

and make a momentous contribu-

tion for consolidation of peace and

economic transformation in the

heartland of Asia," he said in a

speech to students at Beijing's

the pattern of seeking raw materials

in exchange for manufactured

goods and should instead invest in

new tradition combining trade with

investments and creating compl-

developing countries," he added.

"The challenge is to develop a

China had a chance to change

Tsinghua University.

growth, he said.

countries," Aziz said.

a free trade area (FTA).

Pakistani Foreign Ministry additional secretary Tariq Usman Haider (R) and his Indian counterpart Meera Shankar (L) talk with reporters at the end of two day meeting in Islamabad Wednesday. This is the first meeting after the start of latest round of composite dialogue and the two sides will explore CBMs (confidence-building measures) in the conventional arms sphere.

China can help regional

security by helping poor

neighbours: Aziz

Pakistani Prime Minister Shaukat

Aziz urged booming China to help

poorer neighbours, saying yesterday

that a larger role by the nascent giant

could boost development and

to Beijing and Shanghai aimed at

boosting trade ties between the

traditional allies, whose relation-

ship has expanded beyond cooper-

ation on nuclear power plants to

joint efforts to combat extremist

linked to poverty and inequality, and

that aid by China to development in

the region would serve its own

strategic interest by stabilising the

border of its largely Muslim north-western province of Xinjiang.

development of this vital region,

China would be fulfilling a destiny

With its participation in the

Aziz said such violence was

The prime minister is on a visit

improve regional security.

### Pakistan, India to start 21 Neapli troops, nuclear hotline

### No deal on warning over missile tests

Pakistan and India agreed to push forward plans for a nuclear hotline after two days of talks but failed to reach a deal on advance warning of ballistic missile tests, officials said

Wednesday.
The South Asian rivals said they would "operationalise... as soon as possible" the hotline between their foreign secretaries, which had been agreed on in principle at earlier talks

However, the meetings on so-called confidence-building measures did not produce an accord on giving each other prior notification of missile test-fires, officials said.

Both sides insisted they had made progress during the meetings between senior officials in Islamabad, which are the latest stage

in a step-by-step peace process begun in January.

"We have agreed to operati-onalise it as soon as possible," Tariq Osman Hyder, additional secretary

Norway embassy

closes after

anthrax scare

in Colombo

at Pakistan's foreign ministry, who led Pakistan's delegation told reporters when asked about the

The results of the talks would be submitted to the Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries, who are scheduled to meet on 27-28 December, according to a joint statement issued by the two parties.

When pressed why the talks had folled to resolve both.

failed to produce both agreements as had been predicted by officials earlier, the two sides blamed the "complex" issues involved.

India and Pakistan have a long history of bad blood since their independence from Britain in 1947 and have fought three wars, two of them over the disputed Himalayan state of Kashmir

"These agreements are extremely complex. They raise many legal issues," said Hyder. "When we want to go forward on them we have to examine them carefully and I think both sides understand the concerns

Pakistan and India held back to-back nuclear detonations in May 1998 and have twice come close to war since then over disputed Kashmir, which is divided between the two and claimed by both in full.

The two countries hold frequent missile tests although they have an informal arrangement to give each other prior notification. They had been expected to formalize the agreement in a sign that the peace

process was on track. However Hyder added: "South Asia is no longer a nuclear flas-

The head of the Indian delegation at the talks, Meera Shankar, said the two sides were trying to resolve the issue in a "mutually acceptable" way and would continue discussions at a later date.

"I would not characterise these as hurdles but agreements of this nature are complex and raise many questions," she told reporters after the talks.

# 41 rebels killed

#### Army foils bid to destroy communication tower

Nepal's army said it killed at least five Maoist guerrillas when it foiled an attack yesterday by hundreds of insurgents on a communications

Some 800 Maoists attacked the tower in the remote western district of Lamjung but were driven off by troops, an army official said.

The Maoists have been waging an increasingly deadly campaign to topple the monarchy and install a communist republic.

"The army unit repulsed the attacks," the official said on condition of anonymity. "The rebels suffered heavy losses but only five bodies were recovered as the rebels carried away the bodies on their backs."

The official said he did not know whether the army had suffered any

On Wednesday rebels attacked a group of soldiers in western Nepal,

where the guerrillas have a heavy

The army said 21 troops and an estimated 36 rebels died in that clash while the Maoists said more than two dozen soldiers and six rebels died.

While an army source quoting local witnesses said: "The rebels suffered a heavy loss while many

others were injured."

