

Lankan troops kill 11 Tigers

AP, Colombo

Air force jets pounded a Tamil Tiger rebel training base deep in the jungles of northern Sri Lanka early yesterday and troops killed 11 guerrillas in other fighting, the military said.

The airstrike took place about 7:15 a.m. inside the separatist rebels' de facto state in the north, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara.

Separately, ground battles erupted Tuesday on the civil war's fronts of Jaffna, Vavuniya, Mannar and Welioya, Nanayakkara said.

Troops killed five rebels in Vavuniya, the scene of the harshest of the battles, he said.

Six more guerrillas were killed in the other ground fighting, Nanayakkara said. Meanwhile, a Cabinet minister's adviser was killed late Tuesday when Tamil Tiger gunmen dressed as security officers burst into her mother's home and shot her in Jaffna, a tense northern town under government control, Nanayakkara said.

Rebel spokesman Rasiyah Ilanthirayan was not immediately available for comment.

It was not possible to independently verify the military's claims because reporters are not allowed in the war zone. The two sides are known to exaggerate their enemies' casualties while underreporting.

Iran arrests 15 over mosque bomb blast

AFP, Tehran

Iran has arrested a total of 15 people over a deadly mosque bombing in April in the southern city of Shiraz, the intelligence minister said yesterday.

Iran has accused the United States and Britain of training and financing people behind the April 12 bombing which killed 13 people and injured more than 200.

"So far 15 people have been arrested and all the ones involved in this incident are our country's nationals," Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejeie told the Fars news agency.

"The agents of this incident intended to bomb a Russian consulate in Iran," he added.

Ejeie ruled out any links between Shiraz bombers and Iran's main armed opposition, the People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran, Fars said.

Militants behead 'US spy' in Pak tribal area

AFP, Miranshah, Pakistan

Pro-Taliban militants beheaded a soldier in a Pakistani tribal area after accusing him of spying for US forces across the border in Afghanistan, an official said yesterday.

The headless body of Feroze Khan was found lying in an open area outside Naurak village in the restive North Waziristan district, a security official told AFP.

"The body had bullet wounds and its severed head was lying nearby," the official said.

A note found near the body said the man was a "US spy" and had been punished because he was spying on "mujahedeen" (holy warriors) activities in the area, he said.



Chinese paramilitary troops yesterday carry supplies as they head along a collapsed mountain road to the epicenter area of Wenchuan after a quake with a magnitude of 7.9 rocked China's southwestern province of Sichuan on May 11.

Historic city Jaipur reeling from deadly blasts

AFP, New Delhi

The historic Indian city of Jaipur usually draws millions of domestic and foreign tourists but is reeling after serial blasts tore through crowded markets, killing at least 63 people.

The capital of the desert state of Rajasthan, Jaipur has been dubbed the "Pink City" and stands out in India for its rectangular layout and unusual blend of royalty, romance and old world charm, all sitting aside creeping modernity.

But the mood was sombre yesterday, as police detained one suspect over Tuesday's attacks and schools and government offices closed in a day of mourning across Rajasthan.

Meanwhile, state's Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje told a press conference yesterday that a total of 63 people died in eight bomb blasts late Tuesday.

"We have information that 63 people have died and many are injured critically," said the chief minister, revising an earlier official toll of 80.

The state's home minister had put the figure at 80 dead and 200 injured after a series of bombs ripped through crowded markets in Jaipur.

The Press Trust of India had reported an "unofficial" toll of 85 dead before the chief minister spoke. The United News of India had its own death toll of 67.

The chief minister said 216 people were injured in the blasts, many of them women and children.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced compensation of about 2,400 US dollars to the next of kin of each of the dead.

