

Musharraf girded for Supreme Court battle

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani military ruler Pervez Musharraf girded yesterday for a Supreme Court battle over whether he can claim victory in a presidential vote, a confrontation which could further destabilise the country.

The key US ally, at the centre of international efforts to combat Islamic extremism, swept to an overwhelming majority in Saturday's controversial election after it was boycotted by almost the entire opposition.

The country's top court is now weighing up the legality of the poll and whether Musharraf was allowed to stand while keeping his role as army chief, ruling on Friday that the result cannot be confirmed until it decides.

A judgement against the general, who grabbed power in a bloodless coup in 1999, could push Musharraf over the brink after

months of political turmoil and make him declare martial law.

Musharraf late Saturday insisted that his "great victory" was democratic, rejecting claims that abstentions by former premier Benazir Bhutto's party and resignations by other opposition MPs made it illegitimate.

"Democracy means majority, whether there is opposition or no opposition," he told reporters.

But he refused to rule out emergency action if the court overturns the result, saying: "Let them come to their decision, then we will decide."

The court says it will start hearing the challenges against the election on October 17, the end of the Muslim festival of Eid-ul-Fitr and the day that Benazir is due to board a plane back to Pakistan after years in exile.

Musharraf signed an amnesty deal for two-time prime minister

Benazir on Friday, as a prelude to a power-sharing deal ahead of a general election that is due by January 15 at the latest.

A source close to the presidency was more blunt, saying Musharraf could impose "surgical martial law" to maintain stability in the nuclear-armed nation in the event of an unfavourable court ruling.

The United States, which has

closely watched the election process amid a recent rash of Islamic extremist violence, gave cautious congratulations to the Pakistan nation, but withheld comment on Musharraf's win.

About 400 people also gathered Sunday in central Multan city, where supporters danced in the streets overnight and handed out sweets, officials said.

Musharraf's supporters freely celebrated his win in the vote by the two national houses of parliament and four provincial assemblies by setting off fireworks, despite the delay in the announcement of official results.

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Pakistani activists of former premier Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) rally in Islamabad in anticipation of Benazir's October 18 scheduled return to the country. Pakistani military ruler Pervez Musharraf girded for a Supreme Court battle over whether he can claim victory in a presidential vote, a confrontation which could further destabilise the country.

16 'foreign' rebels killed in fierce Afghan battle

AFP, Khost

International military planes called in by Afghan security forces killed 16 rebels, apparently all foreigners, suspected of preparing an attack in the country's east, police said yesterday.

Six rebels were injured and one was captured following the raid late Saturday in the province of Paktika on Afghanistan's border with Pakistan, provincial deputy police chief Farouq Sangari told AFP.

The captured militant, an Uzbek national, told the authorities the dead were all foreign nationals, from Pakistan, Uzbekistan and Chechnya, the official said. This could not be independently verified.

The security forces had acted after intelligence reports that the rebels were preparing to attack the headquarters of the Sarobi district, he said.

Insurgents linked to the Taliban movement and its allies in al-Qaeda are said to have bases in Pakistan from where they launch attacks inside Afghanistan as part of an insurgency against the US-backed government.

The Taliban was removed from government in a US-led invasion that started exactly six years ago.

As part of their campaign, they capture remote districts secured only by poorly armed and undermanned police forces, and are usually easily forced out again.

They are also stepping up their use of suicide attacks, which the Afghan government says shows the influence of foreign militants.

Pakistan fails to help residents in tribal belt: Rights group

AFP, Islamabad

spread fear," commission chair Asma Jahangir told reporters here.

"The government has continuously refused to heed complaints and warnings from both the public and civil society organisations and has adopted a policy of appeasement of militants," she said.

The government was turning a blind eye as militants in the troubled region bombed girls' schools, threatened teachers and attacked shops, selling videos and music deemed un-Islamic, the independent Human Rights Commission said.

