

Turkish planes bomb northern Iraqi villages

AFP, Sulaimaniyah

Turkish planes bombed northern Iraq on Sunday targeting Kurdish rebels, in at least the second such operation this month even as Ankara held back from launching a ground assault.

"According to our preliminary reports, eight Turkish warplanes bombed some villages along the border near the Qandil mountains early today," said Jabbar Yawar, spokesman for the Iraqi Kurdish militia that provides security in northern Iraq.

In Ankara the Turkish army confirmed its warplanes had carried out air strikes on Turkish Kurdish rebel targets in northern Iraq.

The planes hit the "regions of Zap, Hakurk and Avasin as well as the Qandil mountains", the general staff said in a statement.

The rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has waged a deadly insurgency in southeastern Turkey since 1984, maintains a network of rear-bases in the rugged Qandil mountains near where the borders of Iraq, Iran and Turkey meet.

The rebel group itself said the strikes lasted eight hours.

"An air strike by scores of warplanes and artillery attacks took place against PKK positions," the group said in a brief statement on its Internet site, adding that a detailed account would follow.

The PKK, without giving a casualty toll, said the raid followed a month of reconnaissance flights by US planes.

The Turkish military said the bombardment began at 1:00 am (2300 GMT) and all its aircraft had

returned safely to base by 4:15 am (0215 GMT). Artillery continued to pound the targets once the planes had left.

Turkey's television stations reported that between 20 and 50 planes took part in the strike.

The Anadolu news agency said "many F-16 fighter jets", equipped to carry out night-time missions, took off from a base in Diyarbakir province in southeastern Turkey and returned about three hours later.

The military stressed that the raids targeted the PKK, not Iraqi Kurds.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Cemil Cicek warned Ankara would carry out more cross-border strikes, if necessary.

"Such operations will continue if need be," the Anadolu news agency quoted him as saying.



This aerial photograph taken on Saturday shows the town of Pekan, located in central Pahang state, submerged in floodwaters. Flooding in Malaysia have killed 21 people and left more than 29,000 people homeless as rising waters sealed off major roads in the country, reports said Sunday.

Climate deal runs into trouble with US

AFP, Nusa Dua

A hard-fought deal fixing a 2009 deadline for a new treaty to tackle global warming ran straight into trouble yesterday with the United States voicing "serious concerns" over its provisions.

As negotiators headed home after two weeks of intense haggling, the White House complained that the agreement did not do enough to commit major emerging economies such as China and India to big cuts in greenhouse gas emissions.

It underlined lingering division over how to confront the perils of global warming, which scientists warn will put millions of people at risk of hunger, homelessness and disease by the end of the century if temperatures keep rising at current rates.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who flew to the Indonesian island of Bali for a late appeal for flexibility, praised the agreement as a "pivotal first step" to tackle what

he called "the defining challenge of our time."

With the deal, the summit of 190 nations launched a process to negotiate a new treaty for when the UN Kyoto Protocol's pledges on slashing greenhouse gas emissions expire in 2012.

"Last night in Bali the world community decided to take a bold step into the future," Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who came to power last month and swiftly reversed the country's previous stance by ratifying Kyoto, said in Brisbane. "But it's only one step and we've got a long, long way to go."

European nations and environmentalists broadly welcomed the move, although it did not go as far as many had wished by failing to specify any targets for slashing the emissions blamed for global warming.

An isolated US delegation had backed down during an unplanned 13th day of talks and said it would finally accept the deal, but hours later US President George W. Bush's

administration appeared to take a step back.

The White House said any Kyoto successor treaty must acknowledge a country's sovereign right to pursue economic growth and energy security.

S Africa's ANC opens leadership conference

AFP, Polokwane

A conference of South Africa's ruling ANC which could see President Thabo Mbeki toppled as party leader was formally opened in the northern city of Polokwane on Sunday.

"Comrades, I call to order the 52nd conference of the African National Congress," ANC chairman Mosisoa Lekota told delegates.

Mbeki and his challenger ANC deputy president Jacob Zuma were both seated together on a podium at the University of Limpopo where the conference is being staged over the next five days.

Abu Sayyaf leader killed in Philippines clash: Military

AFP, Zamboanga

A senior Islamic militant, wanted by the US government, has been killed in a clash with the Philippine military in the nation's restive south, an official said Sunday.

Abdul Mubin Sakandil, a leader of the al-Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf group, was killed during a joint navy and marine operation on the remote island of Tawi-Tawi, a military official said.

