

Bus bombing kills 16 in Lanka

Colombo fears more attacks on civilians

AFP, Colombo

Lanka warned of more Tamil Tiger attacks against civilians yesterday, a day after the guerrillas were accused of setting off a road side bomb blast that killed 16 bus passengers.

Media Minister Anura Yapa said Wednesday night's bombing of a crowded civilian bus in the north-central region of the island was the work of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"We believe that the LTTE is a desperate organisation and will try this type of ruthless attacks against civilians," the minister told reporters here. "We, the government, condemn this and the government

will take appropriate action to protect the people."

One more wounded passenger died of his injuries at the Anuradhapura hospital Thursday, raising the death toll to 16, police said.

Meanwhile, the military and the Tiger rebels were locked in combat across the island's northern regions where the military said 14 more Tigers had been killed since Wednesday afternoon.

However, the Tigers said they lost only one fighter and claimed killing 10 government soldiers. There is no independent verification of battle field casualties and both sides are known to offer wildly contradictory figures.

Yapa said the guerrillas had

begun targeting civilians as security forces stepped up pressure on the LTTE's mini-state in the north of the island after dismantling their bases in the island's east earlier this year.

"Why they are targeting civilians is because they are weak and desperate. We are trying our level best to destroy these terrorists in their own places," the minister said.

There was no immediate comment from the Tigers, who were blamed for a similar bombing in the same area in June last year when 64 bus passengers were killed.

That attack followed an air strike in rebel-held territory where the guerrillas said over 60 children were killed.

US TO INDIA Progress on nuke deal whenever Delhi ready

PTI, Washington

The US on Thursday said it will move forward on the civilian nuclear deal whenever India is ready as it "understands" that New Delhi needs to work through the political process in the country.

"In terms of the decisions within the Indian political system, we (the US) respect the needs and the rights of their political leaders to work this through themselves. But we're ready and able to move forward whenever they (India) would like us to," State Department Deputy Spokesman Tom Casey said.

He, however, said that regardless of the outcome or the timing of the agreement, Washington will continue to expand its relations with India, which is "an increasingly important player on the world stage".



Former Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif (C) gestures as he arrives to meet sacked chief justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry at his residence in Islamabad yesterday. Pakistani police on Thursday stopped Sharif from meeting Chaudhry, who is under effective house arrest for refusing to endorse emergency rule, witnesses said.

Pak court gives bail to Sharif's brother

AFP, Lahore

A Pakistani court yesterday granted bail to the brother of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif in a nine-year-old murder case, his lawyer said.

Shahbaz Sharif, president of the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) and former chief minister of Punjab province, surrendered himself before the court and requested bail, which was granted, lawyer Khawaja Mohammad Harris told AFP.

"The court granted pre-arrest interim bail to my client till December 8 after I requested that he could not follow the legal proceedings because he was living abroad and had not violated any law," Harris said.

Last week, Pakistan election authorities rejected Shahbaz's candidacy on the same charge and for another bank loan default case.



Activists dressed as "polar bears" shout the slogan "humans need help too" during a demonstration at the venue of the UN Climate Change Conference 2007 at Nusa Dua in Bali yesterday. Japan and Canada appear to be backing away from mandatory emissions cuts expected to be at the heart of a new global accord on fighting global warming, environmental groups said.

Pak police stop Sharif meeting ousted judge

AFP, Islamabad

Riot police Thursday blocked former premier Nawaz Sharif from meeting Pakistan's ousted chief justice, who is under effective house arrest for refusing to endorse emergency rule, witnesses said.

Opposition leader Sharif was turned back by around 300 policemen manning concrete and barbed wire barricades near the Islamabad residence of Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, an AFP reporter saw.

Hundreds of Sharif's supporters chanted "Long live Nawaz Sharif" after their leader was turned back and burned a large poster of President Pervez Musharraf, who imposed a state of emergency on November 3.

"I have come here to express

solidarity with the chief justice and other judges," Sharif told the crowd after police wielding batons and wearing helmets and body armour refused to let him through.

"I want to let them that the entire nation stands by them. We will not rest until all these judges are restored to their pre-November 3 positions," he said.

Chaudhry was sacked as chief justice after refusing to swear an oath of allegiance to Musharraf under emergency legislation. He was among 37 judges who were forcibly retired by the government for the same reason this week.

"All judges are virtually under house arrest. They can only move in the judges' enclave," said sacked Supreme Court judge Rana Bhagwandas, referring to the area, which Sharif had tried to enter.

