INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan blasts rock Qaeda policies

AP, Lahore

Pakistan's crisis deepened after two suicide bombings killed 27. people and wounded more than 200 in this on the city's main Mall Road, pressure grew for more dialogue Musharrafis a pimp!" with militants as a new government prepares to take office.

It was the first major act of terrorism since former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and slain opposition declined to speculate about have caused civilian casualties and leader Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan whether the Lahore residence of People's Party announced over the Bhutto's widower, Asif Ali Zardari, weekend that they would form a located less than 50 yards away, ers are urging a rethink. coalition government aimed at was the intended target. reducing the powers of President Pervez Musharraf, a U.S. ally.

ing from unruly tribal regions to government emerges. the eastern cultural capital of Lahore, an increasing number of ties, telling them all, 'We will work isolation resulting in heavy casual-Pakistanis are questioning with whoever emerges as the lead-Musharraf's approach to counter- ership," said assistant secretary of civilians. ing al-Qaida and the Taliban. Musharraf's opponents say punitive military action has only fueled goal was "to continue support to and Pakistan to focus on Iraq and the violence.

Musharraf quickly condemned

Court dismisses

another charge

against Zardari

quashed another graft charge

AP, Islamabad

Party (PPP).

the "savage" bombings. But some enraged Lahore residents blamed Musharraf. They gathered in small groups Tuesday normally peaceful city Tuesday, and chanting "Musharraf is a dog! killed four people at a navy training

> The second blast on Tuesday all but flattened the office of an advertising agency in the affluent Model Town neighborhood. Officials heavy-handed operations that

In Washington, the State member of Musharraf's former Department signaled a willingness With such attacks now spread- to work closely with whatever new

> "We have talked to all the par- end the impoverished region's state Richard Boucher. But he also made plain the administration's then "outsourced" the war to NATO

Lahore has now suffered three take.

Pak bomb victims buried AFP, Lahore

Mourners offered funeral prayers yesterday for 27 people killed in two suicide blasts in Pakistan. which have piled pressure on the incoming government to tackle Islamic militancy.

Senior police and government officials attended a special ceremony for 12 employees of the Federal Investigation Agency who died when one of the bombs targeted their headquarters in the eastern city of Lahore on Tuesday.

Meanwhile two policemen were killed as they tried to defuse a roadside bomb in troubled northwestern Pakistan, while two Islamic militants died in a blast at their house, officials said.

The incidents occurred in the picturesque Swat Valley, a former tourist spot where security forces have been battling Taliban and Al-Qaeda linked militants led by a radical cleric since late last year.

Security was tight for the traditional Muslim service in the country's cultural capital as grim-faced police officers raised their hands to the sky in memory of their col-

28 more Tigers killed in Sri Lanka

AFP, Colombo

At least another 28 Tamil Tiger rebels have been killed by security forces in fresh fighting across Sri Lanka's embattled north, the defence ministry said yesterday.

The overnight clashes were in the districts of Jaffna, Vavuniya and Mannar, the ministry said adding that four soldiers were wounded in the fighting.

So far this year, the defence ministry has reported that security forces have killed at least 2,015 rebels, against the loss of 123 government soldiers.

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

alliance.

to serve with him.

AFP, Tehran

parliament.

The new ethnic Chinese chief

minister of Malaysia's Penang state

on yesterday picked a Malay and an

Indian as his deputies, underlining

the opposition's multiracial image.

Democratic Action Party (DAP),

was appointed chief minister

Tuesday after a stunning perfor-

mance in weekend polls which

handed Penang and three other

states to a three-party opposition

nation's richest states and the only

one dominated by ethnic Chinese,

Khairuddin from the Keadilan

Ramasamy, a former political

science lecturer at the National

Iranian political factions vesterday

made a final effort to win votes on

the last full day of a brief and muted

campaign for an election expected

to consolidate hardliners' grip on

mass turnout to send a message to

the West amid mounting tension

on the Iranian nuclear programme.

