INTERNATIONAL

Blast rocks Lankan truce

Monitors call for calm after 6 soldiers killed

Six soldiers were killed in a landmine blast in northern Sri Lanka yesterday, the military said amid an upsurge in violence that prompted Scandanavian truce monitors to warn of "irreparable" damage to the country's fouryear-old ceasefire.

The six men were killed and another injured when their vehicle triggered a mine planted by suspected Tamil Tiger rebels in Jaffna, 400km north of the capital Colombo, an official said.

The troops were transporting lunch for their colleagues when they were caught up in the explosion," a military official in the area said. "We believe it is the work of the Tigers.'

The official said another soldier was killed in a Tiger attack overnight in the same area.

In other violence, one solider

were killed in the eastern port city of Trincomalee on Sunday.

Sunday's blast was the worst against government troops since they entered a truce with the Tigers in February 2002.

A Norwegian-led truce monitoring panel, in a statement, expressed concern over the latest upsurge in violence and urged the government and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to calm the situation.

"We urge them and all other community leaders to use their influence to ensure that violence and attacks come to an immediate end," the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM)

"The SLMM warns that there is a real danger that these disturbances and hostilities can spread and result in irreparable deterio-

was shot dead Saturday in north- ration of security and prevent any ern Sri Lanka while three civilians real restoration of normalcy in the affected communities."

The statement came after the LTTE put the new government of President Mahinda Rajapakse on notice last month to come up with a solution to the island's drawn out Tamil separatist conflict which has claimed over 60,000 lives since 1972.

The LTTE warned that they would next year begin their campaign for independence and set up a homeland unless there was a political settlement to their con-

The LTTE has been fighting for total independence in the island's northeast, but in December 2002 agreed to settle for extensive devolution of power under a federal system.

In recent weeks, there had been tension in the Jaffna peninsula, the former capital of the

Tigers. Tensions heightened Friday after the killing of two Tiger rebels by unidentified gun-

The LTTE has accused the Sri Lankan military of supporting a breakaway faction. The Sri Lankan military denies the

In the island's northeastern district of Trincomalee, police Sunday found three bullet-ridden bodies of Tamil civilians who had been taken away Saturday night by Tiger rebels, police said.

They said a fourth man escaped with serious injuries and was admitted to hospital.

Sri Lankan Tamils constitute about 12.6 percent of Sri Lanka's 19.6 million population, while Muslims, make up about 7.5 percent. The mainly Buddhist Sinhalese are the majority com-



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is saying goodbye to his Cabinet colleagues at his residence in New Delhi yesterday before his departure for a three-day visit to Russia. The India-Russia relationship is an important factor in the creation of a secure and stable multi-polar world, Singh said ahead of his departure.

Key al-Qaeda figure killed in Pakistan

AP, Islamabad

One of al-Qaeda's top five leaders, said to be responsible for planning overseas strikes, was killed by Pakistani security forces in a rocket attack near the Afghan border with US help, American and Pakistani officials said Saturday.

Hamza Rabia, a key associate of al-Qaeda No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahri, died Thursday in an explosion in the North Waziristan tribal area, and his remains were identified in DNA tests, Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said.

Two US counterterrorism officials, who spoke only on condition of anonymity because of the information's sensitivity, confirmed Rabia's death but would not elabo rate on the circumstances.

The officials said Rabia was believed to be an Egyptian and head of al-Qaeda's foreign operations, possibly as senior as the No. 3 official in the terrorist group. That would put him in a tier just below Osama bin Laden and al-Zawahri.

Nepalese pro-communist students shout slogans and burn tyres outside the Saraswoti Campus as they protest against an alleged monarchist attack on a Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) office in Kathmandu yesterday.

ahead of Iraq polls Voters want Americans to go home, politician, police commander killed

Anti-West feeling runs high

REUTERS, AP, Baghdad

Anti-Western feeling is running high ahead of Iraq's election this month and many voters think sending US troops home should be the priority of the next government, an informal survey by Reuters indicated.

