

Turkish planes strike inside Iraq

AFP, Arbil

Turkish warplanes bombed three villages inside Iraq on Tuesday, targeting rebel bases in the Kurdish province of Dohuk, an official from the Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga security force said.

He said the air strike was "short", lasting for around 10 minutes shortly after midday, and hit the villages of Rikan, Shezee and Samjuhu in the region of Al-Amadiyah near the border.

"The villages were deserted," the official said on condition of anonymity.

Turkish warplanes have been regularly targeting the rear-bases of rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) inside Iraq in the past few days despite protests by Baghdad.

If confirmed, it would be the fifth Turkish military operation in the past week against the separatist PKK in northern Iraq, which Ankara says the rebels use as a springboard for attacks in Turkey.

The series of raids appear to have tacit approval of US President George W. Bush, who spoke to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday.

Turkish news agency Anatolia said Bush gave his backing for military strikes on PKK bases and that the two men hailed the cooperation in Ankara's battle against the outlawed group.

They agreed to continue sharing intelligence and again classed the PKK as a "common enemy", Anatolia said, stressing that Erdogan told Bush that Turkey's

military operations were only targeting rebels.

Turkey has stepped up pressure since its parliament approved cross-border raids on PKK bases in October, with Ankara saying the Iraqi government and its US backers were not doing enough to halt attacks.

Ankara has accused Iraqi Kurds, who run an autonomous administration in the north of the country, of tolerating and supporting the PKK.

Iraq officials have protested over the Turkish raids.

"We are not denying that Turkey has a right to defend itself from extremists but some of its actions are not serving any democratic purpose in Turkey or in Iraq," President Jalal Talabani told reporters.

Modi takes oath as Gujarat CM for 3rd term

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Ahmedabad

Narendra Modi, who led his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to a historic third consecutive victory in Gujarat, was on Tuesday sworn in as chief minister for the third time at a grand ceremony here.

Governor Naval Kishore Sharma administered the oath of office and secrecy to Modi, who was wearing his trademark half-sleeved khadi kurta and saffron angavastram and took the oath in the name of god in Gujarati.

At the end of the formal ceremony, he bowed to thousands of BJP supporters who had filled the 40,000-capacity Sardar Patel Stadium in the heart of the city.

He also greeted BJP president Rajnath Singh and veteran party

leader and mentor LK Advani who hugged him.

Also present on the occasion were senior BJP leaders, including Murli Manohar Joshi and former vice president Bhairon Singh Shekhawat. National Democratic Alliance (NDA) leaders like George Fernandes as well as chief ministers of BJP ruled states - Vasundhara Raje of Rajasthan, Shivraj Singh Chouhan of Madhya Pradesh and Raman Singh of Chhattisgarh - were present too.

Earlier a triumphant Narendra Modi on Monday sought to quash talk of him overshadowing his party, saying that he was not "bigger" than the BJP, which was his "mother". Modi was speaking to the newly-elected party MLAs who unanimously elected him as their leader for the next five years.



Chief Minister of western India's Gujarat state, Narendra Modi, (L) and Governor of Gujarat, Naval Kishore Sharma wave before the swearing-in ceremony of Modi as Chief Minister for the third time at Sardar Patel stadium in Ahmedabad yesterday.

China, India end military exercises

AFP, Beijing

China and India wrapped up their first-ever joint military exercises on Tuesday with a drill in which they "wiped out" a group of supposed terrorists along their border, state press reported.

In the mock scenario, 56 members of an unnamed international terrorist organisation had taken hostages after establishing a training base along the two nations' border, according to the Xinhua news agency.

"The final manoeuvre involved establishing a joint command

post... before wiping out a group of 'terrorists' and rescuing 'hostages'," Xinhua said.

The three-hour drill was the culmination of five days of exercises between about 100 troops from each of the two nations' militaries in southwest China's Yunnan province, which borders India.

Chinese officials had initially said the exercises were meant to last for nine days. However the Xinhua report said they were only a five-day operation, without giving a reason for the different time frame.

Kenya opposition leader confident of victory

AFP, Nairobi

Kenya's main opposition candidate said on Tuesday he was confident of victory in closely-fought presidential elections this week, saying he believed Kenyans would "vote for change".

Final opinion polls gave Raila Odinga, a flamboyant 62-year-old former political prisoner, a slight edge on President Mwai Kibaki, the 76-year-old seeking a second and final presidential term in Thursday's vote.

