

Violence erupts in Tibet capital

Buddhist monks lead protests

AFP, AP, Beijing

The Tibetan capital Lhasa erupted in violence yesterday as security forces used gunfire to quell Buddhist monk-led protests that saw markets and cars set alight, witnesses and rights groups said.

The violence, which left at least a dozen people hospitalised with injuries, came amid an ever-growing campaign by Tibetans to challenge China's rule of the Himalayan region in the lead-up to the Beijing Olympics in August.

Foreign tourists and local Tibetan reported hearing gunfire in Lhasa as riot police and soldiers were sent in to quell the uprising.

At least a dozen people were injured and taken to hospital, a nurse at one hospital there told AFP.

The violence in downtown Lhasa also saw a number of shops being set on fire at about 2:00 pm (0600 GMT), the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Angry protesters set shops ablaze and gunfire was reported in Tibet's regional capital yesterday as the largest demonstrations in two decades against Chinese rule turned violent just months ahead of the Beijing Olympics.



Tibetans throw stones at army vehicles as a car burns on a street in the Tibetan capital Lhasa after violent protests broke out on yesterday. Demonstrations this week against Chinese rule escalated following three days of protests by monks in Lhasa, which have spread to monasteries in rural Tibet and outside the province.

Iran votes for new parliament

Reformists sidelined by conservatives

AFP, Tehran

Iran voted yesterday in elections expected to tighten the grip of conservatives on parliament after a low-key campaign and the mass disqualification of reformist candidates by a hardline vetting body.

Protesters set shops and police vehicles on fire in Lhasa, state media and witnesses said. The U.S. Embassy in Beijing warned Americans to stay away, saying it had "received firsthand reports from American citizens in the city who report gunfire and other indications of violence."

Britain voiced concern to Beijing Friday at an outbreak of violence in the Tibetan capital Lhasa in protest at continued Chinese rule, a spokesman said.

The protests are the largest and most sustained in Lhasa since Beijing crushed a wave of pro-independence demonstrations in 1989. Since then, China has invested in the region, vilified the Dalai Lama and tried to weed out his supporters among the influential Buddhist clergy.

A Lhasa resident, who asked to be unnamed for fear of government reprisal, said military police had closed all roads leading to the city centre.

"There are concerns regarding some irregularities by willful people to do something with the ballot boxes," Mehdi Karroubi, head of

the reformist Etemad-e-Melli party told reporters at the interior ministry.

He said that he had received sporadic reports of individuals inside polling stations handing voters lists of the candidates and telling them to vote for these names.

Top officials and state media have made every effort to emphasise the importance of a massive turnout to show national unity at a time of mounting tension with the West over the Iranian nuclear programme.

State television was playing patriotic music against a backdrop of pictures of Iran's ancient heritage and long queues of people voting in past elections in a bid to show the importance of the election.

"For our country and our nation this is a critical moment and day," said supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as he voted in Tehran. "The election is a time that determines the fate of a nation."

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who rushed from an Islamic summit in Senegal to vote, proclaimed that the world had chosen Iran as its "role model and saviour."