Campaigning for the December 15 parliamentary election has not focused much on the US-led occupation, but one finding of a survey of dozens of voters by Reuters was the desire for foreign troops to leave the country.

In the campaign, it has been some Sunni Arab minority parties who, in common with rebel groups from the once-dominant Sunni community, have made foreign troop withdrawal a prime demand. the Sunni-led insurgency tipping Iraq into civil war, but many of their constituents think the troops make

The occupation forces should withdraw so that we can feel secure. Every day I feel panic when I go to college due to blasts and random shootings," said Israa Mohammad, a 22-year-old student interviewed on the campus of Baghdad University.

That view was reflected in the survey of voters in Baghdad, Kirkuk, Basra, Hilla and Najaf in which more people chose the withdrawal of foreign troops as the priority for next year than chose a more general wish for security.

Animosity toward US, British and

Other politicians, however, other Coalition soldiers, whom know they need US soldiers to stop many Iraqis have come to see as many Iraqis have come to see as contributing to rather than halting violence, underscores Washing-ton's failure to win the hearts and minds of Iraqis30 monthsafter invading.

It also chimes with growing unpopularity over the war back in the United States.

In the Reuters survey, 59 of the 131 people who indicated a prefer-ence said that the withdrawal of foreign troops was the most press-ing priority for the next govern-

In violence unidentified gunmen killed a parliamentary candidate and rate attacks yesterday while a bomb that detonated as a police patrol passed through central Baghdad

100 houses set on fire in Assam

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE,

Around 100 houses were set ablaze as ethnic clashes escalated in Karbi Anglong district of Assam, prompting authorities to issue shoot-on-

sight orders yesterday. Armed militants of the outlawed Dima Halam Daogah (DHD) attacked three villages overnight on Saturday and set ablaze homes of Karbi tribesmen in the district, about 320 km east of Guwahati, a day after they threatened to pull out of the ceasefire agreed with the centre in 2003.

District Magistrate GD Tripathi told: "Around 100 houses belonging to Karbi tribals were burnt down, forcing the residents to flee.'

Police and paramilitary troopers were given shoot-on-sight orders to prevent further attacks.

"Strict orders were issued to the security forces to act on-the-spot, Tripathi said.

250,000 people march for HK democracy

AFP, Hong Kong

An estimated 250,000 people took to the streets of Hong Kong yester day, demanding the full democracy that was promised when Britain handed its former colony back to China eight years ago.

Frustrated with the limited reforms proposed by the city's Beijing-appointed leader, Chief Executive Donald Tsang, marchers thronged the streets in the biggest show of public anger since he took office in June.

It was also the largest protest since July 2004 when a half a million protested against Beijing's interference in the semiautonomous Chinese territory's

Plot to rocket Saddam trial uncovered

AP, REUTERS, Baghdad

A Sunni Arab insurgent group was plotting to attack the trial of Saddam Hussein when it resumes today, Iraq's national security adviser said yesterday.

The statement by national

security adviser Mouwaffak al-Rubaie's office said the 1920 Revolution Brigades planned to fire rockets at the court building during Monday's session. Iraqi intelligence uncovered the plot, but the statement did not say whether anyone had been arrested.

Saddam and seven codefendants are on trial for the 1982 killing of more than 140 Shia Muslims in the town of Dujail following an assassination attempt against him there. The defendants

face the death penalty if convicted. Saddam Hussein has appeared in court for barely six hours so far, but doubts are already being raised about whether his trial is achieving its goals and if there will be enough evidence to convict him.

some fear the trial, which reconvenes on Monday, could become a drawn out public relations battle, with no guarantees that the tribu nal and its US backers will come out on top in the court of public

'Saddam Hussein needs a trial which is just and fair, open and transparent," Iraq's Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari told France's Le Figaro newspaper last week. "It is imperative that the trial doesn't become a public relations exercise.