"We have done all that was humanly possible in these campaigns given the constraints that were there," Odinga told reporters after attending Christmas mass in the capital Nairobi.

Indian forces kill 3 militants holed up in Kashmir mosque

AP, Srinagar

Indian forces killed three suspected Islamic militants holed up in a mosque in Indian-controlled Kashmir, ending a two-day hostage standoff and sparking angry protests that injured dozens of people, police said yesterday.

"The siege is over. We have killed the three militants and rescued all the five civilians," said Hemant Lohia, a senior police officer who supervised the operation.

Later Tuesday, thousands of peo-

ple gathered in the remote village of Palnu, 60 miles south of Srinagar, to bury the dead gunmen and to protest the police operation in Kashmir.

Police beat the protesters with batons and fired tear gas and warning shots to disperse the protesters, who pelted security forces with rocks and stones, said police officer Bashir Ahmad.

Police and witnesses said dozens of people were wounded, though neither could give exact figures. Each side blamed the other for starting the violence.

13 Tigers killed in heavy fighting

AFP, Colombo

At least 13 Tamil Tiger rebels were killed on Christmas Eve in heavy clashes with Sri Lankan security forces in northern Sri Lanka, the defence ministry said Tuesday.

Six members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were killed in a confrontation in the district of Mannar on Monday while another five were killed in three separate clashes, the ministry said.

Two more Tigers were shot dead

on the same day in the Jaffna peninsula along a de facto border separating rebel-held territory, the ministry said.

The ministry also raised the estimate for the number of guerrillas killed in a clash three days ago to 22 from an earlier estimate of eight.

The claim of more rebel casualties brings the number of Tamil fighters killed since December 1 to at least 412, according to the defence ministry.

This compares with a handful of

government troops reported dead. Both sides make sharply differing claims about casualties and independent verification is rarely possible, because the press is barred from front-line and rebel-held areas.

Tens of thousands of people have died on both sides since the LTTE launched its armed struggle for a Tamil homeland in the majority Sinhalese nation in 1972. A Norwegian-brokered 2002 truce began to unravel in December 2005.



Former Indian prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee (L) talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (R) at his residence in New Delhi yesterday on the occasion of his 83rd birthday celebration.

11 die, hundreds go missing after bridge collapses in Nepal

AFP, Kathmandu

At least 11 people died and hundreds on a religious pilgrimage were missing after an overcrowded bridge collapsed in western Nepal yesterday, police and officials said.

Nearly 400 people were said to have been on the bridge across a gorge over the Bheri River 380km west of the capital Kathmandu when it collapsed, district officials and police said.

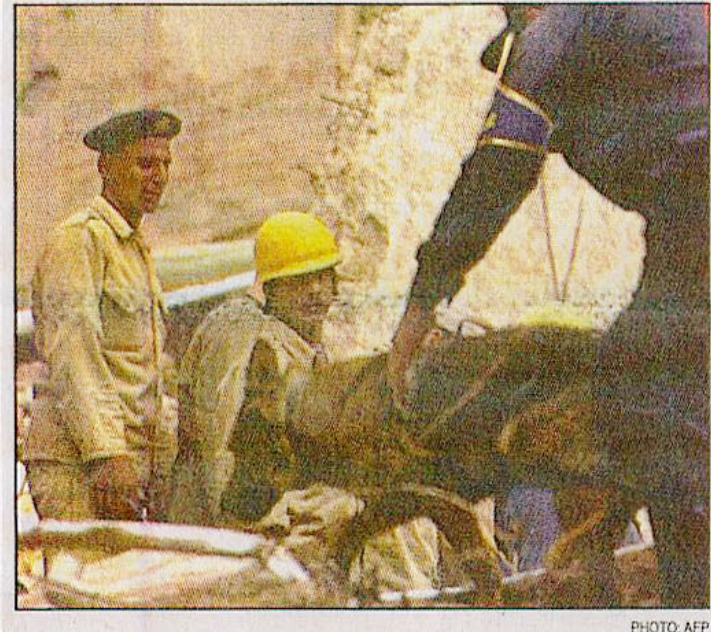
"Ten bodies were recovered on the river bank and one succumbed to injuries while being rushed to hospital," police officer Mithe Thapa Chettri told AFP by phone.

"We expect the death toll to rise," Chettri said.

Local police said as many as 35 injured, most of them women and children, had been airlifted by helicopter to the district headquarters at Birehranagar as rescue teams raced to the remote area ahead of nightfall.

