war against narcotic drugs together. It is a common cause, has no borders and has no political considerations," Major General Nadeem Ahmed, director general of Pakistan's anti-narcotics force, told Press Trust of India.

Indian and Pakistani drug-control officials are holding two days of talks in New Delhi as part of the peace plan called "composite dialogue".

After a half hour meeting with Indian Home Minister Shivraj Patil, Ahmed said both countries need to work on information and intelligence sharing, sting operations and mutual legal assistance to curb the nefarious trade.

"Pakistan and India have to develop

confidence as we move ahead. We have to share our best practices in preventing drug smuggling especially that involving heroin," Ahmed said.

Afghanistan's record opium production this year -- more than 1,31,000 hectares (3,23,570 acres) -- was a cause of concern, he said.

Opium from Afghanistan is smuggled into Pakistan and Iran -- the two other nations of the "Golden Crescent" -- and also into India, the official said.

"We have to see what the laws of each country allow. The effort is part of an international exercise to prevent drug smuggling," he added.

Earlier Ahmed, who is leading a five-member delegation, began talks with his Indian counterpart Swaraj Puri. The discussions were due to stretch to Tuesday when the two sides are expected to exchange drafts of an agreement to combat drug smuggling.

বিজ্ঞাপন নিৰ্বাচন ২০০৫-২০০৬

জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সম্মানিত সদস্যবৃন্দ যারা আসন্ন বিজ্ঞাপন নিৰ্বাচনে ভোটার হতে চান তারা নিৰ্বাচনী তফসিল অনুযায়ী আগামী ১৮ই ডিসেম্বর ২০০৪ তারিখের মধ্যে অবশ্যই-

- Voter Nomination, Specimen Signature, TIN, Photographs সহ অন্যান্য প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র জমা দিন; এবং
- সকল পাওনাদি পরিশোধ করুন।

অন্যথায় নিৰ্বাচনী বিধি অনুসারে আপনি আসন্ন বিজ্ঞাপন নিৰ্বাচনে সম্মানিত ভোটার হতে পারবেন না।

সকল

Request for Expression of Interest

For Selection of Ports and Traffic Consultant
Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority
Ports and Traffic Department
Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority
141-143, Motijheel C/A (4th Floor), Dhaka-1000

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority has been allocated funds towards the cost of the Consultancy Service, and intends to apply full of the proceeds of this fund to payments under the contract for the provision of consultancy services for the project by an individual consultant (national).

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority under the Ministry of Shipping, Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh now invites, expression of interest from the consultant to provide consultancy services for the development of river ports at Noapara, Ashuganj-Bhairab Bazar, Barguna and Bhola to determine the traffic potentiality and ascertain the feasibility for establishing landing facilities on the basis of existing and future cargo and passenger consolidation and distribution and determine the traffic forecast up to 2025. Estimate annual earning from the above landing stations, ascertain financial analysis (i.e. FIRR) and economic analysis (i.e. EIRR) of the project.

Minimum qualification and experience of the consultant who will be engaged for the subject study shall be an Advance University Graduate with higher training in port and shipping management with minimum 15 years of working experience in the ports and traffic. Must have wide experience of rendering expert services and conducting study projects in the IWT field also in the field of economics with special emphasis in transport sector. Must have proven experience in appraisal and evaluation, financial and economic analysis of transports, analysis of passenger and freight tariff structures, economic feasibility of transport projects, performance evaluation of Ports and Harbours.

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority now invites eligible Applicants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Applicants are invited to provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (complete CV with other details as required as per the Application Forms).

A consultant will be selected using the selection of individual consultant sub-method in accordance with the Public Procurement Regulations-2003 and Public Procurement Procedures issued by the GoB. It is expected that the services will be commenced on February 2005 and shall be completed in April 2005.

Interested Applicants are required to submit their expressions of interest in accordance with the Application Forms and may obtain the request for application document from the office of the Director of Accounts, BIWTA, 141-143, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, on payment of Tk. 1000/= (one thousand) only during normal office hours.

Expressions of interest must be submitted latest by 1500 hrs. on 2nd January 2005, in sealed envelope delivered to the address of undersigned shown below, and be clearly marked "Request for Expressions of interest for Selection of Ports and Traffic Consultant."

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EOIs.

Director
Ports and Traffic Department
Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority
141-143, Motijheel C/A (4th Floor)
Dhaka-1000

gsk GlaxoSmithKline

GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh Limited

TENDER FOR SALE OF USED MACHINERY

GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh Limited, Chittagong intends to dispose of the following used machinery:-

Serial No.	Description	Quantity
1	Macofer Granules Filling Machine, Italy	1 (One)
2	Zanasi Encapsulation Machine AZ 20, Italy	1 (One)
3	Farmomac Vial Sealing Machine, Italy	1 (One)
4	Plugging Machine, Perry Industries Inc., Green Bay, WI54303	1 (One)
5	Laboratory Thermal Equipment LT Oven, England	1 (One)
6	Kottermann 2738 Oven, Germany	2 (Two)
7	Memmert Oven, Germany	1 (One)
8	Fitzmill, England	2 (Two)
9	Ganson Strip Packer, India	1 (One)

Interested bidders are requested to contact the Procurement, Planning & Supply Department on or before 21st December 04 for further details. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Fariduddin Ahmed
General Manager-Procurement, Planning & Supply
GlaxoSmithKline Bangladesh Limited
Fouzderhat Industrial Area, North Kattali,
Chittagong: Phone - 752071-75

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MBBS, D.O., M.S. (Eye)

Dr. Md. Anisur Rahman (Anjum)
MBBS, D.O. FCPS (Eye)

Dr. Md. Sirajul Islam Mollah
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Prof. Syed Modasser Ali
MBBS, D.O. FRCS, FRCOphth (London)

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For patients care and operation, please contact

Mojibunnesa Eye Hospital Ltd.
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Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1209, Bangladesh
Phone: 9130638, 9130701, 9113057
E-mail: mojibunnesa@yahoo.com