



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.

# 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 veiling 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 fight 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-wracked 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 crawled 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.

# 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.

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

AFP, Washington

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.

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

AFP, Kathmandu

Asiadi, a top adviser at the interior ministry, said there were currently 100,000 policemen in Iraq but argued that two or three times that number were needed.

"There are some 30 million Iraqis. Within three years, we would need one policeman for each 100 inhabitants because the situation isn't stable, compared to western countries where the rate averages one for 300," he said.

"The new phase of recruiting should take place chiefly among these former soldiers, notably for training and field duties," Assadi said.

The pre-dawn shootings in the guards' living quarters in the embassy compound in the Nepali 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".

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.

# '126 killed in Manipur crackdown on rebels'

AFP, Gauhati

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-bitten 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

## TSUNAMI-RELIEF

# Tigers await Lankan response

AFP, Colombo

people across the country. The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) met with Blankhart in the rebel-held town of Killinochchi a day after the group's supreme leader 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.



ICDDR,B: CENTRE FOR HEALTH AND POPULATION RESEARCH

FELLOWSHIP OFFER FOR NURSES

ICDDR,B: Centre for Health & Population Research wishes to offer some fellowships in nursing management of diarrhoeal diseases for one year, extendable for another year depending on placement opportunities and evaluation of performance.

The fellowship is to strengthen the knowledge and skills in nursing management of diarrhoeal patient through practical training in Dhaka Hospital. Particulars of the fellowship are as follows:

a) Requirements: Diploma in Nursing and Midwifery or equivalent qualification recognized by the Bangladesh Nursing Council (BNC). Applicant should have valid registration from BNC. Post-Diploma experience is not necessary for the fellowship. Fellows are required to perform shift duties and observe long duty hours. Bangladeshi nationals of 20-30 years of age can only apply.

b) Stipend: Monthly stipend Tk 6,000/- (Tk six thousand) only and transport facility as per Centre's rules subject to availability of transports. No other benefit is admissible.

c) Certification & Prospects: After successful completion of training, the fellows will be awarded a certificate and will be eligible for employment in ICDDR,B as per Centre's rules. However, the fellowship will neither provide guarantee nor preference for any future employment. The selected fellows will not be eligible for any other fellowship programme within a year at the Centre.

Applications with detailed bio-data, and a recent passport size photograph should reach the Manager, Human Resources, ICDDR,B, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212 by February 01, 2005.

Candidates in employment should apply through proper channel.

ICDDR,B is an equal opportunity employer and particularly welcomes applications from women candidates.

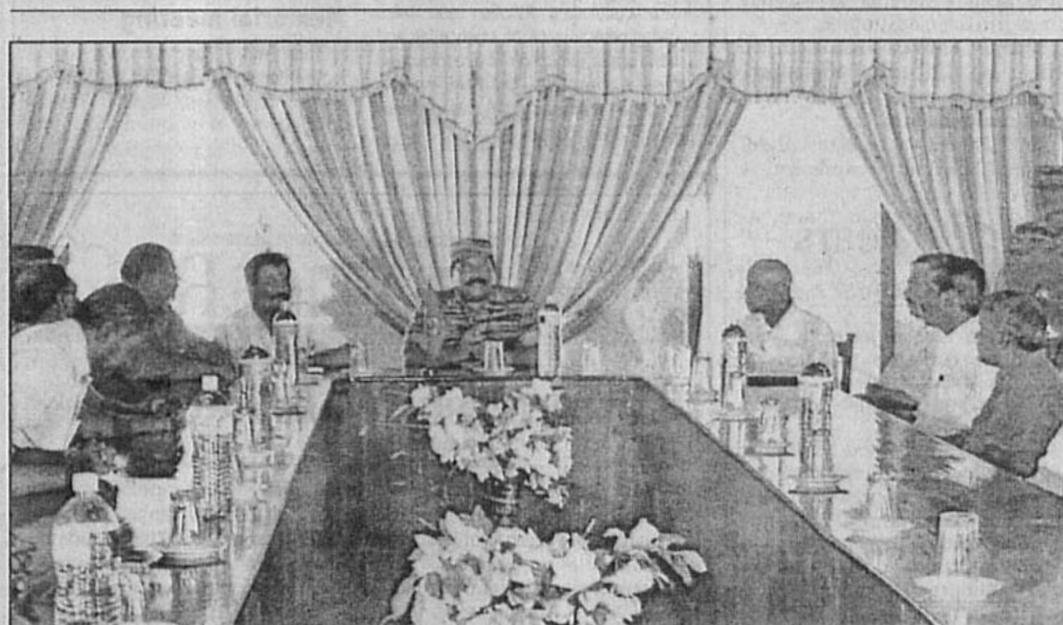


PHOTO: AFP  
A Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) handout photo shows their elusive leader Velupillai Prabhakaran (C in uniform) meeting aides handling relief operations in guerrilla-held areas at the rebel headquarters in Killinochchi Monday.

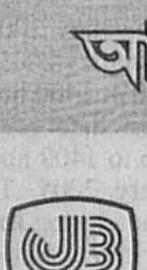
**সেনা কল্যাণ সংস্থা**  
 সেনা কল্যাণ ভবন (২১ তলা) ১৯৫, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা  
 ফোন ৯৫৬০০৫১, ফ্যাক্স ৯৫৬৫৮২০

**নিমাম বিভাগ**

সেনা কল্যাণ প্রকল্প সেনা কল্যাণ ভবনে বৈদ্যুতিক সাব-টেক্সনে ব্যবহৃত ও কার্যোগ্যের ০৩ (তিনি)টি 11 KV Minimum Oil Circuit Breaker (MOCB), Type MC-406 / 12-2 with CT, PT, Voltmeter, Ammeter & Protection Relays, Make: AEG Germany যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে সেই ভিত্তিতে বিজ্ঞার উদ্দেশ্যে একটি ক্রেতাদের নিকট হাতে সেল মোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আবান করা যাইতেছে। উক্ত দরপত্র সহিত সেনা কল্যাণ সংস্থার অনুরূপ আঁকড়ে আঁকড়ে মানি হিসাবে টাকা ১০,০০০.০০ মূল্যের প্রে-অর্ডার / বার্ষিক ড্রাফ্ট জমা দিতে হচ্ছে। আবেগ মানি হাড়া কেন দরপত্র আঁকড়ে আঁকড়ে মানি হিসাবে টাকা ১০,০০০.০০ অংশ একান্তকারী দরপত্রগত উক্ত 11 KV Minimum Oil Circuit Breaker (MOCB), সেনা কল্যাণ ভবন, ১৯৫, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০ এই ঠিকানায় পরিদর্শন করিতে পারিবেন।

দরপত্র সংগ্রহ ও উন্নয়ন পরিদর্শন, সেনা কল্যাণ সংস্থা, সেনা কল্যাণ ভবন (২১ তলা) ১৯৫, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০ এই ঠিকানায় রাশিক দরপত্র বালে ১৫ মেক্সিয়ারী ২০০৫ সকাল ১১০০ ঘটকের মধ্যে প্রদান করা যাবে। একই দিন ১১৩০ ঘটকের সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্রাদের সামনে (যদি কেহ থাকে) দরপত্র খোলা হচ্ছে। সেনা কল্যাণ সংস্থা কেন কারন দর্শনে ব্যক্তিরেকে যে কেন অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিল করিতে পারিবে।

পরিচালক (সংগ্রহ ও উন্নয়ন)



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