Jaipur lies in the western corner of India's so-called "gold triangle" of tourism, 260 kilometres (160

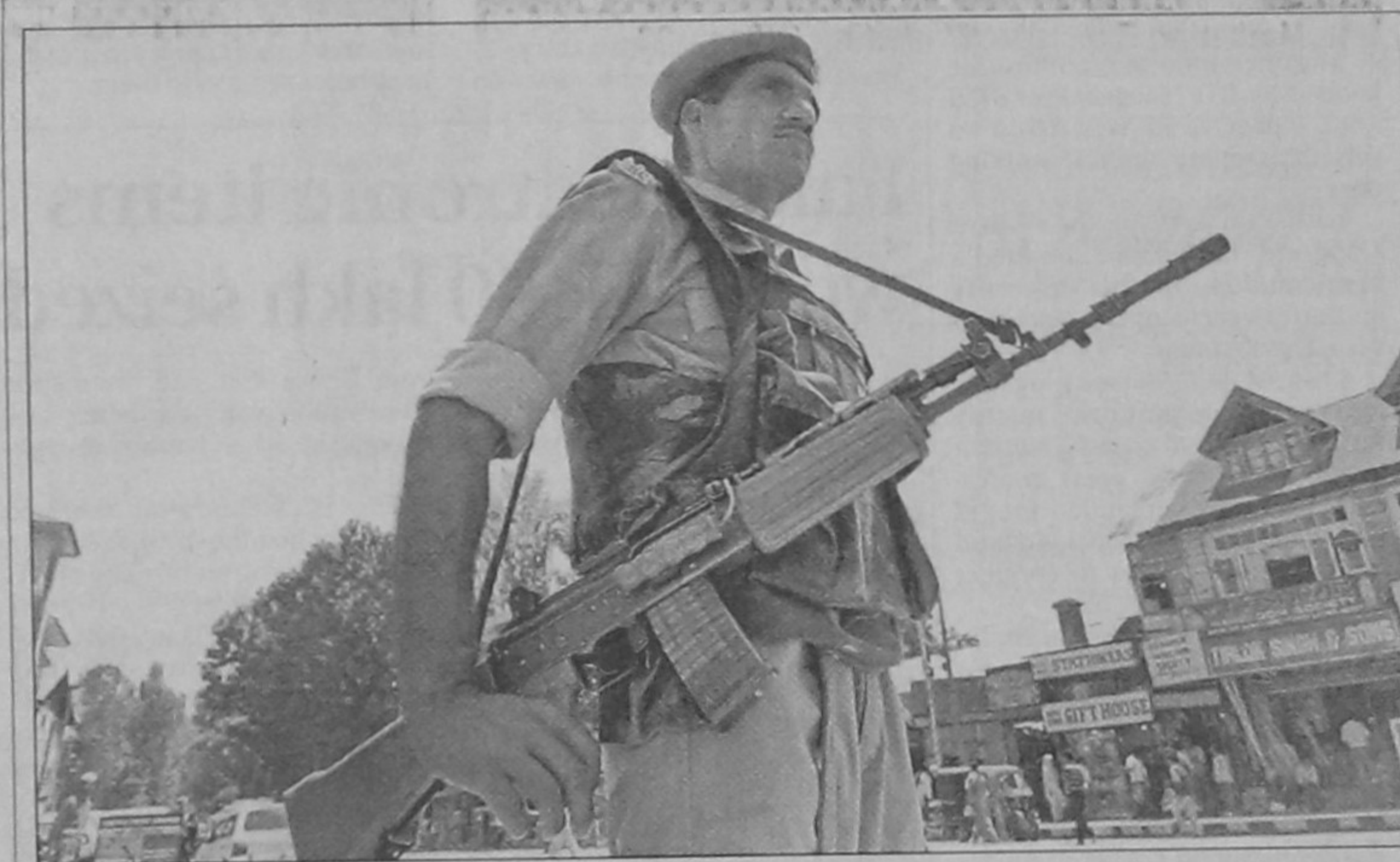
miles) from New Delhi and a similar distance from Agra, home of the Taj Mahal.

Once known as Jeypore, it was founded in 1727 by the legendary Hindu warrior Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, who took advantage of the waning power of the Mughal emperors.

Jai Singh followed ancient Hindu architectural tradition, but in 1876 Maharaja Ram Singh ordered the walled city coloured with pink stucco to greet the Prince of Wales.

