

Manmohan in China for boosting partnership

AFP, Beijing

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh arrived here yesterday for talks with China's leaders as the two most populous nations look to turn their combined clout into a major force in global affairs.

It is the first visit by an Indian premier in five years as the Asian powerhouses, who account for one-third of the world's people, try to set aside lingering disputes and establish a partnership on the international stage.

"India-China relations have today transcended their bilateral dimension and have acquired global and strategic significance," Singh told China's state Xinhua news agency in an interview ahead of the trip.

He said he hoped to discuss a wide range of issues with Chinese leaders including UN reforms, regional dialogue and global issues such as climate change, energy security, international trade and counter-terrorism.



Visiting Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (4th L) reaches for the handrail as he steps off an Air India aircraft on arrival in Beijing yesterday. A protracted dispute over undefined borders and trade gap will be the focus of the three-day state visit by the Indian prime minister in China.

Bush pushes democracy in Gulf nations

AP, Abu Dhabi

President Bush is praising small democratic advances in Gulf nations ruled by authoritarian family dynasties, while reassuring the oil-rich US allies that he does not seek confrontation with Iran in their backyard.

Midway through an eight-day Middle East trip showcasing a renewed push for an Israeli-

Palestinian peace pact, Bush was in the United Arab Emirates on Sunday where he was to deliver a speech, gently prodding the slowly liberalising Arab states. His address, reprising his call for democracy in the Middle East and other places where it is scarce, was planned at an opulent, gold-trimmed hotel here where a suite goes for \$2,450 a night.

"He will talk about how democracy and advancing freedom is the

core of our country's foreign policy, and that he believes it is in our interest to have security through democracies," White House press secretary Dana Perino said. Perino said Bush's speech will make the point that "in a free society, elections are important, but they're not the only thing that's important." She said the speech will note the contributions of universities and other institutions to a free society.

9 policemen killed in Taliban attack

AP, Kandahar

A pair of militant attacks killed nine police officers in southern Afghanistan yesterday and the Netherlands announced that two of its soldiers had been killed in fighting in the south.

Taliban militants killed eight officers in an attack on a police checkpoint in Kandahar province, said Sadullah Khan, a police officer in neighbouring Neven district. A suicide bomber killed another policeman and wounded eight other people when he blew himself up in a housing compound in the town of Lashkar Gah in neighbouring Helmand province, officials said.

Guards challenged the bomber when he tried to enter the house of a regional police commander and the man detonated himself, killing the policeman and wounding two children, four civilians and two other police officers, provincial police chief Mohammad Hussain Andia said.

The Netherlands' Defence Ministry said two Dutch soldiers - a 20-year-old private and a 22-year-old corporal - were killed and in southern Afghanistan Saturday.

Two Uzbek militants killed in Pak clash

AFP, Wana

Two Uzbek militants were killed yesterday when a group of them attacked the house of a pro-government tribal elder in Pakistan's troubled tribal region near the Afghan border, officials said.

The pre-dawn clash erupted when dozens of "miscreants" launched an attack on the house of Khan Khannan in South Waziristan district, local administration official Ayaz Mandokhel told AFP.

Khannan's men guarding the house retaliated and killed two Uzbek militants, he said, adding that "their bodies were still lying in the area." Other militants fled after the clash, he said.

Khannan is a pro-government elder in Shakai where gunmen earlier this week shot dead six members of a tribal peace committee.

The tribesmen blame those killings on Baitullah Mehsud, a leading Taliban warlord who has also been accused by the Pakistani government of masterminding the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto last month.

US spreading anti-Iran sentiment: Tehran

AP, Tehran

Iran charged Sunday that the United States was trying to spread anti-Iranian sentiment in the Middle East by accusing Iranian boats of threatening US warships in the Persian Gulf.

The US has said an Iranian fleet of high-speed boats zoomed dangerously close to a three-ship US Navy convoy passing near Iranian waters on Jan. 6 in the Strait of Hormuz. The Iranian boats veered away as the American ship commanders were preparing to open fire.

Iran has insisted its boats never threatened the US ships and that the incident was a normal occurrence in the Gulf waters.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Ali Hosseini reiterated Sunday that the incident was not unusual and would not affect Iran's policies in the region. He accused the Bush administration of trying to stir up tensions in the Gulf.