The commission based its analysis on a two-day review of the situation in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) and nearby semi-autonomous tribal districts.

"The NWFP presents a disturbing picture of religious militancy that is increasingly manifesting itself in vigilante actions against the population and creating wide-



Demonstrators gather around a statue of late Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi Saturday during a rally and protest march in Washington, DC. The protesters were demonstrating against the recent crackdown on pro-democracy activists by authorities in Myanmar.

12 die in Tamil rebel arms ship sinking

AP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's navy sank a ship carrying arms and war equipment for separatist Tamil Tiger rebels yesterday, killing at least 12 people on board. Meanwhile, eight rebels and a government soldier were reported killed in other recent clashes.

After receiving intelligence about the 230-foot-long ship, three navy vessels surveilled the sea over the past six days and engaged the ship early Sunday about 850 nautical miles off the southern coast, navy spokesman Cmdr DPK Dassanayake said.

The spokesman said the ship, weighing 3,000 tons with the cargo, was the seventh rebel vessel sunk while transporting

arms this year. "The ship caught fire and sank. There were about 12 to 15 (people on board) and no one survived," Dassanayake said.

The navy said the cargo included artillery ammunition, water scooters, divers' boats, and radar and listening and jamming equipment.

Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan could not immediately be reached for comment Sunday.

The sinking came a day after fighting in Sri Lanka's troubled north claimed nine more lives.

Soldiers and the separatist rebels fought in Adamapam village of northern Vavuniya district Saturday, leaving six guerrillas dead, an official at the Defence

Ministry's information centre said. Two other rebels were killed in a separate clash in Vilathikulam village.

Also Saturday, Tamil Tigers killed a soldier when they attacked troops in northeastern Welioya village, the official said on condition of anonymity in line with policy.

A search operation in Vavuniya uncovered a haul of arms and explosives, including 250 anti-personnel mines, 41 mortar rounds, eight anti-tank mines, rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, the centre said.

Fighting across the de facto border separating the government-controlled region and the rebels' northern mini-state has heightened in recent weeks.

28 killed in bus, train crash in Cuba

AP, Havana

A bus collided with a train in eastern Cuba, killing at least 28 people and injuring another 73, including 15 reported to be in critical condition, state television said late Saturday.

The collision occurred in a small town in the province of Granma at a railroad crossing, and the train dragged the bus before the bus fell below a bridge.

Authorities were still investigating the cause of the accident, which occurred shortly before noon Saturday about 500 miles east of Havana, according to a statement read on the nightly newscast.

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8 die in fighting along Kashmir border

AP, Srinagar

Two Indian soldiers and six militants were killed in a clash along the border dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan as India's new army chief wrapped up a visit, the army said yesterday.

The clash was the second on the heavily guarded border since army chief General Deepak Kapoor arrived in the state Friday, with three militants and a soldier dying in earlier fighting.

In separate clashes Saturday, two rebels and a soldier died in other parts of Kashmir, army spokesman Mathur said.