The army official in Kathmandu confirmed the clash between the two sides Wednesday morning at Arghakhanchi but did not give the

"We are waiting for detailed reports on the incident," the source

number of casualties.

A Maoist source claimed that they captured around 20 automatic guns from the army. The rebels have been fighting for a communist republic in Nepal since 1996 and the uprising has so far claimed more

### Blast kills 4 Afghan cops

AFP, Khost

Four Afghan policemen were killed and two injured yesterday when a remote-controlled bomb exploded in the southeastern province of Khost, an official said.

The blast came amid a spate of violence in the south and southeast, where militants linked to the ousted Taliban regime continue to launch attacks on military, government and

civilian targets.
"Four Afghan national police were killed and two others injured, by the bomb in Ismael Khel Manduozi district at 9:00 am, the head of security for the province, Mohammed Zaman, told AFP.

One of the injured was the district police commander, he added. Zaman said the bomb was proba-

bly planted by Taliban fighters but investigations were continuing.

On Monday seven suspected Taliban fighters died in a battle with US-led and Afghan troops in Khost

The next day two senior Taliban commanders, including the former security chief of the militia's fugitive leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, were caught in the main southern city of Kandahar.

#### Pakistan refuses new passport to Zardari

REUTERS, Islamabad

Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's party complained yesterday that her husband Asif Ali Zardari had been refused a passport, but officials said anyone freed from jail on bail was barred from travelling abroad. The ban on travel is a violation

of fundamental rights," Taj Haider, a spokesman for Benazir's Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) said. "Our party will challenge it in court." Information Minister Sheikh

Rasheed Ahmed said someone released on bail was generally not allowed to travel abroad. "It is up to the court to decide,

Zardari, among the most contro-versial figures in Pakistani politics, was freed on bail last month after more than eight years in prison.

He still faces several criminal charges, including a conspiracy to kill Benazir's younger brother,

### Myanmar junta putting Suu Kyi's health, safety

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's peace broker Norway shut its embassy in Colombo yesterday after the diplomatic mission received a package containing a white powder suspected to be anthrax, police said.

Investigators were called to the embassy compound after the mission received an envelope containing the substance, a police spokes-Norwegian diplomats said the

ery. The embassy had previously received a similar package which ementarities through building processing trade' with developing turned out to be a hoax. The latest scare came as Oslo's top "China can break new ground for peace envoy to Sri Lanka, Erik new trade relations that would be Solheim, was visiting the island in

embassy was closed after the discov-

consistent with its great moral ethos another bid to try to salvage a falterof support to the Third World and ing peace process between the government and separatist Tamil rebels. The US embassy here closed in A day earlier, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao urged the two neighours August for a week after a similar to accelerate studies on establishing scare which also turned out to be a

at risk: Opposition

Myanmar's opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) party accused the military regime yesterday of endangering party leader Aung San Suu Kyi's life by restricting her access to a doctor and non-junta

The famed pro-democracy leader's access to her doctor has been slashed from three visits a week to one, while her personal NLD security detail has been cut from 13 to six, the party said in a statement.

We are very worried that she might be in danger," the NLD said, adding the moves had come into affect Tuesday despite assurances by the junta that arrangements would not be changed when it announced her detention had been extended by one year last month.

The NLD called on the junta, known as the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), to take immediate steps to maintain Aung San Suu Kyi's "health and security and

to fresh areas

Death toll rises to 6

More heavy rain lashed northern

AFP, Colombo

(ensureher) life is not in danger". "The SPDC has complete respon-

sibility for whatever may happen to her while she lacks security," the party sald.

rity reduction was "unacceptable" the junta responded by abolishing the NLD security detail altogether. Yangon based analyst said the

very serious threat to the leader's safety and health by her party.
"They (the NLD) are feeling very concerned and they are defending

as they can," an analyst, who did not want to be named, told AFP.

The most important message in all of this is that if anything was to

Several well placed sources had told AFP that junta security recently started frisking her personal doctor making it very difficult for her to send messages out to people.

# The statement said that when Suu Kvi had declared that the securestrictions were being viewed as a happen the responsibility would be on the regime," he said.

A Nepalese official sift through rubble caused by a bomb blast at a clinic in the Kirtipur District of Kathmandu yesterday. A bomb believed to be planted by Maoist rebels, exploded in the clinic, damaging offices but causing no injury.