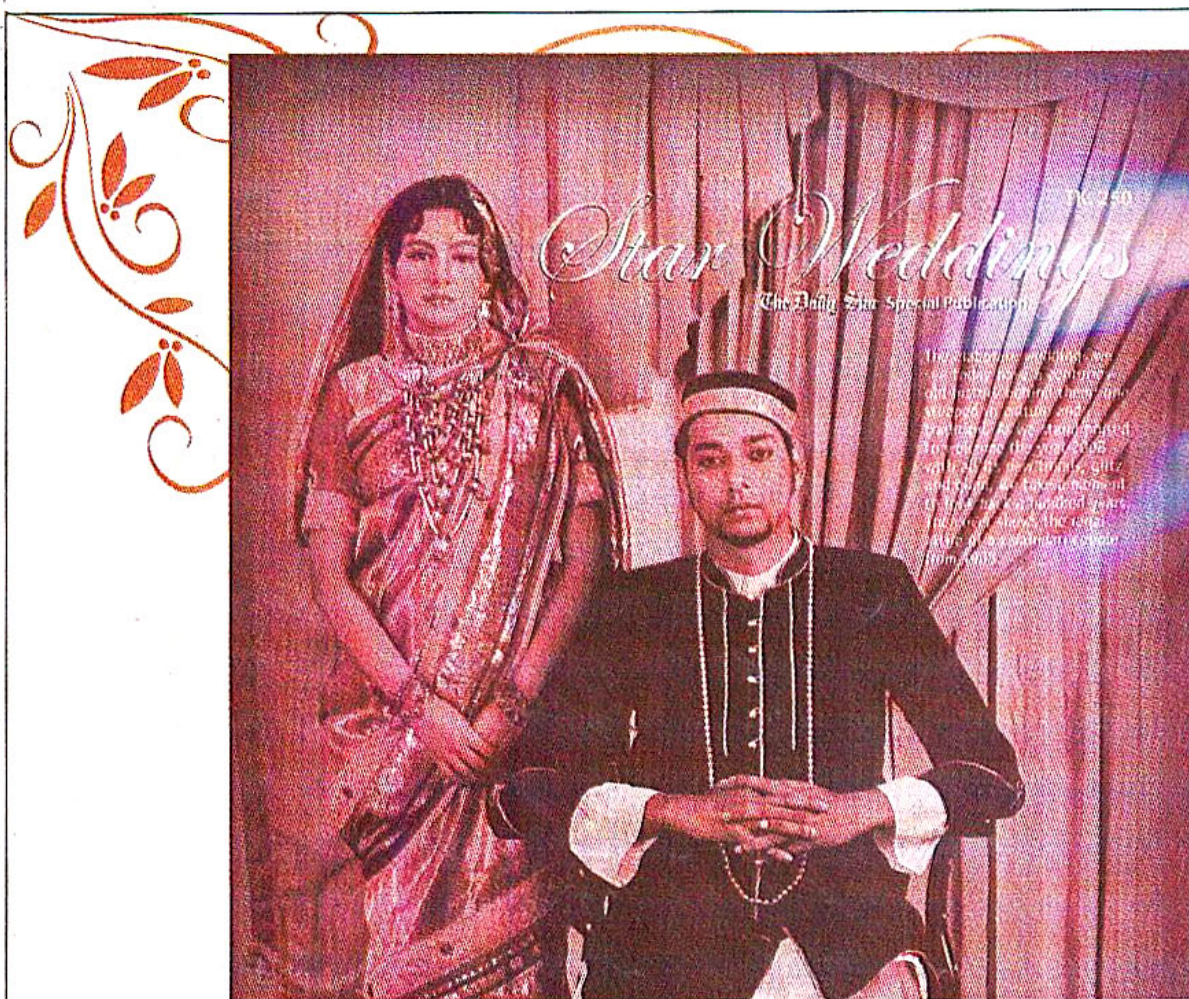
Sakandil, also known as Abdurajak Mohin, had allegedly helped carry out a string of high-profile kidnappings of foreigners from resort islands in neighbouring Malaysia and from the Philippine island of Palawan.

'Quarter of Israeli troops in West Bank witness to abuse'

AFP, Jerusalem

One in four of Israeli troops serving at the hundreds of checkpoints across the occupied West Bank have engaged in or witnessed abuse of Palestinians, an army-commissioned survey said yesterday.

Twenty-five percent of respondents said they had either taken part in, seen or heard about from colleagues about acts that included either physical or verbal abuse at the more than 500 roadblocks dotting the territory, said the report quoted by army officials and media.



This wedding season, brides will follow tradition and lead trends. Saris will absorb heritage and reflect new couture. Classic mehendi will fuse with funky tattoos. Typical instrumentals will blend with groovy tunes. For her, the test will not be one of endurance, but one of enjoyment. And the groom will stand by her, hand in hand, all they way. This wedding season brides will look extraordinary- she will shine like the brightest star. Get your copy of Star Weddings as it hits the newsstand on Monday, 17 December 2007.