But the election has been marred

by the mass disqualification of

election. Those who put pressure

"We hope to have a glorious

hundreds of reformist hopefuls.

The authorities have urged a agency.

party and the DAP's P. Ramasamy

Lim, who will govern one of the

Lim Guan Eng, head of the

The government numbers cannot be independently verified as Colombo bars journalists and rights groups from frontline areas.

Copernicus first edition up for sale

AFP, Tokyo

A bookseller is offering a rare first edition of Nicolaus Copernicus' revolutionary book on the solar ystem at a Tokyo fair.

Price: 1.5 million dollars. Credit cards accepted.

The book, published in 1543 and entitled in Latin "De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium, Libri VI," carries a diagram that shows the Earth and other planets revolving around the sun, countering the prevailing geocentric theory.

There only are a little more than 300 copies of the first edition around the world and most are in libraries, according to Jonathan A. Hill Bookseller Inc. of New York, which is selling the book.

The first edition is on offer at the Tokyo International Antiquarian Bookfair, which opened Wednesday for a three-day run.

Jonathan Hill, the owner of the store, said he was "very optimistic" about finding a buyer but that the price could be negotiated.

The copy, originally owned by a cardinal despite the Roman Catholic Church's ban, has an errata leaf bound in before the title page, which is found in only 20 percent of all known copies of the book, he said.

University of Malaysia, described ment-friendly media has changed his appointment as "an historic its tone after shock election gains

Penang minister unveils

Chicago now has one of the most extensive rooftop garden programs in the world.

multiracial line-up

This City of Chicago Department of Environment handout shows a rooftop garden in Chicago, Illinois. Nestled atop Chicago's

neoclassical city hall lies a secret garden hidden to all but those peering out of the widows of neighboring office towers. Dozens

more dot the rooftops of shops, restaurants, businesses and other city buildings in a patchwork of green aimed at cooling the

concrete jungle. Some four million square feet of rooftop gardens have been planted in the seven years since the first plants were

placed atop city hall as part of a broader effort to reduce the city's carbon footprint. Inspired by similar programs in Europe,

Oasis in concrete jungle

Indian deputy chief minister before and the appointment shows day. the DAP is living up to its electoral promise to represent all races," he

Analysts said Lim's efforts will cement the opposition's unprecedented polls performance against the Barisan Nasional -- a coalition of 14 race-based parties -- and recast the image of the DAP as a Chinese-based party.

appointed Mohammad Fairus emerged as a truly multiracial splashed on front pages. party, with lawmakers and supporters from all three races -- pos- mainstream media should revisit ing a direct threat to the Barisan and review our policies," said

Iran makes final push for

votes in low-key polls

Meanwhile Malaysia's govern- the state news agency Bernama.

have shown they are not prepared

to accept Iran's dignity and power,"

Mojtaba Samareh Hashemi.

said President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad's senior adviser

massive participation," he pre-

dicted, according to the ISNA news

tion must end at 8:00 am (0430

GMT) on Thursday, just a week

after it began, with the authorities

keen to minimise political divi-

sions in a bid to make a show of

national unity.

"The people will respond with a

by the opposition, aiming to win "There has never been an ethnic back readers alienated by biased coverage, industry sources yester-

Malaysia's mainstream newspapers and television networks, many of them partly governmentowned, were awash with flattering coverage of the ruling coalition

ahead of Saturday's polls. But after unprecedented losses, which saw the government lose its two-thirds parliamentary majority for the first time in four decades, Opposition figurehead Anwar opposition figures who had been Ibrahim's Keadilan has also ignored or vilified are now being

> "It is a wake up call for us. The Azman Ujang, general manager of

posters slapped onto billboards

next to Tehran's traffic-clogged

roads and thousands of pamphlets

of the various factions handed to

banned from printing their pic-

tures on all but the tiniest pam-

phlets and state television has been

home to vote rather than giving

involved, Tehran residents must

sent them in the next parliament.

vote for a total of 30 MPs to repre-

In a sign of the complexity

candidates air time themselves.