Jaipur is Hindu-dominated but also has a sizeable Muslim population. It has reported communal clashes in the past, but Tuesday night's deadly blasts were the first to hit it.

However, a number of major Indian cities, from Mumbai to Delhi and Hyderabad, have repeatedly been bombed by Islamic militants.



An Indian Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) soldier stands guard on a street of Srinagar yesterday. Security in the troubled Kashmir region has been beefed up after a series of blasts in Jaipur, capital of India's desert state of Rajasthan. Authorities imposed a dawn-to-dusk curfew in parts of Jaipur on Tuesday, a day after eight bombs ripped through bustling streets, killing around 60 people and injuring 150.

Myanmar tightens access to cyclone disaster zone

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's ruling junta has tightened access to the cyclone disaster zone in the country's south, frustrating aid groups trying to bring help to survivors, reporters and aid agencies said yesterday.

Relief groups are furious over the regime's refusal to allow foreign experts into the country to mount a full-scale disaster response, and say they face even more constraints in bringing help to some two million survivors.

Reporters and aid workers arriving at the worst-hit Irrawaddy Delta region said that authorities had elevated security at roadblocks on the main routes in from Myanmar's largest city Yangon.

"There were even more check-

points making sure that no foreigners got into the affected areas," said Chris Kaye, the Myanmar director of the UN's World Food Programme.

"There is absolutely no progress in getting foreign experts out into the field," he added.

One reporter who was turned back at a roadblock was told by police: "The government has given us orders to keep foreigners out. We are sorry."

A Myanmar national who attempted to get in was requested to provide the names and addresses of the people he said he was going to visit.

The junta, which keeps an iron grip on every aspect of life in this poor and isolated country, has been condemned by world leaders

for refusing to allow in foreign disaster experts to coordinate the response to Cyclone Nargis.

The regime again said Tuesday that there was no need for them "so far", even though up to two million people are still in dire need of water, food and shelter 12 days after the massive storm struck.

Delivering life-sustaining supplies into the country's remote southern flood plain, which is littered with broken roads and blocked waterways, is a huge logistical challenge.

The relief effort "is constrained by the fact that we can only use a certain size truck," said Kaye, who is dispatching aid through a team of 25 to 30 Myanmar staff.

"We have asked for government approval for additional trucking

and air lift capacity," he said.

The military is ferrying aid into the delta with six one-tonne payload helicopters, but that is not nearly enough, he said. "We need bigger helicopters. That is under negotiation."

Medical charity MSF said earlier this week that in some areas like the devastated delta town of Bogalay, the regime had imposed "increasing constraints" that impaired its ability to bring help to survivors.

"In Bogalay for instance, the MSF team is unable to provide as much assistance as they could to respond to the enormous needs in terms of food and medical care," said MSF spokeswoman Veronique Terrasse.

Four killed in Israeli raids on Gaza

Bush lands in Israel on first leg of ME tour

AFP, Gaza City

Four Palestinians were killed yesterday in Israeli military operations in the Gaza Strip, medics said, as US President George W Bush landed in Israel on the first leg of a Middle East tour.

Three Palestinians were killed during clashes with Israeli troops east of the northern town and refugee camp of Jabaliya, according to Muawiya Hassanein, the head of Gaza emergency services.

Witnesses said two of the men were militants from the Islamist Hamas movement that has ruled the Gaza Strip since June last year.

An Israeli army spokesman confirmed the incident, saying troops targeted Palestinian gunmen near the fence that surrounds the impoverished territory.

"There was some shooting against an army patrol near the security fence, forces entered the security fence to search for the shooters. Armed men fired at the force and the army fired back," he said.

Another Hamas militant was killed in an air strike near the southern town of Khan Yunis, medics said.

Earlier an Israeli army spokeswoman confirmed that "two air strikes were carried out against gunmen in southern Gaza who were identified during a ground operation in the area."

The latest bout of deadly fighting took place as Bush landed on his second trip to Israel this year, where he was to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the creation of the Jewish state and encourage recently revived peace talks.

