



An Iraqi police commando secures the area as Iraqi engineers demonstrate in front of their syndicate's headquarters in Baghdad's al-Mansur neighbourhood yesterday for pay hike.

9 dead in Turkish train Accident

AP, Ankara

A passenger train derailed in Turkey early Sunday, killing at least 9 people and injuring 24, possibly due to ice on the tracks, authorities and media reports said. It was the nation's fifth major rail accident in less than four years. Two cars rolled over when the train from Istanbul to the southern city of Denizli derailed near the city of Kutahya, the prime minister's office said. It was not immediately clear how many passengers were aboard at the time of the accident. The bodies of nine passengers were recovered so far and at least 24 others were injured, NTV television said. CNN-Turk television put the injury toll at 50. Railway authorities suspected that the train might have been derailed at a turn because of ice on the tracks, the state-run Anatolia news agency reported.

Pak troops kill 25 militants, retake tunnel: Officials

AFP, Peshwar

Pakistani security forces retook control of a major road tunnel in the northwest late Sunday after a day of fighting in which at least 24 militants were killed, the army said. Militants had occupied the Japanese-built tunnel in the lawless town of Darra Adam Khel on Friday, blocking traffic between the main city of Peshawar in North West Frontier Province and the city of Kohat. Residents said hundreds of vehicles were stranded on both sides of the tunnel, as the militants had erected barricades on the road to the tunnel. "The security forces have cleared the Kohat tunnel and taken its control after fighting which killed 24 people," an army official said, requesting anonymity. Earlier, Pakistan artillery backed by gunship helicopters pounded militant positions to dislodge them from their bunkers on hills overlooking the tunnel, military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas told AFP. The unrest started after mil-

itants seized four military trucks loaded with ammunition on Thursday. Abbas said 25 militants were killed in the operation on Saturday. On Friday troops said they killed 30 rebels and lost two soldiers in Darra Adam Khel, which is known for its weapons bazaar and illegal arms manufacturing factories. Security officials said Darra Adam Khel had recently become a stronghold of the banned Sunni Muslim extremist group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, which is said to have links to al-Qaeda.

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Kremlin critic ejected from presidential election

AFP, Moscow

Russian election officials on Sunday refused to register former premier turned Kremlin-critic Mikhail Kasyanov for the March presidential polls to replace President Vladimir Putin. The Central Elections Commission (CEC) said there were too many invalid signatures in the list of two million that Kasyanov was required to gather from supporters across the country. Under election rules a maximum of five percent of the signatures can be declared invalid, while in Kasyanov's case 13.36 percent were rejected, the commission said. Kasyanov served as prime minister under Putin from 2000-2004 but has since joined forces with the Kremlin leader's fiercest critics, such as chess legend Garry Kasparov.

Palestinian leader George Habash dies in Amman

AFP, Amman

George Habash, the ailing founder of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), died on Saturday in Amman at the age of 82, Jordanian and Palestinian officials said. The Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Atallah Khairy, said Habash was hospitalised in Amman 10 days ago with heart problems and died on Saturday shortly after 8 pm (1800 GMT). Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas paid tribute to the "historic leader" and ordered flags to be flown at half-mast for three days in the Palestinian territories in mourning for his death. "The death of this historic leader is a great loss for the Palestinian cause and for the Palestinian people for whom he fought for 60 years," Abbas said in a statement. Habash stepped down as head of the Damascus-based PFLP in July 2000 after having led the faction, which is a key component of the Palestine Liberation Organisation for more than 30 years. He had been living in Jordan, the homeland of his wife, after an illness forced his retirement from political life. The PFLP under Habash had hijacked airliners to Jordan and he called for the overthrow of Jordan's monarchy in 1970 before the Black September clashes in which the Jordanian army expelled the PLO from the kingdom.

Arms recovered from Maoist hideout in Bihar

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Patna

A huge cache of arms and ammunition has been recovered from a Maoist hideout in Bihar's Gaya district during a raid, police said yesterday. The hideout was located near a forest under Fatehpur block in Gaya, around 100 kms from Patna. However, no arrests were made. The area, which is near the Jharkhand border, is considered to be a stronghold of the outlawed Communist Party of India-Maoist. "During a combing operation, we recovered sophisticated arms and ammunition dumped by Maoists in their hideout," said a police official in Gaya. Last year, explosives were twice seized from Maoist hideouts in the area. Amid a Maoist threat to Republic Day functions on Saturday, police had begun combing operations two days ago in Gaya and other districts. The fear of Maoists had prevented dozens of schools in Gaya from holding Republic Day ceremonies.