"Hundreds of people went missing," local officer Ghanashyam Chaudhary told AFP by telephone, adding that many may have been swept downstream into remote areas of the mainly agricultural countryside that surrounds the Bheri, one of Nepal's largest rivers.

But as many as 100 people reportedly managed to swim to safety so far with the Bheri River at low winter season flow, Chaudhary said, but rescue teams including the army were battling cold and rugged terrain around the river.



Egyptian rescue workers use a dog to search for victims under the rubble of a building in the Egyptian port city of Alexandria yesterday. Rescue workers pulled three more bodies from the rubble.

Egypt rejects Israeli criticism on arms smuggling

AFP, Cairo

Egypt on Tuesday rejected Israeli criticism of its efforts to clamp down on arms smuggling into Gaza, also announcing the discovery of two tunnels a day before a visit by Israel's defence minister.

The foreign ministry said in a statement it "completely rejects" accusations by Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni that Egypt's actions along its border with the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip were "problematic".

"The Israeli minister would do better to concentrate on negotiation efforts with the Palestinians... instead of speaking without weighing her words about things she should not deal with without having enough information," it said.

বার্ড ফু পরিস্থিতিতেও রান্না করা মুরগির মাংস ও ডিম খাওয়া নিরাপদ। তবে অতিরিক্ত নিরাপত্তার জন্য নিম্নরূপ সাবধানতা অবলম্বন করবেন।

- ▼ সুস্থ ও তাজা দেখে মুরগি কিনুন।
- ▼ ভাল করে সিদ্ধ এবং রান্না করা ডিম ও মুরগির মাংস খান।
- ▼ মুরগি কাটা ও ধোয়ার পর সাবান ও পানি দিয়ে পরিষ্কার করে আপনার হাত ধুয়ে নেবেন।
- ▼ ব্যবহারের পরপরই ছুরি, বাঁটি আর হাঁড়িপাতিল সাবান দিয়ে ধুয়ে ফেলুন।
- ▼ ঘরে আনার পরপরই এবং রান্নার আগে সাবান-পানিতে ডিম ভালভাবে ধুয়ে নিন।
- ▼ শিশুদের হাঁস-মুরগি থেকে দূরে রাখুন। ওদেরকে হাঁস-মুরগির সংস্পর্শে আসতে দেবেন না।

প্রচারে : এডিয়ান ইনফ্রাষ্ট্রাকচার প্রিয়ার্ডেনস এন্ড রেসপন্স প্রজেক্ট
পশুসম্পদ অধিদপ্তর, মৎস্য ও পশুসম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়।

Assistant Country Director

with Concern Worldwide

We are looking for an experienced development professional to lead Concern's programme team in Bangladesh - someone with the vision to develop a strategy to transform the lives of poor people and the leadership skills to turn that strategy into actions that have a real impact on the lives of people and communities.

You will

- ensure a clear strategy for programme work is developed and that high quality, innovative and effective programmes are designed and implemented to deliver real results for the poor we work with
- enable a culture which supports effective learning and sharing across the organisation and also with the wider development community
- lead a team of programme staff in a way which empowers them to deliver sustainable changes to the lives of the poor in Bangladesh
- work with colleagues on the Senior Management Team to provide dynamic leadership for the organisation.

We are looking for someone with over 5 years experience at a senior level in the international humanitarian and development sector - managing people, budgets and the strategic delivery of projects. You will need proven experience of developing large programmes implemented through partners, securing external donor funding and incorporating rights-based, equality and advocacy approaches across development programmes. You will have a Masters degree, preferably in a development related subject. You will be results oriented and an effective communicator with a commitment to developing the full potential of our staff and excellent conceptual thinking skills.

If you have what it takes, and the commitment to Concern Worldwide's values and vision, please send us a copy of your CV, together with a covering letter explaining why you feel you fulfil our requirements to Human Resource Department, Concern Worldwide, P.O Box 650, Dhaka 1000. We also need a passport sized photo and details of 3 referees.

Please mark the envelope with position applied for. Any canvassing will result in disqualification.

We particularly encourage female applicants for this position.

Last date of application- **15 January 2008**

Concern values diversity in the workplace and is a committed equal opportunity employer. We encourage applications from all suitable candidates regardless of gender, race, family or marital status, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, disability, class, caste or religion.

Concern is an equal opportunity employer