INTERNATIONAL

Fahim quits as ARD chairman

THE DAILY TIMES, Islamabad

Makhdoom Amin Fahim, senior vice chairman of the PPP, stepped down as the Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy (ARD) chairman on Monday.

"I think that democracy has now been restored. In addition, some political parties in the ARD, such as . AFP, Islamabad/ Kabul the Awami National Party, are not ready to work with me so I have ; Pakistan's new government will resigned as the ARD chairman. I: review the country's role in the UShave also decided that I will not : led "war on terror," former accept any ministry or any other : Pakistani premier Nawaz Sharif office in government," Fahim told : said yesterday after holding talks reporters at Parliament House.

He said he would play the role of an ordinary member of the party. : tion that trounced President Pervez He said he had not yet received an : Musharraf's allies in elections, said invitation to the oath-taking cere- : he wanted peace around the world mony of the newly elected prime : butdidnotwant Pakistan turned into Fahim said he was a poet and ; aim. would write poetry on the floor of ; the Lower House of parliament.

Gillani thanked Fahim for choosing: Negroponte in Islamabad. Fahim called Gillani "his brother" : parliament has come into being. and congratulated him (Gillani) on being nominated for premiership.

New Pak govt to review terror policy, says Sharif

Kabul looks for anti-terror unity

with a top American envoy.

Sharif, whose party is in a coali-

"We discussed terrorism, we : informed them our point of view is Earlier, according to party: that since 9/11 all decisions were sources, Yousaf Raza Gillani met : made by one man," Sharif told Fahim at the latter's farmhouse : reporters after meeting visiting US before the premiership election. : Deputy Secretary of State John

to vote in his favour for the pre-: "Now the situation has Every decision will be presented before the parliament, they will

review Musharraf's policy in the last six years," he said.

committee would be set up "which will examine this and international concern and then keeping in view national aspirations will give recommendations."

Secretary of State Richard Boucher also held talks with Musharraf, although details were not immediately available. They were also set

"Pervez Musharraf used the "war on terrorism" to perpetuate his rule. No cabinet and no parliament was taken into confidence in any of his decisions. That is why it did not have popular support,"

Sharif said that both the US and miership, they said, adding that : changed, a truly representative Pakistan wanted to see the world bers of the security forces. "free of terrorism" and for innocent people not to suffer.

"We want to see peace in every

corner of the world and we want to ter in Pakistan would lead to closer see peace in Pakistan also. We do Sharif said that a parliamentary not want that in order to give peace to others we turn our own country into a murder house," he said.

Musharraf joined the "war on terror" and abandoned Pakistan's support for Afghanistan's Taliban Negroponte and US Assistant regime after the 9/11 attacks on the United States, which were blamed on al-Qaeda militants harboured by the Taliban.

Pakistan has since pushed minister from the Presidency. a "murder-house" to achieve that to meet new prime minister Yousuf 90,000 troops into its tribal areas bordering Afghanistan in order to hunt for militants who sought sanctuary there, with more than 1,000 soldiers, at least as many militants and hundreds of civilians killed.

> The country has also been hit by a wave of suicide bombings in the past year that has killed at least 1,000 people, most of them mem-

Meanwhile, Afghanistan said other of not doing enough to tackle Tuesday it hoped the election of a new government and prime minis-

cooperation in efforts to fight extremism plaguing both countries.

President Hamid Karzai issued a statement congratulating Yousuf Raza Gilani who was sworn in by President Pervez Musharraf Tuesday.

