



PHOTO: AFP  
Pakistani army soldiers patrol outside the Sui gas plant in southwestern Baluchistan province Monday. Pakistan's cabinet Monday decided to use "all resources" to protect the country's main gasfield after rebel attacks last week disrupted gas supplies to million of consumers.

## SECOND TERM INAUGURATION TOMORROW

# Iraq looms large as Bush to focus on legacy

AFP, Washington

US President George W. Bush opens his second four years in office tomorrow with an eye on his legacy, looking to overhaul major domestic programmes and patch up ties with allies unhappy with the war in Iraq.

Bush, freed from the burden of seeking reelection by the constitutional ban on serving more than two terms, hopes to leave his mark by transforming the Middle East and revamping the US tax and pension systems.

The November 2 elections slightly widened the thin majorities his Republican party enjoys in the

US Senate and the House of Representatives, which may ease the way for some of his legislative proposals.

Bush, who says voters ratified his Iraq policy and gave him a mandate to push his domestic agenda, hopes to make his massive tax cuts permanent and partially privatise the government-run Social Security pension plan.

But foreign affairs may dominate his second term the same way it dwarfed other priorities after the September 11, 2001 attacks, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the ongoing global campaign to stamp out terrorism.

Just ten days after taking his second oath of office Iraqis are scheduled to vote in the first elections of the post-Saddam Hussein era, amid a deadly insurgency eager to derail the process.

Bush has been upbeat about Iraq's January 30 election, even as senior aides downplay the contest as just a "first step" towards eventually building a democracy where Saddam's dictatorship once stood.

The US president has linked it to other elections like those in Afghanistan and the Palestinian territories, and sees it as a sign of growing momentum towards democracy in the region.

## Fear of insurgents turns Iraqi polls into a hush-hush affair

AFP, Baghdad

In most countries, politicians are desperate for prime airtime ahead of a crucial vote. But in some parts of Iraq, candidates only agree to be interviewed on television if their faces are hidden.

Iraq's first post-Saddam Hussein elections were meant to mark an outburst of democracy. But the January 30 vote was prepared like a covert operation, with the fear of rebel attacks velling the vote in an uncanny secrecy.

Colonel Dana Pittard, who heads the US army contingent in the strife-torn town of Baquba north of Baghdad, explained that the military had offered to facilitate television appearances for the local candidates.

"Initially, candidates' voices are on television, but they're not going on camera," he said.

The stage fright pays testament to the rampant fears in Diyala province where seven council members have been assassinated since April and the governor has survived

multiple attempts on his life.

In Baquba and many other violence-ravaged areas, including neighbourhoods of the capital, violent death at the hands of insurgents fiercely opposed to democratic polls can be the instant reward for voters, candidates and security forces alike.

The Iraqi government and United States have remained adamant throughout the country's political transition that the historic vote should be held, at any cost, at the scheduled date.

## BAGHLIAR DAM ROW WITH INDIA

# Pakistan seeks World Bank arbitration

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan said yesterday it would seek World Bank arbitration in a row with India over the construction of a dam in disputed Kashmir, casting a shadow over the nuclear rivals' sluggish peace process.

The move follows the breakdown of recent talks between Islamabad and New Delhi over possible water blockages caused by the Baghliar Dam in India's section of the divided Himalayan territory.

It is the first time Pakistan has sought outside involvement in a World Bank-brokered water-sharing treaty which it signed with India in 1960. The agreement has survived two wars between the South Asian foes.

"The government of Pakistan has

decided to formally approach the World Bank for the appointment of a neutral expert for the resolution of the Baghliar dam issue," foreign ministry spokesman Masood Khan told AFP.

He said the decision was taken at a high level meeting here Tuesday chaired by Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz.

The water treaty bars India from interfering with the flow of the three rivers feeding Pakistan -- the Indus, the Chenab and the Jhelum -- but allows it to generate electricity from them.

Islamabad claims the dam could block water from the Chenab river and deprive it of vital irrigation in Pakistan's wheat-growing Punjab province. India says the fears are

groundless.

"It was determined that Pakistan was left with no choice but to go to the World Bank," an official statement said.