Bush assured Israel over Gaza violence: Olmert

AFP, Jerusalem

US President George W. Bush has assured Israel that no peace deal with the Palestinians will be implemented until violence from Hamas-run Gaza stops, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said on Sunday.

Bush gave the assurance during his first presidential visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories last week during which he said he was "very hopeful" the two sides could sign a peace treaty within a year, Olmert said at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting.

"He repeated the United States' complete commitment that the implementation of an agreement between us and the Palestinian Authority will not be carried out on the ground before the full implementation of the roadmap on all its commitments regarding Israel's security, both in the Gaza Strip and in Judaea and Samaria (the West Bank)," he said.

"There is no separation between the Gaza Strip and Judaea and Samaria when it comes to Palestinian commitments," Olmert said.

Vital aid to Lanka could be halted

Says Japanese envoy

AFP, Colombo

Japan's peace envoy opened talks in Sri Lanka on Sunday, hinting international donors may hold back much-needed foreign aid if the island's decades-long ethnic conflict escalates, officials said.

Yasushi Akashi, who arrived in Sri Lanka for three days of crucial talks on Sunday, met the Marxist JVP, the main left party, for an hour-long discussion, the party said in a statement.

"While Japan and other international donors give a lot of aid to Sri Lanka, Mr Akashi indicated that donors may call off aid, given the current ground situation," the JVP said.

Tokyo is the biggest bilateral aid giver to Sri Lanka, which is battling a 36-year-old Tamil separatist conflict that has claimed more than

60,000 lives since 1972.

Finance ministry figures here show that Japan gave nearly 200 million dollars to Sri Lanka between January and September last year.

Akashi's visit comes amidst mounting bloodshed since the government decided this month to pull out of a tattered Norway-brokered 2002 truce with the Tamil Tiger rebels.

The envoy will not travel to the rebel-held areas in the north for talks with the guerrillas, but will meet with Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse and other government officials, the Japanese embassy here said.

Ahead of his visit, Sri Lanka's army beefed up security in cities across the island, deploying troops in public places including in the capital Colombo, which has been

rocked by several deadly blasts this month.

"We have given special attention to security in schools and public places where more people tend to gather," military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said.

Police have also imported 33,000 dollars' worth of explosive detectors to be deployed at check points and busy public areas, police chief Victor Perera said Sunday.

He said police were looking at installing closed circuit television systems at key points in Colombo.

Heavy fighting across Sri Lanka's northern frontier continued leaving at least 29 rebels dead over the weekend, the military said Sunday, placing their own losses at two soldiers killed and eight injured.

Waterboarding 'would be torture',

Says US intelligence czar

AFP, Washington

US intelligence czar Mike McConnell, in an interview released yesterday, equated waterboarding with torture, and denied that the United States uses torture when questioning terror suspects.

"Waterboarding would be excruciating," the director of national security said in an interview in the New Yorker magazine said of the simulated drowning technique that many regard as torture.

"If I had water draining into my nose, oh God, I just can't imagine how painful! Whether it's torture by anybody else's definition, for me it would be torture," he said.

When asked to define torture, McConnell replied: "My own definition of torture is something that would cause excruciating pain."

While denying that US officials sanctioned the torture of terror suspects, McConnell told the New Yorker that the Central Intelligence Agency's "special methods" of interrogation had yielded "meaningful" intelligence.

"Have we gotten meaningful information? You betcha. Tons! Does it save lives? Tons! We've gotten incredible information."