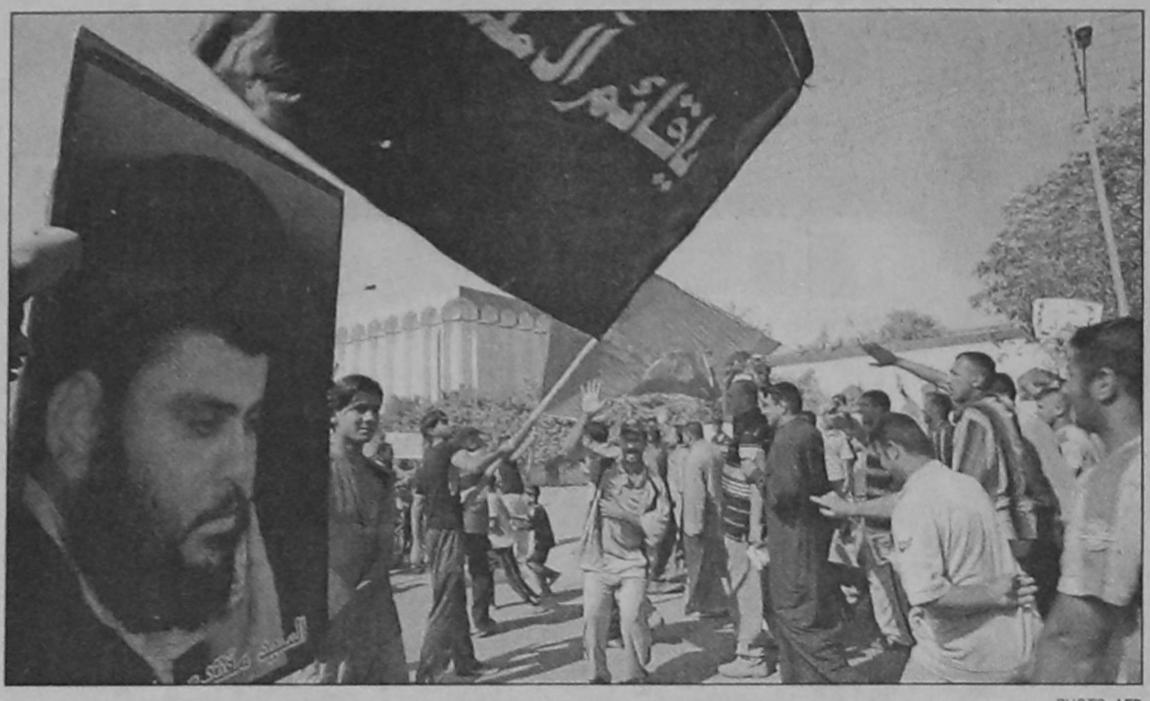
Karzai "deemed terrorism and extremism a serious problem against stability and development in the region and hoped the new Pakistan parliament and prime minister achieve huge success against this destructive phenomenon," it said.

The president also wanted relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan -- both key allies in the United States' so-called "war on terror" -- to expand under Gilani, the statement said.

Ties between the neighbours are fragile with both accusing each Islamic militants behind a wave of violence on both sides of the border.



Pakistani former premier Nawaz Sharif (R) speaks with US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte (C) and Assistant Secretary of State Richard Boucher (L) during a meeting in Islamabad yesterday. Two top US diplomats flew into troubled Pakistan for talks with key anti-terror ally President Pervez Musharraf and the country's newlyelected prime minister.



Iraqi Sadrist youths carry a poster of radical Shia cleric Moqtada Al-Sadr as they take part in a rally in Baghdad's Al-Amil neighbourhood yesterday. The Mahdi Army militia of the radical Shia cleric started a strike in parts of west Baghdad as part of a "civil disobedience" programme to protest the arrest of its members.

Sadr threatens civil revolt after deadly Iraqi clashes

AFP, Najaf

Iraq's radical Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr yesterday threatened a countrywide campaign of civil revolt as security forces battled his militiamen in the southern city of

Fighting raged in areas of Basra controlled by Sadr's Mahdi Army militia from early morning as troops and police launched a major crackdown on armed groups in the ers. oil hub, considered the nerve centre of Iraq's national economy.

At least four people were killed and 18 wounded in the clashes, said police Major Abbas Youssef.

Sadr, in a statement read by his representative Hazam al-Aaraji in the holy city of Najaf, warned he

"If the government does not respect these demands, the second step will be general civil disobedience in Baghdad and the Iraqi provinces."

militia to observe a ceasefire following bloody fighting in the shrine city of Karbala blamed on his fight-

most members of the militia have Army neighbourhoods. heeded the order, a number of what the US military terms "rogue elements" continue to attack American forces with mortars,

rockets and roadside bombs. British military officials said the city skyline.

would launch protests and a nation- Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki was wide strike if attacks against mem- in Basra to personally oversee the bers of his movement are not halted. major security force sweep in Iraq's second largest city, but that British troops were not taking part.

An AFP correspondent said fighting involving mortars, machine guns and assault weap-The cleric in August ordered his ons erupted soon after the security forces entered the Al-Tamiyah neighbourhood, a bastion of Sadr's Mahdi Army militia, at around 5:00 am (0200 GMT). The fighting While Iraqi and US officials say quickly spread to five other Mahdi

Television pictures showed Iraqi troops running through the streets firing weapons and taking cover as ambulances raced past. Thick palls of smoke were seen rising above

LTTE arms dump 13 rebels killed in fresh fighting

AFP, Colombo

At least 13 Tamil Tiger rebels were killed in fresh fighting in northern Sri Lanka as government warplanes bombed a suspected rebel arms dump, the defence ministry said Tuesday.

The ministry said the warplanes struck targets near the town of Mullaittivu in the rebels' northern stronghold on Tuesday.

"The air strikes have triggered a series of explosions, while pilots have also confirmed debris and flames rising in the area," the min-

A rebel boat was also badly damaged on Tuesday when a Sri Lanka naval patrol fired at a cluster of guerrilla boats near Pulmoddai in the northeast, the ministry said.