Israel pounds Gaza with artillery fire

more cross-border rocket attacks from the Gaza Strip yesterday after Israel launched a series of air raids and pounded the territory with

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed offshoot of the ruling Fatah faction, said it had fired two Israel in response to the killing of two Palestinians on Saturday, one of the most violent days in Gaza since Israel pulled its troops out of the territory in September.

While the new attacks did not cause any casualties, they looked set Palestinian militants carried out to prompt more retaliation from Israel after its defence minister, Shaul

Mofaz, pledged to match fire with fire. Israeli aircraft carried out four raids on Gaza overnight, concentrating on an area from where makeshift rockets had been fired into Israel on Saturday, without causing casualties

"One of these attacks targeted ties and three others targeted a sector in the north of the region from where Qassam rockets have been fired at Israel," the Israeli army spokeswoman told AFP.

The Embassy of the United States is looking for an Administrative Clerk for its Security Office. The incumbent will compile data from multiple sources, input into proper reporting format and develop necessary reports from the database. S/he will also provide administrative support for the office.

QUALIFICATION REQUIRED:

- A Bachelor's degree in any discipline from a recognized university.
- Good working knowledge of spoken/ written English & Bangla at Level III as tested at the Embassy.
- At least two years of computer related experience with Microsoft Access.
- Solid working knowledge of MS Access including the ability to create and modify Access templates. Ability to utilize Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Corel Draw, or MGI Photo suite, flatbed and transparency scanning & Dazzle video capture & CD-RW equipment, and other digital photography hardware and software.

Please FAX your application (Embassy Prescribed Form) with contact telephone number to the Human Resources Office at FAX # 9887825 no later than COB: December 15, 2005.

Embassy prescribed job application forms are available at the U.S.Embassy Gate 1, Madani Avenue, Baridhara, Dhaka-1212 during office hours. Forms are also available on our website : dhaka.usembassy.gov

Europeans, Americans split on war on terror

torture camps and covert flights across the continent exposes a wide gap between Americans and Europeans on how they view the war on terror, analysts say.

While many Americans came to believe in the wake of the September 11 attacks that terrorists were at their doorstep, ready to strike anytime, Europeans have a different perception, they say.

"On the US side there is a sense of imminent threat, that we cannot waste time by going through courts, finding evidence," Simon Serfaty, an expert on European affairs at the Centre for Strategic

A soldier and a suspected militant

were killed yesterday after troops

and militants traded fire in a restive

Pakistani tribal area near

Afghanistan border, the military

killed on Sunday in Shakai valley of

South Waziristan" some 60 kilo-

metres (37 miles) southwest of

Miranshah, Pakistan's military

spokesman Major General Shaukat

Iran, under pressure over its dis-

puted nuclear programme, has

been developing a missile defence

system and has bought such tech-

nology from Russia, the Islamic republic's top national security

permission?" said Ali Larijani,

when asked to confirm reports that

his country has bought 29 mobile

air defence systems from Moscow

in a contract worth more than 700

"We have contracts with other

countries to buy or sell arms. This is

million dollars (600 million euros).

"Is this a problem? Do we need

defence system

Tech bought from Russia

"A soldier and a suspect were

said yesterday.

AFP, Tehran

official told AFP.

and International Studies in secret prisons, or "black sites", in Washington, told AFP.

sense that the threat is not so very imminent so that you can take your time thinking through the issue and not make compromises between ends and means."

Dieter Dettke, an expert on German politics at the Washington office of the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, said the uproar in Europe over the prison camps reflected the differing approaches to terrorism.

"We do have a more legalistic perspective on the war on terror and America is far less concerned about legalities," he said.

Militants clash with Pak

troops at Afghan border

Iran developing missile

Council.