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute

Land & Building Section, Joydevpur, Gazipur

Memo No. BARI/CE/Tender-3/2004-2005/364

Dated: 22-11-2004

Class of contractor

Project Engineer

BARI, Joydevpur, Gazipur

### Tender Notice-3

Sealed tenders are invited by Project Director, BARI, Joydevpur, Gazipur and eligibility of contractor, amount of security money & price of schedule etc. are given here with.

Tender shall not be treated a valid if the requisite tender security is not submitted with the tender in the form of Pay-Order/Demand Draft drawn on any scheduled bank in favour of Director General, Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, Joydevpur, Gazipur.

All terms & conditions of contract, rules & regulations and detailed description of work shall be available on payment of the prescribed price (non-refundable per set from the Office of Deputy Director (Finance & Accounts) Section, BARI, Joydevpur, Gazipur, BARI City Office, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Divisional Commissioner's Office, Dhaka Division, Dhaka; Regional Agricultural Research Centre; Hathazari, Chittagong; Regional Agricultural Research Centre, Jamalpur; Wheat Research Centre, Nashipur, Dinajpur on all working days. No tender schedule shall be sold after 3:00PM of 21-12-2004. Interested tenderers shall have to produce BARI enlistment certificate at the time of purchasing

Tender shall be received at the Office of Project Engineer, BARI, Joydevpur, Gazipur; Office of Chief Scientific Officer (Planning & Evaluation Department), BARI, Joydevpur, Gazipur; Divisional Commissioner's Office, Dhaka Division, Dhaka; Regional Agricultural Research Centre, Hathazari, Chittagong; Regional Agricultural Research Centre, Jamalpur; Regional Agricultural Research Centre, Ishurdi, Pabna; Regional Agricultural Research Centre, Jessore; Wheat Research Centre, Nashipur, Dinajpur up to 12:30PM of 22-12-2004 and shall be opened on the same day at 12:45PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their representatives at respective places.

The interested tenderers shall have to submit detailed analysis for rate each item of work in support of their quoted rate. Otherwise tender shall not be treated as valid. Besides this, in quoting rate not more than two digits should be taken after point. The quoted rate must be written in figures & words. If the total quoted amount in tender of any tenderer happens to be more than 1% below or above the actual estimated cost of tender, then the tender shall be

The authority reserves the right to not accept the lowest or any tender without assigning any reason. Prior to submitting tender for work, tenderers must inspect the site of work and sign on each page of tender after carefully going through all terms & conditions, which is mandatory for tenderers.

No.	decine of their lich of the right	schedule (non- refundable)	money (refundable)	in gradolist arts L	I
1.	Repair & renovation of slab bridge & attached road on the north of pond attached to the Technology Transfer Demonstration Plot at BARI, Joydevpur, Gazipur (Re-tender).	Tk 500/=	Tk 15,000/=	BARI enlisted contractor class A,B&C.	- K
2.	Construction of gate & fencing on the east of main entry gate road & west of training dormitory at BARI, Joydevpur, Gazipur (Re-tender).	Tk 500/=	Tk 8,000/=	A,B&C.	II V
3.	Construction of semi-pucca toilet at Technology Transfer Demonstration Plot, BARI, Joydevpur, Gazipur (Re-tender).	Tk 500/=	Tk 5,000/=	A,B,C&D.	7
4.	Test boring & installation of observation tubewell at 3 places of Agri Research Centre, Raikhali, Rangamati (Re-tender).	Tk 500/=	Tk 4,000/=	A,B,C&D.	THE RESIDENCE
5.	Installation of 1 No. 12.5 KVA generator & electrical connection at Agri Research Centre, Burirhat, Rangpur (Re-tender).	Tk 250/=	Tk 2,500/=	A,B,C,D&E.	COACE
6.	Repair of residential quarters of Agri Research Centre, Pabna.	Tk 250/=	Tk 1,250/=	A,B,C,D,&E.	
7.	Installation of underground electrical service line for deep tubewell No. 5&6 at BARI, Joydevpur, Gazipur (Re-tender).	Tk 500/=	Tk 16,000/=	BARI enlisted contractor class A,B,&C (electrical ABC licence holder).	7
8.	Repair & renovation of electrical line at Technology Transfer Demonstration Plot, BARI, Joydevpur, Gazipur (Re-tender).	Tk 500/=	Tk 6,000/=	BARI enlisted contractor class A,B,C&D (electrical ABC licence holder).	
			Md	Azharul Islam	ă

## Marxists blamed for sabotaging peace

Norway fails to salvage Lankan talks

Foreign aid donors Wednesday pressed Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga to rein in her coalition allies and stop the country slipping back to war as Norway failed in its latest bid to restart peace talks.

ing in four northern and eastern districts of the island.