Fighting across the embattled northern frontlines on Monday left at least 13 rebels dead, the military said, adding that seven soldiers had been injured.

Security forces on Monday extended their forward defence line, pushing the rebels back further into their territory in the Weli Oya region, the ministry said.

There was no immediate comment from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, whose armed struggle for a separate homeland for minority Tamils has left tens of thousands of people dead since 1972.

At least 2,356 rebels have been killed by government troops since January, while only 136 security force personnel have died in the same period, according to figures issued by the defence ministry.

SC constitutes special team to probe Gujarat riot

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, New

The Supreme Court on Tuesday decided to constitute a special team headed by former Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) director RK Raghavan to probe 10 crucial cases of 2002 communal carnage in

A bench of Justices Arijit Pasayat, P Sathasivam and Aftab Alam took the decision while hearing a bunch of petitions seeking either a probe into these cases by the CBI or transfer of their trial outside the state.

The bench, however, decided to pass the formal order, constituting a "special investigation team (SIT)" for the probe on Wednesday.

The five-member SIT will also include A Sathpathy, a former police officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre.

The cases which are to be handed over to the SIT relate to rape, murder and arson at various places including those at Godhra town, Gulbarg Society and Naroda Patiya in Ahmedabad, Best Bakery in Vadodara, Baranpura, Machipith, Tarsali, Raghovpura and Pandarwada.

The bench was hearing petitions by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), rights groups and individuals affected by the communal carnage that broke out following the burning of 59 Hindu activists in a coach of the Sabarmati Express at Godhra on Feb 27, 2002.

Lankan planes strike Royalists win Bhutan polls

THE NATION/ANN, Bangkok

The first parliamentary election in the history of the last independent Himalayan kingdom, Bhutan, produced a landslide with voters decisively rejecting the party led by to the former king, who stepped the king's uncle.

Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT) or Bhutan United party-led by Jigmi Thinley, a former prime minister and canny diplomat close to the country's bureaucracy, won more than 40 out of the 47 seats in the have made the decision." new national assembly.

Thinley is credited with providing the intellectual framework for Gross National Happiness, rooted in the Buddhist idea that economic growth alone does not bring con-

The only other party allowed to contest the election, the People's Democratic party, was trounced. Its leader, Sangay Ngedup, is the brother of the four sisters married down in favour of his son. He is We all prefer our father," said In a shock result the Druk seen as a liberal on the issue of tradition, and could not even win a

> "It is truly amazing," Palden Tshering, a spokesman for the DPT, told Reuters. "The people really

Despite apathy among the century. 318,000 voters on becoming enfranchised, the 28-year-old Oxford-educated King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wanghuk pushed ahead with the polls to "modern-

ise" Bhutan, exhorting people to vote. In the end turnout topped 70 per cent, although yesterday (March 24) many voters admitted they preferred monarchy to democracy.

"His Majesty is like our father. Karma Tsheweng,a 35-year-old mechanic told reporters in the capital, Thimphu.

Bhutan lies between India and China. Like its Buddhist neighbour Tibet, it opted for isolation and a barter economy in the early 20th

Beijing's crushing of an uprising in Tibet in 1959 prompted the monarchy in Bhutan to open up to the world. It has been a slow process it only got television in 1999.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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Furnace Engineer:

B.Sc. Engineering in Chemical/Metallurgical/Glass technology from any recognized university with at least 10 to 15 years practical experience in operation & maintenance of medium size regenerative & recuperative furnaces used for continuous soda lime glass melting process. The position requires:

(a) Knowledge & experience in automatic Furnace control technology, by use of PLC & related system.

(b) Basic knowledge of refractory materials as used at the recuperative/regenerative furnace.

(c) Good Knowledge in combustion technology (Gas Fired).

Experience in furnace rebuild (in addition to experience in hot repairs) will be considered as added advantage.

(e) To be able to work in a computer network environment with Microsoft office package.

To be able to study, understand & execute tasks according to CAD drawings & specifications. Age Limit: 35-40 years.

Electrical Engineer/Assistant Electrical Engineer

the related field. The Candidate should have knowledge in the following fields:-Electrical power distribution system of approximately 2 MW and it's components

B.Sc. in Electrical Engineering with al least 3 years Practical experience in

(transformer, HT-LT panel) for supplying power to various machines from own generation also from Govt. power source, for a continuous process plant. Should be able to supervise, repair, maintenance & monitoring of operation of

3 phase AC motors up to 300 HP. c) Should be capable of trouble shooting of electrical power generation & distribution system. Some knowledge of PLC & related equipments will be an

added advantage. Must be able to plan & implement schedule & preventive maintenance works.

in order to avoid breakdowns in the continuous process plant. Should have knowledge in Operation & electrical maintenance of gas Generators. To have Computer literacy and to be able to work in a computer network

environment with Microsoft Office package. Should be self motivated, target oriented and capable to work successfully in an

environment of continuous process manufacturing plant. Age limit: 25-30 Years.