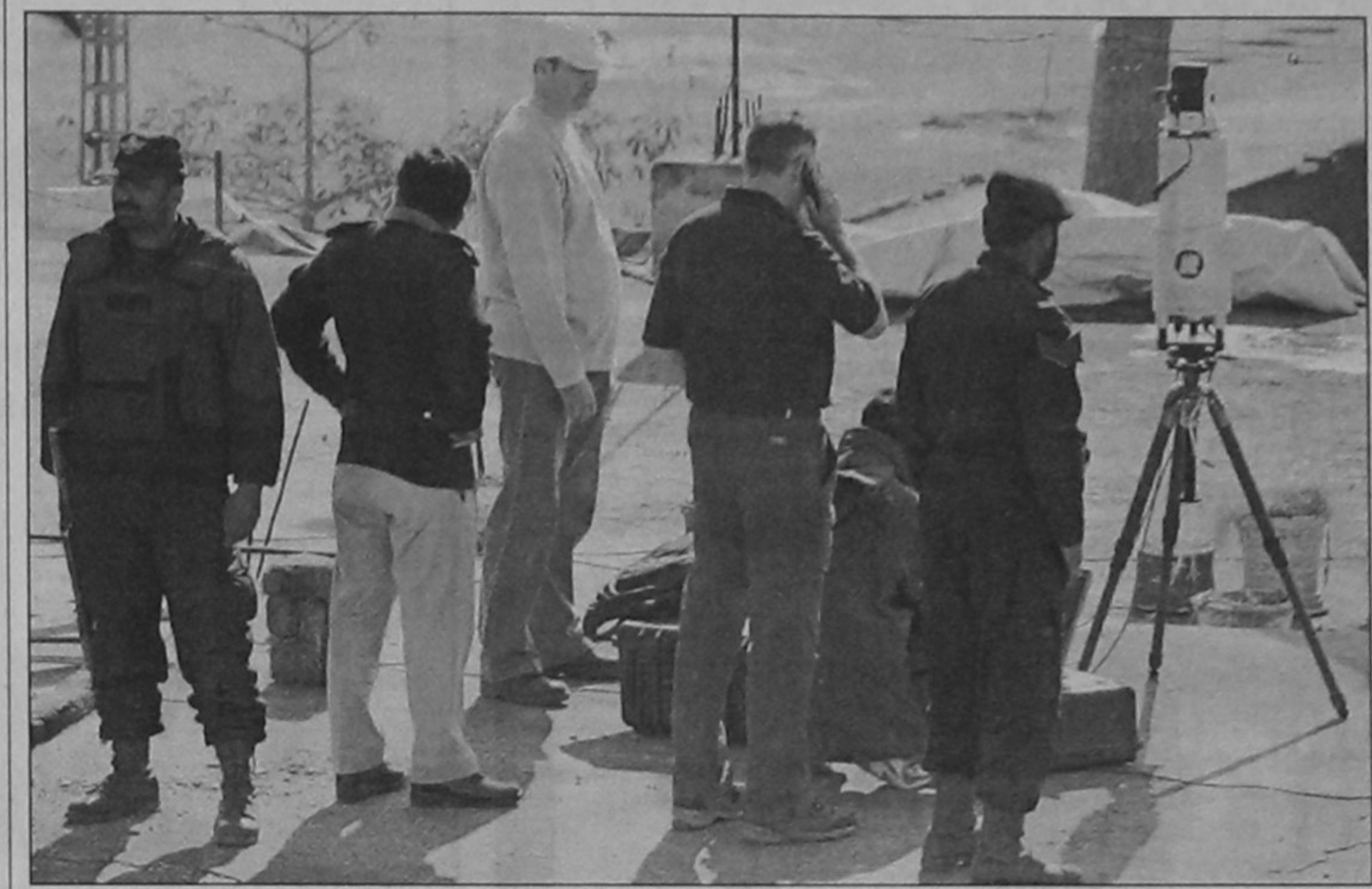
Republican candidates stump in Michigan

AP, Ypsilanti

Mitt Romney and John McCain argued about their concern for the auto industry, while Mike Huckabee spotlighted his opposition to abortion, as the Republican presidential contenders campaigned Saturday before Michigan's potentially make-or-break primary.

Romney, seeking a rebound in Tuesday's primary after losing to Huckabee in the Iowa caucuses and McCain in the New Hampshire primary, made an impromptu stop at a General Motors plant near here after 200 layoffs were announced last week.

He pledged to make restoring the domestic auto industry, once the linchpin of Michigan's economy, a top priority if elected president.



Pakistani police provide security to the members of a Scotland Yard team investigating the assassination of Pakistan's former opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, at the site where she was killed, during an investigation in Rawalpindi yesterday. Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf, in a US magazine interview released on January 11, called for the body of Benazir to be exhumed as he rejected charges that the government was complicit in her assassination.