Japan, the United States and the European Union, which co-chair efforts to drum up foreign financial support, said they were "deeply concerned" about the Marxist JVP, the main coalition partner in gov-

Ambassadors of Japan, the Netherlands and the US met the president Tuesday to convey their concerns over a JVP campaign against peace broker Norway and against attempts to revive negotiations based on a rebel proposal for

"The representatives expressed

of the Freedom Alliance (of President Kumaratunga) could engage in such a campaign in absolute contradiction of the clearly stated position of the president and the government that they endorse

and support the Norwegian role,"

the diplomats said in a joint state-

Homeless people move to safety crossing a flooded road Wednesday in Sri Lanka's north-central district of

Anuradhapura. Six people were killed and over 625,000 people were forced out of their homes following heavy flood-

The Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP), whose support is crucial for the survival of Kumaratunga's coalition, has staunchly opposed Oslo's role in the peace bid.

The JVP also opposes any concessions to Tamil Tiger rebels to revive talks, which have been stalled since April last year.

Diplomats said donor representatives asked the president to ensure that the Marxists are brought into line with the government's own thinking on the process aimed at ending three decades of ethnic

"They expressed deep concern about the ongoing JVP-led actions against the peace process in Sri Lanka and the government of Norway's efforts as facilitator," the donors said in an unusually strongly-worded statement.

It was the first public criticism of a member of the government by the international donor community. There was no immediate reaction from the JVP.

Norway's top envoy Erik Solheim held talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) on salvaging the faltering process.

However, the pro-rebel Tamilnet website said the discussions failed to end the 20-month impasse. "We expressed our concern that

instead of attempting to build mutual confidence, both parties are attempting to make statements that irritate the other," said Solheim.

#### and eastern Sri Lanka yesterday after two days of floods that killed six people and made 750,000 homeess, officials said. Irrigation authorities have

Lankan floods spread

water levels could lead to the breaching of embankments. Floodwater surged over the northern districts of Jaffna, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu where an estimated 12,500 families, or 62,500 individuals, were moved to schools

opened sluice gates at several

reservoirs amid fears that excessive

officials said. The Social Services department said it spent eight million rupees (76,000 dollars) to give cooked food

and temples on higher ground,

to the flood victims.

A police constable and a child drowned in the east of the island Tuesday while four others were buried in a mudslide Wednesday in the central region of Welimada, Rain is subsiding in many parts

of the east but the floodwaters have now spread to the north, inundating vast areas," a spokesman for the social services department said.

The navy had been called in to

help distribute food to marooned communities in the eastern district of Polonnaruwa, a military official

At least 254 people died and 700,000 were forced from their homes in Sri Lanka's worst-ever flooding in May last year.

### Natwar's nuke talk stirs controversy

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Foreign Affairs Minister Natwar Singh has stirred controversy with an interview in which he urged South and North Korea not to follow India's example by becoming a nuclear power.

"Even though we are ourselves a nuclear power, we support com-plete nuclear disarmament for Korea," Singh was quoted as telling The Korea Times.

"Natwar's N-speak baffles New Delhi," said a frontpage headline in Thursday's Indian Express. The Korea Times said Singh, a minister in the left-leaning Congress

government which took office in May, made the comments Tuesday in an interview after arriving in Seoul for a three-day visit. India, under the previous right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya

Janata government, stunned the

world in May, 1998 with nuclear

tests that were quickly followed by

tit-for-tat tests by arch-rival "But regret (over the decision) would be futile," Singh was quoted as saying. "You can't put it back in

able national rejoicing over what was seen by many Indians as affirmation of the country's "big power The Express said Singh "virtually

expressed regret over India's current nuclear status" and contradicted the stand taken by former Congress premier Rajiv Gandhi who sanctioned in 1989 pursuit of a nuclear

The newspaper quoted a senior unnamed Indian foreign ministry official as saying Singh's remarks reflected "his personal view."

Neither India nor Pakistan have signed the nuclear Non-

International alarm over the nuclear capabilities of India and Pakistan were heightened when the neighbours nearly went to war twice between 1999 and 2002.

Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

The newspaper quoted Singh as saying he believed six-party nuclear talks on the North Korean nuclear dispute offered a chance to prevent a similar standoff between the two Koreas. "I hope...there is some kind of an agreement," he said.

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