Pakistan and India began a step-by-step peace process in January 2004 to solve key issues, including the core problem of Kashmir, but it has dragged almost to a halt in recent months over issues including Baghliar.

Aziz "took the decision after listening to reports on the status of the construction of the dam, Pakistan's persistent efforts to settle the issue within the mechanism of the treaty, and to persuade India to stop work at the dam being built in violation of the Indus Water Treaty," the statement said.

## Britain hopes US will listen more to world

AFP, London

Britain expects that US President George W. Bush, during his second term in office, will take a less unilateral approach on foreign affairs and listen more to other governments, British analysts say.

Prime Minister Tony Blair intends neither to abandon his role as a bridge between Europe and the United States nor London's long-standing special position as Washington's most faithful ally.

In the runup to general elections here in May, however, Blair will undoubtedly appear too close to Bush, who is widely unpopular in Britain, especially among voters of the governing Labour Party.

"There is clear evidence that his relationship with Bush, his association with the war in Iraq is an electoral liability," according to John

Peterson, professor of international politics at the University of Edinburgh.

Peterson said in an interview with AFP that "far more people care about that association (with Bush) than about the allegations about bickering with Gordon Brown," the finance minister who hardly hides his ambition to replace Blair.

Britain's decision to join the US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq has already cost Blair dearly in popularity, and even if Blair wants to move on to other subjects, Iraq keeps popping back up in debate.

Blair prefers to use his special relationship with the United States to contribute to reviving the moribund peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, a goal which unsurprisingly wins broad support.

## Most Americans disapprove of Bush's Iraq policy: Polls

AFP, Washington

Despite President George W. Bush's belief that by reelecting him Americans expressed support for the war on Iraq, two opinion polls published yesterday showed the opposite: the majority think the war was a mistake and disapprove of the way he is handling things in Iraq.

Shortly before Bush's inauguration for his second term in office, and after he said in an interview that the 2004 election result proved that electorate approved of his handling of the war, a Washington Post/ABC News poll showed that 55 percent of Americans felt the Iraq war was not worth fighting, against 44 percent who thought it was.

## 2 Nepali guards shot dead after quarrel at Indian mission

AFP, Kathmandu

An angry Indian security guard shot dead two colleagues and wounded a third at India's embassy in Nepal yesterday following a row, police and the Indian embassy said.

The pre-dawn shootings in the guards' living quarters of the embassy compound in the Nepal capital, Kathmandu, followed "a hot exchange of words between the Indian security guards", a police official told AFP.

The embassy said in a statement the shootings were "an internal affair with no outside involvement".

## Spl forces deployed to protect Hajj pilgrims

AFP, Makkah

Saudi security forces trained specially for the annual Hajj have been deployed to the kingdom's holy sites, as some 1.8 million pilgrims converged on the city of Makkah for the pilgrimage which started yesterday.

Security men "who have been trained and deployed in previous Hajj seasons, in addition to those trained this year, will do the job," Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz said during a visit to Makkah.

Pictures of parading armed security men, armoured vehicles, helicopters, fire brigades and ambulances were spread across local newspapers following the minister's inspection tour on Saturday of security procedures for the largest annual Muslim gathering.

Saudi Arabia has been battling a wave of violence by al-Qaeda-linked militants who have carried out a

spate of attacks that have left more than 100 people dead, including many foreigners, since May 2003.

Prince Nayef said security forces remained alert to combat terrorists across the kingdom, adding that "events speak for themselves," in reference to recent efforts by security authorities in combating Islamist militants.

Four wanted militants were killed on January 9 in a shootout with security forces in a desert area, while 10 others, including two of the kingdom's most wanted men, were killed last month in two days of clashes in Riyadh.

The incidents occurred before and after two car bombings against security targets in the capital on December 29, including the interior ministry itself.

"If something happens, or if there is an intention (to carry out terrorist attacks), it will be fought with conviction and all (our) strength," Prince Nayef said.



PHOTO: AFP  
Indian Congress President and Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) Government Sonia Gandhi (R) talks to Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin prior to a meeting in New Delhi yesterday. Martin arrived in India on Monday following brief visits to tsunami-affected countries -- Sri Lanka and Thailand.