But candidates have been

passers-by.

Campaigning for Friday's elec- repeatedly ramming the message

Four die in Afghan fighting

AFP, Kabul

Two Afghan women and two children were killed when NATO soldiers were attacked by insurgents in southern Afghanistan and returned fire, the alliance force said yesterday.

International Security Assistance Force troops were shot at Tuesday and immediately fired back, ISAF said in a statement. "Tragically, a group of civilians

received fire causing the death of two women and two children." the statement said. A number of the attackers were

also killed but no ISAF soldiers were harmed, it said, giving no details.

Ten other civilians were taken to an ISAF base where a wounded child was treated.

Thaksin pleads not guilty in Thai court

AP, Bangkok

Ousted Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra pleaded not guilty yesterday before the Supreme Court in one of two crimi-

nal corruption cases against him. More than 200 policemen with bomb detectors and five sniffer dogs were deployed around the court where some 400 of Thaksin's supporters waited, many holding portraits of

the former leader over their heads. "The defendant pleaded not guilty of the charges," chief judge Thongloh Chom-ngam told the court, which set the next hearing for April 29. It also excused Thaksin from having to appear at every

hearing, as requested by his lawyer. In the case that opened Wednesday, Thaksin faces conflict of interest and malfeasance charges related to his wife's purchase of a prime piece of Bangkok The last week has seen election Newspapers Wednesday published real estate in 2003.

Fahim sends notice to PML-N leader

THE DAILY TIMES, Islamabad

A Pakistani court yesterday : Pakistan People's Party's (PPP) senior vice-chairman Makhdoom against Asif Ali Zardari, the : Amin Fahim sent a legal notice on widower of assassinated former: Tuesday to PML-N's MNA-elect differences over the choice of a can-Pakistani Prime Minister: Khwaja Mohammad Asif demand-Benazir Bhutto, and co-: ing a "complete retraction and chairman of Pakistan People's : withdrawal" of a "defamatory statement" about his alleged contacts A judge in an anti-corruption ; with President Pervez Musharraf.

court terminated a case relating to : The notice was sent on the day alleged kickbacks on a government : newspapers published a statement contract with a Swiss firm when : of Khwaja Asif that the Pakistan Bhutto was in power. Defense attorney Farooq Naek : 'reservations' over the candidature says the court will rule Friday on ; of Fahim for the post of prime the last charge outstanding in : minister "due to his constant con-Pakistan against his client. tacts" with the president.

Meanwhile, sources in the Pakistan People's Party said Fahim and party co-chairman Asif Ali Zardari were likely to meet at a dinner later on Wednesday to resolve their didate for the prime minister's post.

attacks within two months. On Jan.

10, a militant walked into a crowd

of police guarding a courthouse

and blew himself up, killing 24. A

double suicide attack in Lahore

Kamran Shafi, a prominent

political analyst, forecast the new

government would try to avoid

given militants a propaganda coup.

Even some of Musharraf's back-

Mushahid Hussain, a senior

ruling party, said Pakistan had

piled troops into the border with-

out proper training or a strategy to

ties for both security forces and

only recently recognized its mis-

He said the United States had

college last week.

The notice sent through the Hafeez Pirzada Law Associates said Fahim's loyalty to the PPP was "beyond any shadow or iota of doubt" and that, in the past, he had "declined several offers" of the office of prime minister. "It is most unfor-: Muslim League-N had serious tunate that you gave a highly controversial and contentious political interview" to a TV channel which was carried by all major newspapers of the country on Tuesday.



South African former President Nelson Mandela enjoys a joke made by Archbishop Desmond Tutu at The Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg yesterday at the opening of a exhibition called Parenting a Nation: Walter and Albertina Sisulu. Archbishop Desmond Tutu made the address. This exhibition is part of celebration to mark Mandela's 90th birthday later this year.

Vacancy Announcement

A reputed multinational company working in Bangladesh intends to recruit following professionals for power plant operation and maintenance.