Mechanical Engineer/Assistant Mechanical Engineer

B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering with at least 2 to 5 Years Practical experience in the continuous process manufacturing plant. Should have knowledge in the following fields:-

(a) Operation & maintenance of machinery used for any continuous process plant. (b) Should be able to perform scheduled, perventive and break down maintenance of continuous process plant machinery. Preference will be given to those who are working in glass & ceramics related industries and with some knowledge of

combustion technology. Computer literacy:- Should be able to Work in a computer network environment with Microsoft Office package. Knowledge in CAD will be considered as an added advantage.

Age limit: -25-30 Years.

Competitive salary and other attractive fringe benefits awaits for the right candidates for both the posts which includes Provident Fund, Gratuity, Bonus, Group Insurance etc.

Please apply giving full particulars (including contact number: Phone/Mobile) along with one copy of recent photograph to

Box No. A-60/2008 The Daily Star Dhaka by 10th April, 2008. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview.

Govt to weigh trial demand could not achieve economic Reception programme at the

National Parade Square in the The reception was organised for the members of Freedom

Fighters' Contingent who are to

participate in the National Independence Day parade Speaking at the programme as chief guest, the army chief said this year the country's main problem is the price hike of food grain and there is no alternative

grains to keep the price under control. Urging all to work together to resolve the present crisis, Gen Moeen hoped that there would be a bumper production of Boro this year, better than any year in

to boosting production of food

the past. "And we will be able to overcome the crisis of rice, if there is

bumper production," he said. "As not a single inch of land was vacant this year, irrigation has been arranged and fertiliser distributed among the farmers, I hope the production will be fine," he said, adding, "If we work together, we would be able to face any kind of disaster that might

threaten the nation in future." Referring to the freedom fighter's contribution, Gen Moeen said, "You had fought... we got independence of Bangladesh and now we have a lot to do. We have to leave many things for the new generation and for this we have to work together."

independence. Now it is the duty of all to bring economic independence," said the army chief. He said as people worked

together, they were able to overcome this year five disasters-two severe floods, one cyclone, price hike of essentials and high price of edible oil. In honour of the sacrifices made by the Shaheed, departed and living freedom fighters, Gen

uted it among the freedom fighters present. He also thanked the 130 freedom fighters aged between 52 and 72 for agreeing to take part in today's parade. Later, the freedom fighters talked to reporters and demanded immediate trial of war criminals.

"We demand trial of war criminals

this year under the present gov-

Moeen cut a cake and distrib-

ernment," said Mohammad Shafiqul, a freedom fighter. Gen Moeen said they would increase the freedom fighter's allowance and entitle freedom fighters who belonged to the armed forces with the allowance. He said they would also arrange free treatment for freedom fighters and their wives at the com-

bined military hospitals. Acting Secretary of Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of Ninth Infantry Division Maj Gen Ashab Uddin, Adjutant General (AG) Maj Gen Matiur Rahman and Freedom Fighter's Contingent Commander Mohammad Sawkat Ali were "Even though we have present at the programme along obtained independence, we with senior military officials.



Tibetan activists in exile offer condolence prayers to Tibetans who died during an alleged crackdown by Chinese troops in Tibet at the West Bengal-Sikkim interstate border in Rangpo yesterday after police denied them entry into Sikkim on their way towards the Indo-Chinese border at Nathu-La.

Threat to millions as food aid scheme runs out of money

THE INDEPENDENT, London

Faced with the dramatically spiralling costs of wheat, rice and corn, the World Food Programme has made an unprecedented appeal for at least \$500m (£250m) to help it continue supplying food aid to 73 million needy people this year.

Josette Sheeran, the organisation's executive director, told journalists yesterday that this was the first time in its history that the

because of a crisis caused by famine or war but because of market conditions. And she warned that if extra resources were not received before the beginning of May, food rations would have to be cut.

"This is the new face of hunger," she said. "People are simply being pricedout of food markets. It's the first the past three weeks, meaning time we have been hit by a dramatic the organisation's emergency market surprise. We have never before shortfall could, in reality, be had a situation where aggressive rises closer to \$700m.

WFP had appealed for funds, not in food prices keep pricing our operations out of our reach." The WFP estimates that food

prices rose by 55 per cent between June and the end of February, meaning it needed an extra \$500m on top of the \$2.9bn it had already budgeted for. However, prices have risen a further 20 per cent in