Lankan troops kill 43 Tigers in fresh fighting

AFP, Colombo

Heavy fighting in northern Sri Lanka left 43 Tamil Tiger rebels and a government soldier dead, the defence ministry said yesterday. The soldier was killed in clashes on Saturday between the military and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) outside their de facto mini-state, the ministry said. It said two civilians were also killed by suspected Tamil Tiger rebels. Security forces recovered a large haul of explosives and weapons following the fighting, the ministry said in its statement. There was no immediate comment from the Tigers. Since the start of the month, the ministry has claimed government forces have killed 709 rebels against just 28 soldiers.

Sri Lanka's defence secretary has called for a ban on the Tamil Tigers and said the ongoing military campaign was aimed at destroying the rebels' top leaders, a report said Saturday. Rajapakse, who is President Mahinda Rajapakse's younger brother, said the military had started a campaign to capture rebel-held areas in the island's north, after securing the east last year. "We have started our thrust from all sides, from Jaffna, Mannar, Vavuniya and Welis Oya. It is done in a systematic manner. We don't plan to stop," Rajapakse was quoted as saying by the Sinhala-language Lankadeepa newspaper. Sri Lankan army chief Sarath Fonseka also told state television that the issue of whether the Tiger chief was alive or dead was "irrelevant as he is as good as dead." Fonseka said the rebels were not "finished" yet but "weakened".

The LTTE (Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam) will collapse," the defence secretary said, adding that it was time the government reinstated a ban on the Tigers. The rebels were banned for a period of five years till mid-2003, when the then government moved to re-start peace talks under a 2002-Norwegian brokered truce. The government pulled out of the ceasefire this month, leading to the departure of Nordic monitoring teams. "They (the LTTE) should be banned. Our aim is to destroy the LTTE," he said. Sri Lankan army chief Sarath Fonseka also told state television that the issue of whether the Tiger chief was alive or dead was "irrelevant as he is as good as dead." Fonseka said the rebels were not "finished" yet but "weakened".

Afghanistan opposes Ashdown as UN envoy

AFP, London

Paddy Ashdown, the international community's former envoy to Bosnia, should not be the United Nations' new representative in Afghanistan, the country's ambassador to the world body has told the BBC. In an interview published on the broadcaster's website late Saturday, Zahir Tanin confirmed a newspaper report that Afghan President Hamid Karzai wanted to block Ashdown's appointment. The Times quoted unnamed diplomats as saying Saturday that Karzai thought Ashdown wanted too much power and had raised his objection with British Prime Minister Gordon Brown and US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice this week.

US claims Qaeda using children as Iraqi suicide bombers

AFP, Baghdad

Al-Qaeda is using children as suicide bombers in Iraq, with at least two attacks in the past week committed by 15-year-olds, a US military commander claimed on Sunday. "We are not sure whether one of these children even knew he was being used to deliver a bomb," Rear Admiral Gregory Smith told a news conference in Baghdad. One attack was carried out at a funeral ceremony near Tikrit, executed dictator Saddam Hussein's home town 180 kilometres (110 miles) north of Baghdad and the other was at a school in the northern city of Mosul, Smith said. He gave no details of the two bombings. Iraqi police said 17 people died in a January 21 suicide blast at the funeral ceremony near Tikrit for relatives of an Iraqi police colonel. "al-Qaeda in Iraq is trying to brainwash children with hate and death... they seek to create a culture of violence, hate and despair," said Smith. "They are sending 15-year-old boys on suicide missions to spread death and helplessness." Smith quoted Sheikh Ahmed Abu Reesha, leader of the "Anbar Awakening" that has ended much of al-Qaeda's hold over western Iraq, as saying that the Jihadis were using suicide bombers as a last resort.

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Annan pushes for peace as Kenyan death toll mounts

AFP, Nairobi

Kofi Annan on Sunday pushed for peace and dialogue in Kenya as ethnic violence spread in western regions where the death toll from recent days surpassed 100. Nine people were killed as gangs of youths wreaked havoc in a slum district of the lakeside town Naivasha, an AFP correspondent said, raising the death toll in western Rift Valley province since Thursday night to 116. Earlier, a national police commander said that at least 17 people had been killed overnight in the Rift Valley towns of Nakuru and Timbora. Bodies in the morgues and hospitals of the provincial capital Nakuru bore arrow and machete wounds. Former UN chief Kofi Annan, on his sixth day in Kenya Sunday, met with opposition leader Raila Odinga at a Nairobi hotel, as police gathered the charred and hacked remains of victims of the most recent clashes in the west. More than 850 people have been killed, according to an AFP tally of police and hospital figures, since the widely disputed December 27 election touched off a wave of deadly rioting and ethnic killings. Some 260,000 people across the country have been forced to flee their homes. Police confirmed that an unspecified number of people had died in ethnic clashes between youths in Naivasha's Kabati slums Sunday. "We have deaths," said local police commander Willy Lugusa. An AFP correspondent counted five charred bodies lying in houses, three others that had been hacked to death, and said one policeman had been accidentally shot dead by a colleague. "It started when a group of about 100 youths divided into two groups," the police commander said. "One group blocked the road and started stoning motorists and another group attacked Kabati slums, torched houses and attacked people."