'US military still far from any victory dance in Iraq'

AFP, Baghdad

The top American general in Iraq, David Petraeus, expressed satisfaction on Thursday at the progress made in Iraq but said the military was still far from any victory dance.

"Nobody in uniform is doing victory dances in the end zone," Petraeus told reporters travelling with US Defence Secretary Robert Gates, who arrived in Baghdad Wednesday on an unannounced visit.

Gates said on Wednesday that the violence in Iraq had dropped to levels not seen since the bombing

of a Shia shrine in the central town of Samarra that unleashed brutal Shia and Sunni conflict nearly two years ago.

He said the reduction in violence meant the "goal of a secure, stable and democratic Iraq is within reach."

Petraeus, who in September announced to Congress the first possible elements of an American troop drawdown in Iraq, was more cautious on Thursday.

"We work hard to build up on the progress made" but "we have to be careful not to feel too successful," he said.

Karadzic, Mladic evade capture in Balkans

AFP, Belgrade

International forces in Bosnia staged a raid Thursday in the hunt for genocide suspect Radovan Karadzic, as a Serbian prosecutor said his main war crimes accomplice remained elusive.

In a pre-dawn operation, troops from the European Union and Nato searched the home of an associate of former Bosnian Serb political leader Karadzic, who along with his former military chief Ratko Mladic is one of the most wanted men in Europe.

Documents and a small quantity of ammunition were seized in a five-hour search of premises in the eastern town of Sokolac owned by Mile Savcic, a former driver and bodyguard for Karadzic, said the European Union's peacekeeping mission in Bosnia.

Modi says slain Muslim 'got what he deserved'

AFP, New Delhi

An Indian Hindu nationalist leader accused of failing to stop deadly 2002 religious riots has sparked fresh controversy by saying an innocent Muslim man killed by police "got what he deserved."

Narendra Modi, who is campaigning for re-election this month in India's western Gujarat state, made the remark Tuesday at a rally of his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Gujarat's anti-terrorist squad gunned down Sohrabuddin Sheikh in 2005 outside the main city of Ahmedabad, claiming he planned to assassinate Modi. Police also killed Sheikh's wife, who witnessed her husband's death.

After the dead man's brother insisted Sheikh was innocent, the state government admitted the killing was a "false encounter" -- or the deliberate killing of an innocent person -- and that police had also killed the wife to cover their tracks.

Pak troops retake key towns from pro-Taliban cleric

AFP, Peshawar

Troops retake two key towns from disciples of a pro-Taliban cleric in northwest Pakistan and freed dozens of people from a rebel jail set up in a girls' school, officials said yesterday.

The gains reported by the government in the troubled Swat Valley are the latest since President Pervez Musharraf ordered an operation to clear the scenic tourist area of Islamist militants.

Operations in the mountain area during the past two weeks have killed nearly 250 militants as well as around 15 soldiers and 30 civilians, the army and local officials say.

Judge denies access to top Guantanamo suspect

AP, Guantanamo Bay Naval Base

A military judge rejected a request Wednesday by lawyers for a Guantanamo detainee to talk to the alleged mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks, thwarting their attempt to show the defendant was a minor al-Qaida figure.

Civilian defence attorney Harry Schneider told reporters he had hoped that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and the two other high-value detainees held at this isolated US military base could establish that their client Salim Ahmed Hamdan, a former driver for Osama bin Laden, was not a hardcore terrorist.

Police, politicians, judges most corrupt: TI

AFP, Berlin

One in every four people has been asked to pay a bribe to the police, and political parties and parliaments are the most tainted by corruption, a Transparency International study released on Thursday shows.

The poor are targeted for bribes in both developed and developing countries, according to the watchdog's Global Corruption Barometer 2007.

The study "has made it clear that too often, people must pay with their hard-earned money to part with services that should be free," said Transparency International Chair Huguette Labelle.

"And they do not see enough commitment when they look to their governments and leaders."

The study found that the countries with the highest level of petty bribery, with 30 percent of respondents reporting paying bribes, were Albania, Cambodia, Cameroon, Macedonia, Kosovo, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Romania and Senegal.

By region, Africa experiences the most demands for bribes, the study found.

The poor are hit hardest by petty bribery as they are more likely than those from a high-income bracket to pay bribes when seeking services.

And, Transparency said, that rule held true regardless of

whether respondents were from richer or poorer countries.

Telephone and gas providers were the least likely to demand bribes, while the police were the worst offenders.

Twenty-five percent of respondents who came into contact with the police were asked to pay a bribe and one in every six reported that they ended up paying a bribe.