## '126 killed in Manipur crackdown on rebels'

AFP, Guwahati

India's army said yesterday it had killed 126 separatist rebels and captured several hundred more in a crackdown begun three months ago in the revolt-hit northeastern state of Manipur.

Since operations intensified in October, 459 rebels have been captured in Manipur, one of seven remote northeastern states that are hotbeds of ethnic and tribal fighting for autonomy or independence, the army said.

Soldiers have smashed key rebel bases belonging to the outlawed

United National Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup, the army said in a statement.

"The rebels are on the run and we are getting full cooperation from Myanmar", which is preventing insurgents from sneaking across the border, the statement said.

There was no immediate comment available from any of the rebel groups.

The army also said it had seized a large cache of weapons including 68 rifles, grenades and mortars in one weekend rebel camp raid.

## TSUNAMI-RELIEF

# Tigers await Lankan response

AFP, Colombo

Tamil Tiger rebels yesterday said they were awaiting a response from the Sri Lankan government to their overtures made through peace broker Norway for working together on tsunami relief.

Tigers told Canada's High Commissioner (ambassador) Susan Blankhart that they were willing to begin confidence building measures in the wake of the December 26 tragedy that killed nearly 31,000

people across the country.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) met with Blankhart in the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi a day after the group's supreme Velupillai Prabhakaran made his first public appearance since the disaster.

The Tigers' political wing leader S.P. Thamilselvan told her that they had made the offer through Norway which is also sending envoys this week to try and salvage the island's faltering peace bid.



PHOTO: AFP  
A Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) handout photo shows their elusive leader Velupillai Prabhakaran (C in uniform) meeting aides handling relief operations in guerrilla-held areas at the rebel headquarters in Kilinochchi Monday.



## সেনা কল্যাণ সংস্থা

সেনা কল্যাণ ভবন (২১ তলা) ১৯৫, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা

ফোন ৯৫৬০০৫১, ফ্যাক্স ৯৫৬৫৮২০

## নিলাম বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সেনা কল্যাণ সংস্থার প্রকল্প সেনা কল্যাণ ভবনে বৈদ্যুতিক সাব-স্টেশনে ব্যবহৃত ও কার্যোপযোগী ০৩ (তিন)টি 11 KV Minimum Oil Circuit Breaker (MOCB), Type MC-406 / 12-2 with CT, PT, Voltmeter, Ammeter & Portection Relays, Make: AEG Germany যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে সেই ভিত্তিতে বিকয়ের উদ্দেশ্যে প্রকৃত ক্রেতাদের নিকট হইতে সিল মোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। উক্ত দরপত্রের সহিত সেনা কল্যাণ সংস্থার অনুকূলে আর্গেন্ট মনি হিসাবে টাকা ১০,০০০.০০ মূল্যের পে-অর্ডার / ব্যাংক ড্রাফট জমা দিতে হইবে। আর্গেন্ট মনি ছাড়া কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ যোগ্য হইবে না। অংশ গ্রহণকারী দরদাতাগণ উক্ত Minimum Oil Circuit Breaker (MOCB), সেনা কল্যাণ ভবন, ১৯৫, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০ এই ঠিকানায় পরিদর্শন করিতে পারিবেন।

দরপত্র সংগ্রহ ও উন্ময়ন পরিদপ্তর, সেনা কল্যাণ সংস্থা, সেনা কল্যাণ ভবন (২১ তলা) ১৯৫, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০ এই ঠিকানায় রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে ১৫ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০০৫ সাল ১১০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে প্রদান করা যাইবে। একই দিন ১১৩০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সামনে (যদি কেহ থাকে) দরপত্র খোলা হইবে। সেনা কল্যাণ সংস্থা কোন কার্য দর্শনাতে ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করিতে পারিবে।

পরিচালক (সংগ্রহ ও উন্ময়ন)

## আমাদের প্রকাশনী



## জনতা ব্যাংক

জনতার বিশ্বস্ত ব্যাংক  
www.janatabank-bd.com