Available at the following places in Dhaka

DHANMONDI: Gyankosh, Road-4, Ph#8623251 and Sobhanbagh Madrasa Market, Ph#8112441.
*Etcetera: Concord Royal Court, Plot-270/G, Road-27, Ph#9138432
*Nandan: Road-27 (Old), House#37, Ph#8127085, 8112471
*Newspaper stall, Road-3, Ph#8618230
*Newspaper stalls (New Market) #9665832 & 9669409
SHAHBAZ: Pathak Samabesh, Aziz Super Market, Ph#9662766
*Biponi Bitan (News Corner), Ph#01712-000568

*Jonaki: Sheraton Hotel, Ph#8611191 & 8613391 - Ext 4457
BALLYROAD: Sagar Publishers, Ph#9358944
MOTIJHEEL: Hotel Purbani (Book Shop), Ph#9352229-Ext 160
GULSHAN: Nandan Mega Shop, Ph#9862637, 8850049
*Etcetera: Gulshan Avenue, Road-140, Ph#8826858
*Newspaper stalls, Ph#8813932 & 8818574
*Banani: Aranya Crafts Ltd #9882542, Newspaper stall (Banani Bazar Bus Stand), Ph#01712-014929
PALTAN: Shahityo Prokash, Pritom Bhaban,

Ph#7171410
TEJGAON: Pathak Samabesh, 411, Tejgaon Link Road, Ph#9861003.
AIRPORT: The Book Worm (Old), Ph#9120387
*The Earnest Ltd. (New Airport-ZIA), Ph#8914258
KARWAN BAZAR: Kiosk, Sonargaon Hotel, Ph#8111641-Ext 4938

The Daily Star OFFICE: 19, Karwan Bazar, Ph#8124944, 8124955, 8124966
Outside Dhaka: Please ask your local newspaper agents/hawkers.

BOOK YOUR COPY NOW



An African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) peacekeeper from South Africa mans the gun on a Mamba fighting vehicle before sunrise Saturday at the Mission's base in the north Darfurian town of Kutum. The UN's Human Rights Council sought to pressure Sudan to prosecute those responsible for atrocities in Darfur and renewed the mandate for its special rapporteur in the African nation.

World powers gather in Paris to bankroll Palestinian state

AFP, Paris

Major powers and key donors meet in Paris today for a conference aimed at raising billions of dollars to help the emergence of a viable Palestinian state and give political impetus to the newly-relaunched peace process with Israel.

Ninety international delegations are expected at the one-day Conference of Donors for the Palestinian State, the biggest of its kind since 1996, which aims to shore up the process jumpstarted in the US city of Annapolis last month.

Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas is seeking 5.6 billion dollars (3.85 billion euros) spread over 2008 to 2010 for an ambitious development plan to underwrite a promised state and tackle economic hardship in the Palestinian territories.

The United States is ready to pledge more than 500 million dollars, officials in Washington said.

Delegates gathering for the occasion include UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

SONY

WHY BRAVIA LCD TV ?

BRAVIA Won 7 International Award Since 2006



Year End 2007 Special

BRAVIA

Promotion in Bangladesh

Sony LCD Television

Free
Sony DVD Player or
Huge Discount on Home Theatre

On Each Purchase Get
Special Discount
upto Tk. 85,000

Confirm Tour
Darjeeling
Bhutan
Bangkok
Nepal
(4 day 3 night)



Available at all SONY RANGS Showroom & Dealers

Sonartori Tower: 9663556, Rifles Square: 8624792, Airport Road: 811880-81, Bashundhara City: 9111440 Ext.: 405113, 01711-520109, Crescent Center: 9555519, 9563433, Stadium-1: 9555594, Stadium-2: 9552376, Stadium-3: 9554749, Mouchak: 9331870 811880-81, Lalmeta: 9118328, Gulshan-1: 9883344, Gulshan-2: 8811576, 9880516 Uttara: 8911971, Lalbag: 8629567, Luxmibazar: 7167548, Bashaba: 01199013484, Holland Centre: 8850545, Mirpur-10: 9010878, Mirpur-10: 9005843, Ibrahimpur: 9872098, Dholairpur: 7413236, Jinira: 7772026, Savar: 7742631, Khilket Bazar: 8920404, Narayanganj: 7632704, Norshindi: 63086, Gazipur: 9256925, Chowrasta Gazipur: 01715687171, Shalpur: 01726757878, Konabari: 01915349394, Maowma: 01711187717, Myrrensingh: 54881, Jamalpur: 017111787154, Kishoreganj: 55540, Sirajgonj: 01711242454, Comilla: 66567, Laksam: 01711187717, Chittagong Waza Corner: 611334, Agrabad: 712810, Rifle Club, CTG: 04434486975, Bandarila, CTG: 741328, Feni: 73514, Cox Bazar: 51130, Khagrachari: 62429, Bandarban: 62164, Rashahi: 774675, 775864, Khulna: 722905, 731698, Jessore: 67331, 01711-688462, Jessore-2: 62485, Chouruhoni: 52007, Barishal: 64062, Bogra: 72444, 64904, Sylhet: 710171, 711377, Faridpur: 66111, Hobigonj: 62289, Doultpur: 760663, Narail: 01711688457, Shalakhira: 62424, Magura: 62597, Chapainabagonj: 01712095267, Nabin: 62189, Naogaon: 01711208189, Nisabhan: 51444, 64904, Saptapadi Market, Bogra: 01712271304, Lalmonirhat: 61480, Gabandha: 61636, 01712003117, Joypurhat: 62317, 01711302007, Ishwardi: 63057, Pabna: 51813, Brahmanbaria: 52799, Ramgonj: 01712268370, Chuadanga: 01712937833, Rangpur: 62141, Dinapur: 61087, Chandpur: 67477.