At least 467 people have been killed since Israel and the Palestinians relaunched formal peace negotiations at a US conference in November hosted by Bush, the vast majority of them Gaza militants, according to an AFP count.



Israeli President Shimon Peres (L) welcomes US President George W Bush at Ben Gurion airport near Tel Aviv yesterday. Bush kicked off his Middle East trip in Israel where he hopes to push ahead with peace efforts while marking the 60th anniversary of the Jewish state.

Arab League in bid to resolve Lebanon crisis

AFP, Beirut

An Arab League delegation was meeting with rival leaders in Beirut yesterday in a bid to mediate a settlement to deadly sectarian gunbattles that have driven Lebanon close to civil war.

The team, headed by Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad bin Jasssem al-Thani, was holding talks with members of the US-backed government and the Hezbollah-led opposition who have been locked in a bitter political feud for 18 months.

"Last chance for compromise or chaos," said Al-Akhar newspaper, which is close to the opposition.

Top of the agenda will be efforts to end an anti-government protest campaign by Hezbollah militants and their allies that has led to the shutdown of a number of major roads in Lebanon, including the highway to the airport.

No commercial flights have been scheduled from the country's only international airport for the seventh straight day, an airport

official said.

There was speculation that the government would decide at a meeting later Wednesday to reverse its recent controversial decisions concerning the Iranian- and Syrian-backed Hezbollah, which triggered the latest turmoil.

"May 14: The government rescinds its decisions... and the opposition ends its civil disobedience campaign," headlined the As-Safir newspaper which is close to the opposition.

The Arab League in recent months has made a number of failed attempts to mediate an end to the long-running political standoff between the ruling majority and opposition that exploded into deadly gunbattles last week.

The sectarian fighting is the worst since the Lebanese civil war ended in 1990 and has left at least 65 people dead and around 200 wounded in six bloody days.

It was unleashed after the government said it was launching a probe into a communication network set up by Hezbollah and reassigned the head of airport

security over allegations he was close to the powerful Shiite Muslim militant group.

Hezbollah chief Hassan Nasrallah said last Thursday that the government action amounted to a declaration of war and within hours his fighters and their allies had taken over large swathes of Sunni areas in west Beirut.

The fighters withdrew at the weekend after the army moved in. However, the opposition said some roads, including the ones to the airport, would remain shut as part of a civil disobedience campaign that would only be lifted when the government officially rescinds its decisions.

A precarious calm has settled over the country since Tuesday after the army said it was ready to use force to restore order.

US President George W. Bush, who arrived in Israel on Wednesday, warned Iran and Syria on the eve of his trip that the international community would not allow Lebanon to fall under foreign domination again and vowed to shore up the Lebanese military.

Vacancy Announcement

care Regional Technical Assistance Manager

CARE-Bangladesh invites applications from qualified candidates for the position of Regional Technical Assistance Manager, SHOUHARDO Program. This position will be based at CARE Chittagong, on contract up-to September 30, 2009.

Job Summary: The incumbent will be responsible to lead and supervise a Technical Talent Team (TTT) of 4 Technical Managers (TM) who are responsible for providing technical support to attain 4 Specific Objectives (related to Livelihoods and Governance, HH&N, Empowerment and Disaster) of the program. S/he will maintain coordination with the Program Senior Management Team and Partner NGO's for identification of the technical needs of the program and accordingly, guide the respective TMs to extend their technical support. S/he will be responsible for managing the TMs with diversified skills and expertise which need to be strategically utilized to address the practical and strategic needs and rights of the poorest and vulnerable HHs especially the women and girls in the program. S/he will be responsible for creating a learning and reflective culture in the region by obtaining knowledge and experiences from other development organizations, GoB, Research institutions, Universities and right kind of individuals.