Allegations that the CIA set up

"The soldiers traded fire with

Local intelligence officials said

In a separate incident, sus-

pected insurgents fired about five

rockets at government and para-

military installations in Mirali,

some 25 kilometres east of

Miranshah but caused no damage.

not the first time we have signed a

contract with the Russians. We

have done so in the past with

Russia and other countries like

China," said Larijani, secretary of

Iran's Supreme National Security

have bought an anti-missile sys-

tem. We also make them our-

"This is not the first time we

Russia's state news agency

ITAR-TASS on Friday quoted an

unnamed top Russian defence

ministry official as saying the deal

involved 29 Tor M-1 mobile sys-

tems capable of bringing down

both aircraft and missiles.

miscreants during a search opera-

tion which had been launched after

an improvised explosive device

exploded in the area," Sultan said.

that a suspected militant had been captured by troops who cordoned

off the area after the blast.

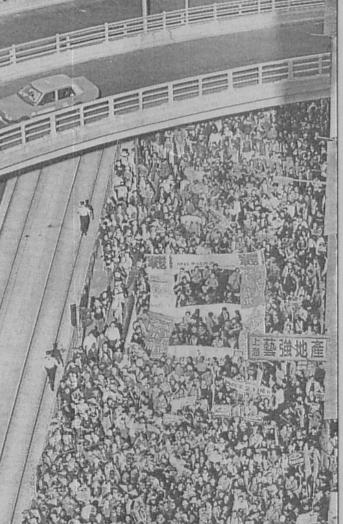
that it had used airports across the continent to transport these suspects in the wake of the September 11 attacks first surfaced last month. The existence of the prisons would be in violation of the

several eastern European countries

European Convention of Human Rights and the European Union's justice commissioner has warned that any EU country found to have hosted a secret CIA jail would have its voting rights suspended. Washington initially refused to address the issue, but faced with mount-

ing fury in Europe and a formal EU request for an explanation it has vowed toprovideaforthright response.

political affairs.



Tens of thousands of people take part in a pro-democracy march in the streets of Hong Kong yesterday to demand the full democracy that was promised when Britain handed its crown-jewel colony back to China eight

Career Opportunity

A well reputed Hong Kong based Garment buying house is looking

for following personnel for its newly established Office in Dhaka. POSITION: MERCHANDISER

Experience and skills:

 Merchandiser will be reporting to the Regional Manager and will be working independently.

• Minimum 7 years experience in buying houses or in garment factories

as Merchandiser with very sound knowledge of production.

Capable of quoting prices independently for woven garments.
Excellent knowledge about woven and knit fabrics.

Good oral & written communication skills both in English and in Bangla.

• Must be proactive in solving critical situation. Age not exceeding 35 years

• Education - Minimum Master Degree in any discipline. POSITION: QA SUPERVISOR

Experience and skills: Minimum 10 years experience in garment production & quality including 5 years experience as Production Manager in a reputed garment factory with very sound technical knowledge.

Capable of running a good number of QCs.
 Must have the knowledge about production process and has the

experience to operate sewing machines. Must have knowledge about patterns making and adjustments.
 Excellent knowledge about woven and knit fabrics.

 Capable of doing in-line inspections and give corrective advice · Should be capable of making reports to the QA department in

HK on a daily basis.

Good oral & written communication skills both in English and in Bangla.

· Willing to work long hours in factory. Must be a Bangladeshi national.

Age not exceeding 40 years
Education - Minimum Bachelor degree.

POSITION: QUALITY CONTROLLER

Experience and skills:

Minimum 5 years on hand experience in buying house or in garment factory as quality controller.
 Very sound technical knowledge.
 Good understanding of English and Bengali instructions.

Willing to work long hours in factory.
Capable of doing in-line inspections and give corrective advice

to the factory.

Should be capable of making reports to the QA department on

a daily basis. Must be a Bangladeshi national.

Age not exceeding 35 years
 Education - Bachelor degree will be given preference.
 Will be stationed in Dhaka & Chittagong

Candidates should apply with their detail resume with photograph & expected salary to the Attn of the Regional Manager. Applications should be sent on or before 11 Dcember'05 to "Tulip Garden". Flat B202, House No-8, Road No-4, Block-F, Banani, Dhaka-1212 Any unauthorized effort to influence in the recruitment will be considered as automatic disqualification.