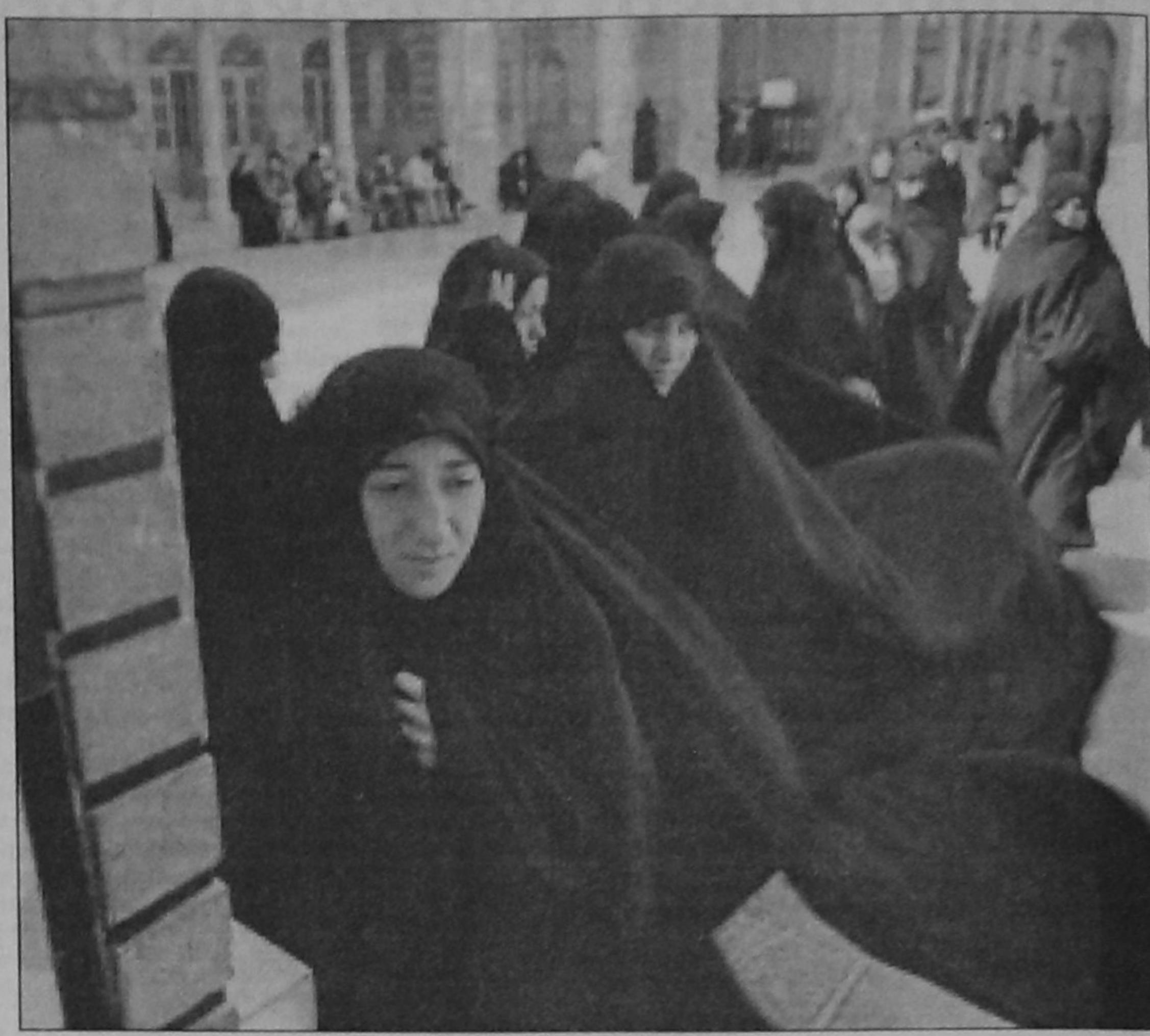
Khatami's main reformist coalition is fielding only 150 candidates nationwide while the more centrist National Conference party of ambitious cleric Mehdi Karroubi has 165.

The authorities were keen to see as little inter-factional squabbling as possible amid the nuclear crisis with the West and banned groups from putting up large election posters of their candidates.

Results are not expected quickly, with officials saying they should be ready by the New Year holidays, which start on March 19.

Conservatives have split into "Broad" and "Unified" factions, with the former seen as less enthusiastic about the populist policies of Ahmadinejad although there is considerable overlap between the two.

Analysts say it is impossible to predict whether Ahmadinejad -- who retains considerable support in the provinces -- will win 2009 elections to continue one of the most controversial presidencies in Iran's history.



Iranian women line up to cast their ballots at a polling station in the Shiite holy shrine of Massoumeh, the daughter of Reza, the eighth Shiite Imam in Qom, 120 kms south of Tehran yesterday. Iran voted in elections expected to tighten conservative grip on parliament after a low-key campaign and the mass disqualification of reformist candidates by a hardline vetting body.

Chad, Sudan sign peace deal

AFP, Dakar

The presidents of Sudan and Chad have signed a non-aggression pact, vowing not to support rebel groups against each other, many of which were launched from troubled Darfur.

The accord made late Thursday by Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir and Chad counterpart Idriss Deby is the sixth they have agreed in five years and came only after intense international pressure.