N Korea's nuke disarmament to begin in mid Oct

AFP, Seoul

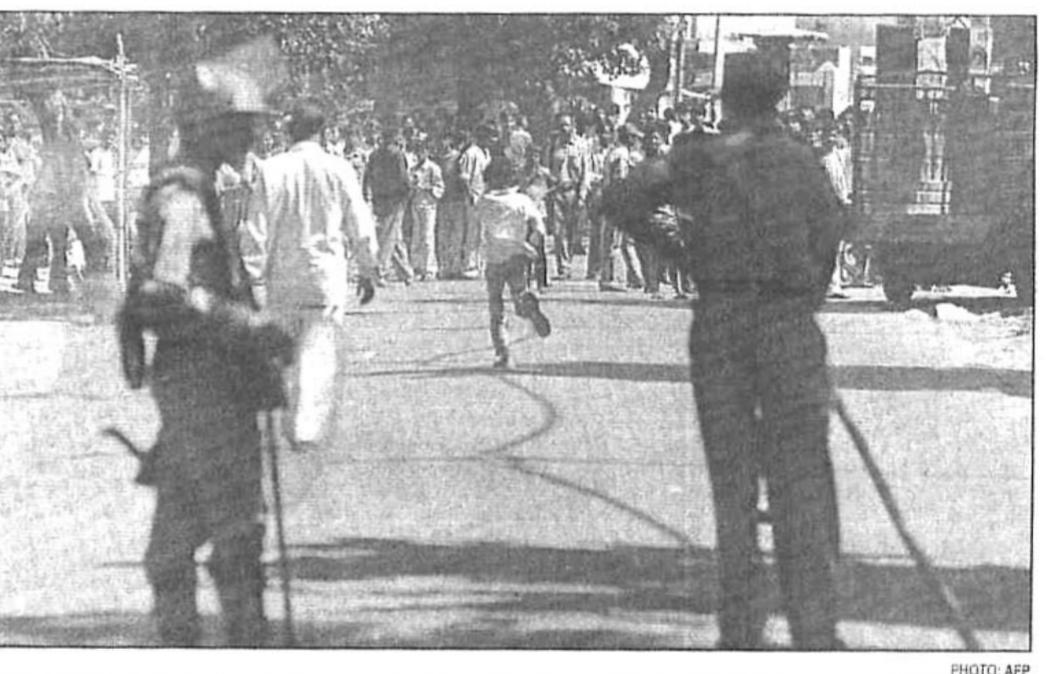
Violence in Delhi as Blueline bus kills 7

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New Delhi

A speeding Blueline bus mowed down seven people in New Delhi on Sunday in the worst such disaster blamed on the "killer" fleet, sparking mob fury that halted all traffic on the highway to Agra and forced the police to fire tear gas. The dead included five women, a child and a man.

Eight others, including some who were crossing the road, were injured when the bus ran into a crowd while trying to overtake a stationary Delhi Transport Corp (DTC) bus from the wrong side at Aali Gaon, near Badarpur.

The gory scenes of mangled bodies on the road sparked mob fury as hundreds of passers-by stoned the killer bus and tried to set it ablaze and then blocked the Mathura Road that links Delhi with Agra and beyond.



An Indian policeman stands guard as a crowd gathers after a bus accident, which killed seven people in New Delhi yesterday. Hundreds of angry protesters blocked roads in New Delhi after seven people were mowed down by a speeding bus early Sunday, prompting fears of a major riot.

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The report came after top US nuclear envoy Christopher Hill said Washington was preparing to send a team of experts to North Korea

to quickly get disarmament started.

Under a six-nation deal announced Wednesday, North Korea will disable its plutonium-producing reactor and two other facilities at Yongbyon and also declare all its nuclear programmes by December 31.

International Tender Notice					
EDCL invites sealed tender for supply of Pharmaceutical Raw and Packing Materials on C&FO Okta by Air, Chittagong by Sea & Benapole by Road Basis.		Name of the Item		Cost of tender schedule	Last date & time of closing
Sl. No.	Tender No. & date	1. Povidone K-30	1. Paraffin Wax	Tk. 1,250.00	24/10/2007 at 11.00am
01.	Dated: 03/10/2007	2. Clotacillin Compacted	2. White Bees Wax	equivalent to US\$ 18.00	
		3. Clotacillin Micronized	3. FD&C Yellow #10		
		4. Flucoxacillin Compacted	5. Maradol		
		6. Flucoxacillin Micronized	6. PVC Film (220mm)		
		7. Amoxycillin Tri-hydrate Compacted	7. Clotacillin Compacted	Tk. 5,000.00	25/10/2007 at 11.00am
		8. Cefaclor Compacted	8. Clotacillin Micronized	equivalent to US\$ 72.00	
		9. Cefaclor Micronized	9. Cephalexin Compacted		
		10. Cephalexin Micronized	10. Cephalexin Compacted		
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