Dhaka City Corporation Office of the Executive Engineer Mechanical Division-2 Dhalpur, Outfall, Dhaka www.dhakacity.org Invitation for Tender (IFT) Memo No: XEN (Mech-2)/08/07-08 Date: 22/01/2008



Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (C) and First Lady Kristiani (L) pay their respect to the late president Suharto at the Suharto's residence in Jakarta yesterday.

Suharto's death ends another chapter for Asia's strongmen

AFP, Jakarta

With the death of Indonesia's Suharto, Asia has lost another of its so-called "strongmen" -- the authoritarian and mostly pro-Western rulers who dominated for much of the late 20th century. From his seizure of power in 1966 until his downfall in 1998, Suharto ruled Indonesia according to a model favouring market-driven economic growth ringed by repressive social control. It was an approach common elsewhere in Asia too, justified by a notion that "you need a strong ruler to keep order and bring countries into a modern age, an industrialised age," according to Greg Fealy, an academic at the Australian National University. The politics of the Cold War era, with the constant spectre of a communist threat, also "favoured strong states and strong leaders," he said, even if it came at the inevitable expense of civil rights. Some, like Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines, ostentatiously amassed huge wealth for themselves and cronies. Others, like South Korea's Park Chung-hee, were more personally austere while their countries prospered. Suharto's contemporaries were not cut entirely from the same cloth either. Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew and Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad were doubtlessly authoritarian, but not to the extent of iron-willed autocrats such as General Ne Win of Myanmar, whose isolationist rule meant that, unlike the others, he was no darling of the West. Keeping a tough guy image was optional for such strongmen. After a speech in 1974 by Park was interrupted by an assassination attempt that missed him but killed his wife, the South Korean leader returned to the podium and finished his speech. Lee, by contrast, famously shed public tears over his fledgling country's forced separation from Malaysia in 1965, a counter-point to the schoolmasterly authoritarianism with which he micromanaged Singaporean life. Some of Asia's authoritarian old school have remained close. Mahathir and Lee -- both now in their eighties -- flew to the Indonesian capital Jakarta to visit Suharto as he lay dying in hospital. The common thread connecting Asia's autocrats was a conviction that Western liberal democracy would not work at home and would even be dangerous, Harold Crouch, an Australian Indonesia expert, told AFP.

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গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার সমবায় অধিদপ্তর, সমবায় ভবন, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭। মার্ক নং-১৬/৯৯-প্রচার (২য় অংশ)/১৪ তারিখ: ২২/০১/০৮ মুদ্রণ কাজের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি সমবায় উন্নয়ন তহবিলের অর্থব্যয়ে ২০০৮ ও ২০০৯ সালে সমবায় পত্রিকা (বাংলা ভাষা, ত্রৈমাসিক) আট সংখ্যা, কো-অপারেটিভ নিউজ লেটার (বাংলা ও ইংরেজী ভাষা, ত্রৈমাসিক) আট সংখ্যা এবং কো-অপারেশন জার্নাল (ইংরেজী ভাষা, বার্ষিক) চার সংখ্যা মুদ্রণের উদ্দেশ্যে অগ্রহী প্রকৃত ব্যাচনামা ও সু-প্রতিষ্ঠিত মুদ্রণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহের নিকট থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। বিভিন্ন প্রকারের প্রকাশনার বিবরণসহ দরপত্রের সিডিউল প্রতিবেদন ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মূল্যে আগামী ৩১/০১/০৮ ইং তারিখ হতে ১৭/০২/০৮ ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে প্রচার ও প্রকাশনা শাখা, সমবায় অধিদপ্তর, সমবায় ভবন, আগারগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২০৭ হতে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। দরপত্রের সঙ্গে ১৭,০০০/- (সতের হাজার) টাকা আদায়ের মনি "মাসিক সমবায়" শিরোনামে তফসিল ভুক্ত ব্যাংকের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পেঅর্ডার আকারে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে। দরপত্রসমূহ আগামী ১৮/০২/০৮ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সমবায় অধিদপ্তরের প্রচার ও প্রকাশনা শাখার রক্ষিত টেন্ডার ব্যাগে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে এবং এদিন বেলা ১.৩০ ঘটিকায় দরপত্রদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হবে। যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে। (জাহাঙ্গীর আলম উইয়া) উপ-নির্বাহক (পিপি) সমবায় অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।