Judges in many countries are happy to take a bribe in return for dismissing a case or influencing a verdict in a courtroom.

In Pakistan, for example, 96 percent of those questioned reported corrupt practices in courts.

Nepali peace process 'lost momentum': EU

PM wants polls by April

AFP, Kathmandu/Tokyo

A peace process in Nepal aimed at bringing Maoist insurgents into the political mainstream and ending a decade of civil war has "lost momentum", the European Union warned yesterday.

A senior EU diplomat urged political parties to "remove the obstacles to early elections" following months of wrangling between the ex-rebels and mainstream parties who signed up for peace a

year ago.

"The peace process has lost its momentum. The EU, a long-term friend of Nepal, wants to see the peace process get back on track," EU special representative Pedro Moitinho de Almeida told reporters.

The impoverished Himalayan nation has twice been scheduled to hold elections on its political future, but these polls have been postponed due to Maoist demands that the electoral system be reformed

and the monarchy abolished.

Meanwhile, Nepal's prime minister wants key elections to be held by April after a delay caused by a deadlock with former Maoist rebels on abolishing the monarchy, a report said yesterday.

Elections, a crucial element of last year's peace deal that ended a decade-long civil war, were to be held on November 22 to select a "constituent assembly" to rewrite the constitution and decide the fate of the monarchy.

China mine blast kills 70 26 others trapped

AFP, Beijing

At least 70 people were killed and 26 others trapped after an explosion at a coal mine in northern China Thursday, with the tragedy magnified by chaotic rescue work, official media said.

The gas blast occurred just after midnight at a mine in Linfen city, a coal-rich area in Shanxi province, the State Administration of Mine Safety said, in the latest tragedy to hit China's notoriously unsafe mining industry.

By late Thursday evening, 70 bodies had been retrieved and at least 26 other workers remained trapped in the mine shaft, the government-run Xinhua news agency said, citing local rescue headquarters.

Fifteen people had either been rescued or managed to escape themselves, Xinhua reported.

The mine safety administration had earlier in the day reported that at least 40 people had been killed and 74 had been trapped at the Ruizhiyuan mine.

A spokeswoman for the administration, An Yuanjie, told AFP that some of the people trapped or killed were rescue workers who had rushed into the mine, despite concerns that the gas build-up in the shaft remained dangerously high.

"After the accident occurred, the mine sent in a rescue team of 32 people, but soon after they were trapped as well," she said. It was not clear on Thursday evening how many of the dead or trapped were

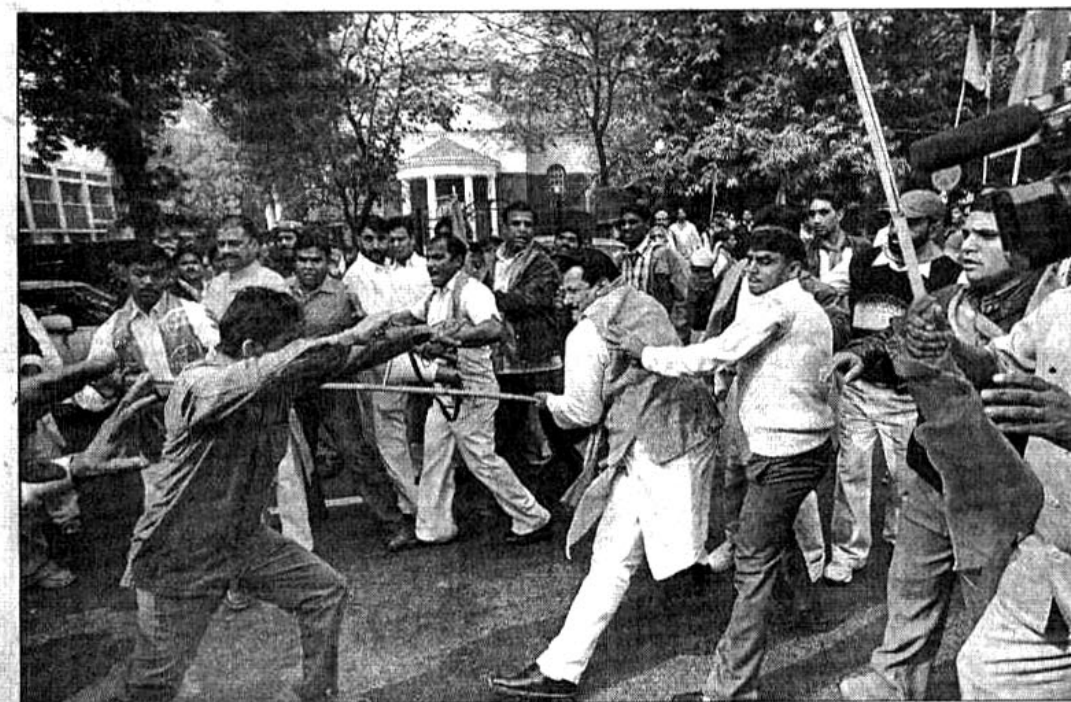
rescue workers.