VACANCY

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1.	Associate Professor	01	60 yrs. (Max)	Negotiable	Ph. D in Public Administration, Economics, International Relations and Multidisciplinary subjects with emphasis in economics and Public policy, with a minimum of 7 years experience in teaching/research in a reputed University/Research Institute or similar organization. Should have original research works published in recognized research journals. Period of experience may be relaxed in case of specially qualified candidates. Degrees from reputed Universities abroad will be preferred. No 3 <sup>rd</sup> Division/Class in any examination.
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3.	Director	01	60 (Max)	Tk. 20,000/- (Consolidated)	Masters Degree in any subjects in social science preferably in public/business Administration/Economic/Finance/Accounting with at least 10 years experience of training/education management and finance in a Managerial position preferably with experience related to training/educational institutions. Preference will be given to recently retired officers from BCS Cadre of the rank Joint/Deputy secretaries with required qualifications.
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STANDARD BANK LIMITED a modern progressive bank with a vision in its rapid expansion program invites application from experienced BANKERS & IT PROFESSIONALS who are challenge striving, dynamic, proactive, self-motivated & performance oriented with excellent consistent professional track record having the under mentioned qualities, experience & abilities for filling up the following positions:

Sl. No.	Position	Eligibility Criteria
1.	Branch Manager (VP/SAVP/AVP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post Graduation (Preferably in Commerce Background)</li> <li>The incumbent should have minimum 5 years managerial Experience in large &amp; high profile AD branch.</li> <li>Should have at least 14/12/10 years' experience in Banking including 2 years as SAVP/AVP/SEO or in any equivalent post.</li> <li>Having sound &amp; adequate knowledge of General Banking, International Banking i.e. Export &amp; Import Function, Lending Operations &amp; Credit Management in any large AD branch.</li> <li>Age in forties.</li> <li>Should be articulate, innovative, self-driven/motivated &amp; result oriented with proven track record of leadership quality. Computer literacy &amp; fluency in English is desirable.</li> </ul>
2.	(SEO/EO/SO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Post Graduation (Preferably in Commerce Background)</li> <li>Should have at least 8/6/4 years experience including 2 years as EO/SO/Officer or in any equivalent post.</li> <li>Having sound &amp; adequate knowledge of General Banking, International Banking i.e. Export &amp; Import Function, Lending Operations &amp; Credit Management in any large AD branch.</li> <li>Age in thirties.</li> <li>Should be articulate, innovative, self-driven/motivated &amp; result oriented with proven track record of leadership quality. Computer literacy &amp; fluency in English is desirable.</li> </ul>
3.	Head of IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must have B.Sc. in Computer Science/Engineering from any reputed recognized university. BUET graduate will be preferred.</li> <li>Minimum 10 years' practical experience in the field of IT in any reputed organization is required out of which at least 5 years banking experience in IT Division in any full length online bank.</li> <li>The incumbent will be primarily responsible for overall supervision, implementation &amp; follow up of core banking software system, training, budgeting, strategic &amp; technical planning, formulating IT policy as well as to ensure operation of the division smoothly &amp; effectively.</li> </ul>
4.	IT Officer (Software/ Network/ Hardware)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The incumbent is preferably being a graduate in computer science/engineering from any reputed university with minimum CGPA of 3.00.</li> <li>Certification on OCP in DBA and developer track, CCNA, RHCE, MCSE, A+ is preferable.</li> <li>Candidates must have minimum 5 years of practical experience in relevant fields in a reputed organization, candidates having banking experience will be given preference.</li> <li>Practical experience on software development, implementation, support in Oracle platform and Java, JSP with struts framework, eclipse, log4j, Ant, iReport, Tomcat web server are a strong plus.</li> <li>Candidates should have capability to configure Cisco Routers, Switches, Firewall Device, routing protocols (OSPF, RIP, EIGRP, IP), Security and VPN, monitoring and management of the same.</li> <li>Must have sound and strong knowledge about installation of operating system, Anti virus software, Regular up-gradation of anti-virus, XP, Windows 2003 server, NT, Linux, Unix, LAN Cabling, HUB/ Switch.</li> <li>For details information please visit <a href="http://www.standardbankbd.com">http://www.standardbankbd.com</a> (Human Resource).</li> </ul>

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