Core Qualifications and Competencies:

- Masters in Social Science or any other subjects with minimum of 5 Years working experience with the NGOs. This can be relaxed in case of really deserving candidates.
- Experience in leading a team of at least 3-5 senior or mid level managers.
- Ability to maintain liaison with the government high officials like; DC, Civil Surgeon, UNOs etc.
- Experience in working with the multi-interventions program that leads to the reduction of food insecurity.
- Working experience with the local governance issues and institutions.
- Excellent experience in community led approach program.
- Experience in preparing program budget and analyzing the expenditures.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and Bangla.

Compensation: Gross Salary for the position is approximately Tk. 45,000.00 per month, plus other admissible benefits as per organizational policy.

Interested candidates, who fulfill the above requirements, are requested to drop or mail their CVs (with cover letter, recent passport size photograph, and names/addresses of two non-relative referees) at: CARE-Bangladesh, 20-21, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka by addressing Section Manager-HRM, HR&M Department or e-mail at hr@carebangladesh.org or before May 24, 2008.

Note: ♀ Women are particularly encouraged to apply. Any persuasion will disqualify the candidates. ♀ Applicants who have relatives in CARE are discouraged to apply. ♀ Please write the position applied for at the top right hand corner of the envelope. Visit CARE web-site on: www.carebd.org

We seek a world of hope, tolerance, and social justice, where poverty has been overcome and people live in dignity and security

RoK likely to submit nuke declaration within few days

AFP, Seoul

North Korea is expected to submit a long-awaited declaration on its nuclear programme within a few days and six-party disarmament talks may resume early next month, South Korea's foreign ministry said yesterday.

Spokesman Moon Tae-Young also said South Korea's top nuclear envoy would cut short a trip to Beijing to prepare for talks with his US and Japanese counterparts in Washington early next week.

"North Korea is expected to present the nuclear declaration to China within a few days and China in turn will circulate it among other countries concerned," Moon told journalists.

"If we calculate all the time needed for these procedures, we may expect the six-party talks to resume in early June," he said. The talks hosted by China also group the two Koreas, the United States, Russia and Japan.

The North last week handed over to the United States some 18,000 pages of records on its production of weapons-grade plutonium at the Yongbyon complex.

Sung Kim, head of the State Department's Korea office, collected the operating and production records for the reactor and reprocessing plant.

"I do think these documents are an important first step in terms of verifying North Korea's declaration," he told a press conference in Washington Tuesday, standing next to stacks of some of the documents.

The delayed declaration had blocked progress in six-party negotiations. But in a sign that a deal may be close, South Korea's delegate Kim Sook flew to Beijing Tuesday for talks with his Chinese counterpart.

The spokesman Moon said Kim Sook would return on Thursday, a day earlier than scheduled, and would probably leave for Washington at the weekend.

"The chief delegates from South Korea, the United States, and Japan are preparing to hold trilateral talks in Washington early next week," he said.

"There will be broad discussions on pending issues concerning the North's nuclear issue, such as declaration and verification."

The communist North, which staged a nuclear test in October 2006, is disabling its plants under a six-party deal reached last year.

But disputes over the declaration due last December 31 have blocked the start of the final phase of the process -- the permanent dismantling of the plants and the handover of all material.

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of The Premier Bank Limited in its 58th Meeting held on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 12.00 p.m. at the Board Room of its Head Office has taken the following price sensitive decisions:

1. Recommended Dividend for the year ended 31st December, 2007 subject to the approval of Bangladesh Bank and in the AGM. : 7% stock Dividend for the year ended 31st December, 2007 subject to the approval of Bangladesh Bank and in the AGM.
2. Date & Time of the 9th AGM : Monday, July 21, 2008 at 3.30 p.m.
3. Venue of the 9th AGM : BDR Darbar Hall, Peelkhana, Dhaka.
4. Record Date (instead of book closure) : Thursday, June 05, 2008.

The Shareholders whose name will appear in the Register of Members of the Bank or in the Depository (CDBL) on the 'Record Date' i.e. on Thursday, June 05, 2008 will be entitled to attend the 9th Annual General Meeting and qualified for the Dividend.

By order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Syed Ahsan Habib, FCMA
Company Secretary
May 14, 2008.

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