The arch rivals signed the accord and shook hands in the presence of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Senegal's President Abdoulaye Wade.

Wade is hosting a summit of the 57-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference in Dakar.

Beshir and Deby accuse each other of backing rebels seeking to overthrow their governments and there have been several clashes between their armies.

The two leaders had "reaffirmed their respect for past engagements" so they could "definitively end the differences between the two countries and restore peace and security in the sub-region."

Sudan's Foreign Minister Deng Aior Kuol played down the importance of the new deal saying it was "complementary to the previous accords which had no control mechanism."

The two leaders had "reaffirmed their respect for past engagements" so they could "definitively end the differences between the two countries and restore peace and security in the sub-region."

AFP, Gaza City

Israeli warplanes hit Hamas-run Gaza late Thursday after militants rattled the Jewish state with rocket fire, ending a five-day lull and threatening efforts to push forward Middle East peace talks.

The violence flared within hours of an Israeli operation on Wednesday in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, where undercover special forces killed four Palestinian militants, including two senior commanders.

Militants in the Hamas-run territory fired a dozen rockets into the Jewish state during the night, Israeli warplanes struck targets in northern Gaza early during the day and gunmen fired another dozen rockets afterward, according to the army and the militant groups.

There were no casualties, but the

renewed tit-for-tat attacks put at risk international efforts to broker a more permanent deal to end the violence and the isolation around the impoverished territory.

They also came a day before the Israelis and Palestinians are to meet with a US general to resume peace talks that Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas suspended amid a week of strikes in Gaza that killed more than 130 Palestinians, including children and other civilians.

Addressing the summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference in Dakar on Thursday, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon condemned Israel's "inappropriate and disproportionate use of force" and called on the Jewish state to stop strikes that end up killing civilians.

Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade, head of the OIC for the next year, said he would make efforts to end the Middle East conflict his

number one priority.

He also urged a ceasefire but called on Israel to end "all of its illegal activities in the occupied territories ... the blind repression inflicted on the Palestinian people."

After the Bethlehem raid, the Palestinian presidency accused Israel of "barbaric crimes" in a rare harshly worded statement.

Egypt has been holding talks aimed at ending Israeli strikes on Gaza, rocket fire into Israel and a lifting of a crippling regime of Israeli and international sanctions on the coastal strip, one of the world's most densely populated places where most people depend on aid.

The violence in and around the Gaza Strip, where Hamas seized power in June after routing forces loyal to Abbas, has cast a shadow over peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians that were revived at a US conference in November.

Queen unveils 5th Heathrow terminal

AFP, London

with the terminal's opening to the public.

The 81-year-old monarch opened the first passenger terminal at the site west of London in 1955.

Construction of T5, which will open to passengers on March 27, has taken nearly six years and cost some 4.3 billion pounds (8.7 billion dollars, 5.6 billion euros) to build.

The new building has involved the construction of 13 miles (21 kilometres) of tunnels, 10 miles of baggage conveyor belts, and the extension of the Piccadilly Tube line to transport passengers to and from central London.

Heathrow is already one of the world's biggest airports, but has for years been plagued by overcrowding in its hothatch of ageing buildings due to soaring demand for air travel.

But security was tight for Friday's ceremony with the queen, after threats by campaigners to stage a new demonstration timed

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board
Office of the Director (Procurement), Telephone Revenue Bhaban
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

No. DP/L-10/IT/07-08/Mtc/Part7 Date: 10-03-2008

Sub:- Postponement Notice of Local

Tender No. DP/L-10/IT/07-08/Mtc/3

Dated: 11-02-2008 for Supply,

Installation, Testing of 80M Green

Field Self-supported Tower in

Borguna Telephone Exchange

Compound on Turnkey Basis.

Due to the unavoidable circumstances, closing & opening date of the abovementioned tender has been postponed.

Any further action will be conveyed later on.

Dy. Director (Local Procurement)

Phone: 8150700

GD-1238

কর্মসূল মোহাম্মদ হামিদুল হক, পিএসবি

প্রিচার্লাক (প্রশাসন)

আনসার ও ডিপিসি সদর দপ্তর

বিলগাঁও, ঢাকা

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