An said she was unable to give any reason for the initial blast or say how the rescuers also became trapped in the mine.

However the state-run press said the explosion was likely a result of the mine operators illegally running the mine at over-capacity.

China National Radio's evening broadcast said the cause was linked to "over-production" at the mine, which had a licence to produce 210,000 tonnes of coal a year.

Xinhua also said the mine had been operating in an unauthorised area, adding that the colliery's chief and another senior official had been arrested, while the company's bank accounts had been frozen.



Indian Hindu and Muslim activists fight with bamboo canes during a clash in New Delhi yesterday on the fifteenth anniversary of the razing of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. In 1992 a mob of Hindu zealots destroyed the ancient Babri Mosque in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh and built a makeshift Ram temple, triggering communal riots that left 2,000 people dead across India.

Career @ AIUB Faculty Search

Faculty of Business Administration and Faculty of Arts and Social Science:
American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) requires qualified and efficient faculty members for the Faculty of Business Administration (Quantitative Analysis, Accounting, Finance, Marketing, Management and HRM) and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (English and Social Sciences, Mass Communication, Media Arts and Advertising).

Professor
Ph.D or equivalent degree in relevant discipline from reputed foreign university (Preferable North America) with a minimum 10 years of professional/corporate experience and minimum 10 publications in standard academic journals. Applicants must have first classes/divisions in all public examinations.

Associate Professor
Ph.D/MBA/Masters in relevant discipline from reputed foreign university (Preferable North America) with a minimum 7 years of professional/corporate experience and minimum 6 publications in standard academic journals. Applicants must have first classes/divisions in all public examinations.

Assistant Professor
Ph.D/MBA/Masters in relevant discipline from reputed foreign university (Preferable North America) with a minimum 3 years of professional/corporate experience and minimum 3 publications in standard academic journals. Applicants must have first classes/divisions in all public examinations.

Lecturer
MBA with BBA/ Honors in relevant discipline or MSS or MBA or MA with strong academic background having minimum CGPA 3.5 in a scale of 4.0. Applicants must have all first classes/divisions in all public examination. Degree from North American universities will be preferred.

Faculty of Engineering:
American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) requires qualified and efficient faculty members for the Faculty of Engineering (Architecture and EEE).

Professor
First Class in B.Sc. Engineering in relevant discipline plus a Ph.D in relevant discipline from a recognized University (all first class) with a minimum 12 years of professional experience of which at least 7 years must be in active teaching in the post of an Assistant Professor and/or above (of which at least 2 years must be in the post of Associate Professor) plus at least 6 publications in reputed journals.

Associate Professor
First Class in B.Sc. Engineering in relevant discipline plus a Ph.D in relevant discipline from a recognized University (all first class) with a minimum 7 years of professional experience of which at least 4 years must be in active teaching in the post of an Assistant Professor and/or above plus at least 3 publications in reputed journals.

Assistant Professor
CGPA 3.5 in a scale of 4.0 in B.Sc. Engineering in relevant discipline plus M.Sc. Engg. /M.Sc. or a Ph.D in relevant discipline from a recognized University (all first class) with a minimum three years of professional experience of which 1 year must be in active teaching in the post of a Lecturer plus 1 publication in a reputed journal.

Lecturer
CGPA 3.6 in a scale of 4.0 in B.Sc. Engineering (relevant discipline) from a recognized University

* In case of experience, requirements may be relaxed. Attractive salary and benefits will be offered for suitable candidates. Interested applicants are requested to send their detailed CVs along with applications letter. A copy of recent photograph of the applicant and attested photocopies of all academic records must be attached with the application. Printed and signed copies of application and CV should reach The Vice President, Human Resources within 18th December, 2007. Candidates residing abroad may send their detailed CV and application to karen@aiub.edu and send rest of their documents by post. Only Short listed applicants will be contacted for interview.

AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-BANGLADESH
83/B, Road 4, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka 1213. Phone: 8815386-7, 9890415; Fax: 88-02-8813233, URL: <http://www.aiub.edu>