Maintenance and Logistics Manager (based in Chhatak): Candidates should have degree in Mechanical/Power/ Marine Engineering from a recognized University with at least 8-10 years practical job experience in industrial/marine gas/diesel engine/genset including 2 years job experience in a managerial position or as MEO-Class I.

Chief Engineer (based in Chhatak): Candidates should have degree in Mechanical/Power/Marine Engineering from a recognized University with at least 7-8 years practical job experience in industrial/marine gas/diesel engine/genset including 1 year job experience in a managerial position or as MEO-Class I.

Assistant Maintenance Manager (based in Khulna): Candidates should have degree in Mechanical/Power/ Marine Engineering from a recognized University with at least 8-10 years practical job experience in industrial/marine gas/diesel engine/genset including 2 years job experience in a managerial position or as MEO-Class I.

Chief Engineer (based in Khulna): Candidates should have degree in Mechanical/Power/Marine Engineering from a recognized University with at least 8-10 years practical job experience in industrial/marine gas/diesel engine/genset including 2 years job experience in a managerial position or as MEO-Class I.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their application with detailed CV and 2 copies of passport sized photograph to Box No. A-51, C/o, The Daily Star, 19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka 1215 latest by March 22, 2008.

Goa police make progress in Brit teen case

AFP, Panaji

Indian police investigating the murder of British teenager Scarlett Keeling in the resort of Goa said yesterday they were close to solving the case.

"We are moving with a very fast speed in the positive direction of solving this case," Goa police official Kishan Kumar told AFP, after chief minister Digambar Kamat said he expected the case to be wrapped up in "one or two days."

"It will be well before that time, said Kumar, without giving further

Nobody has yet been charged in Kosovo to a European Union said Monday. with killing the 15-year-old, more | body as he again urged the world than three weeks after her bruised and partially naked body was found on a beach.

Police appeared to be pinning their hopes on a British man who told a newspaper that he saw a bartender from Lui cafe, where Keeling was last seen alive, "lying on top" of the girl a few hours before her body was found.

The man told the The Times in London that he had fled Goa fearing that he was in danger after Keeling's body was found on popular Anjuna beach on February 18. "We want him because his

deposition is crucial in the case," said police superintendent Bosco George, "A notice has been issued that he should not leave the country and we are on the look-out for him. The Goa chief minister has

promised to investigate allegations

of police incompetence.

France, Britain, Italy and Germany, have already recognized the breakaway territory. But a number of others, including EU members Cyprus and Spain, have refused to do so for fear of spurring independence or separatist movements in their own countries. Following Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence from

Kosovo, to any other body."

Belgrade last month, the EU last month authorized the deployment of a 2,000-strong force known as EULEX to Kosovo to train and mentor local and Russia must take into account police, justice and border officials. The first 20 members of EULEX,

not to recognize Kosovo's secession.

briefing the UN Security Council

that he reaffirmed Belgrade's

strong opposition to "any transfer

of competencies from UNMIK (the

UN mission in Kosovo), the only

mandated civilian presence in

A total of 27 countries, including

Vuk Jeremic told reporters after

which has no UN mandate, have been deployed, but more will fol-Serbia's foreign minister on low only after further discussion Tuesday warned against any trans- with the United Nations, the misfer of authority from the UN mission sion's leader, Yves de Kermabon,

> "It is a great pity that some European countries have joined in this dubious exercise," he added. "First by recognizing the unilateral declaration of independence by the authorities in Pristina ... And then by establishing EULEX and the affiliated International Steering Group of countries."

UN Vitaly Churkin circulated a non-binding statement reaffirming the need for peaceful dialogue to resolve the dispute and for preserving Serbia's national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The statement would also reaffirm Security Council Resolution 1244, adopted in 1999, as the legal framework governing the mandate of UNMIK in Kosovo.

Zalmay Khalilzad said both Serbia the "new reality" created by Kosovo's independence.

Kosovo must stay under UN rule

AFP, Belgrade

Russia's UN Ambassador to th

But US Ambassador to the UN





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