INTERNATIONAL

Bush, Sarkozy warn Syria, Iran

AFP, Paris

French President Nicolas Sarkozy on Saturday jointly urged Syria to break with Iran and bluntly warned that they would not let Tehran obtain nuclear weapons.

"Iran getting a nuclear bomb is gram. unacceptable, that's clear. It's an unacceptable threat for the stability of the world," Sarkozy said, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Bush at a press conference after talks in Paris.

"A nuclear-armed Iran is independence. incredibly destabilising," Bush said hours after Tehran rejected new world demands to halt uranium enrichment in return economic and diplomatic rewards. "It would be a major blow to world matic relations with Paris. peace.

show of transatlantic unity -- at played down differences over in January. France's newly warm outreach to

The US president had a blunt US President George W Bush and message for Damascus: "Stop fooling around with the Iranians and stop harbouring terrorists" and warn Tehran "that the West is Islamic republic's nuclear pro-

Sarkozy, who has invited Syrian Sarkozy. President Bashar al-Assad to attend France's national "Bastille Day" celebrations next month, underlined that Damascus must guarantee neighbour Lebanon's

The French president said he nuclear enrichment. wanted "that Syria break as much as possible with Iran in its quest to develop a nuclear weapon" in order to pursue improved diplo-

The US president said efforts to As part of a sometimes defiant rally Europe to his hard line on Iran -- chiefly new sanctions in the face times strained by Iran, of such a rejection -- had "domi-Afghanistan, climate change and nated" his week-long Europe trip, other disputes -- Bush and Sarkozy his last one before leaving in office

"I am disappointed that the inconfronting Tehran.

PHOTO: AFP

leaders rejected this generous offer out of hand. It is an indication to the Iranian people that their leadership is willing to isolate them further," Bush said.

Iranians" that they need to bow to nity." international demands, said

Solana on Saturday presented a new offer to Iran on ending the sixproposal's key demand to halt year.

Elham said in Tehran.

Bush said that western programme has peaceful aims --

That drew no argument from Sarkozy, who said Europe was prepared to help Iran with a civilian nuclear program but stressed that "for a nuclear weapons program, A tough sanctions regime is "the the response will be sanctions and serious" about curtailing the only solution for convincing the a united international commu-

> Bush, who called his host "Nicolas," also expressed confi-EU foreign policy chief Javier dence that Baghdad and Washington would successfully reach a deal on the rules for US year standoff over its nuclear drive forces in Iraq after the UN mandate but Tehran once again rejected the for the occupation ends late this

> "If I were a betting man -- we'll "Iran's stance is clear. The pre- reach an agreement with the condition of a halt and suspension Iraqis," he said, after Iraqi Prime of nuclear activities cannot be Minister Nuri al-Maliki warned brought up," Iranian government the talks had stalled over spokesman Gholam Hossein Baghdad's worries about its sovereignty.

> "Of course, we're there at their demands that Iran -- which says its invitation. It's a sovereign nation and therefore we're working hard freeze nuclear enrichment were with the elected government of "just and fair" and portraying the Iraq," said Bush. "We're going to United States and Europe as united work hard to accommodate their desires. It's their country."



Afghan officials and bystanders walk at the site of a suicide attack in front of the entrance to the main jail in Kandahar yesterday. Taliban rebels blasted into a prison using a suicide car bomb and guns late Friday, freeing as many 1,100 prisoners and killing at least 15 guards, officials said.

AP, AFP, Colombo

Battles between government troops and Tamil Tiger separatists in Sri Lanka's north left 13 rebels and seven soldiers dead, the mili-

The fighting broke out in the Mannar, Welioya and Vavuniya regions bordering the rebels' defacto state in the north on Friday, a

In the Welioya area, separate clashes killed seven rebels and four soldiers, while three confrontations in Vavuniya and Mannar killed four rebels and three sol-

It was not possible to independently verify the military's claims because journalists are banned from the northern jungles where much of the fighting takes place. The two sides routinely exaggerate their enemy's casualties while underreporting their own.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) made no comment on the government's statement.

Fighting is now concentrated in the island's north after government troops ejected the LTTE from its eastern stronghold last July.

Lankan fighting kills Quake kills 6 in Japan Rebels, 7 soldiers AP, Kurihara AP, Kurihara AP, Kurihara Said. The 8:43 a.m. quake was delivered by the state of the stat The 8:43 a.m. quake was can-

A magnitude-7.2 earthquake ripped across mountains and rice fields in northern Japan on Saturday, killing at least six people dead as it sheared off hillsides, jolted buildings and shook nuclear power plants. At least eight people were missing.

Military helicopters swarmed Saturdaynight. the quake zone 250 miles north of Tokyo, ferrying in supplies and flying injured to hospitals. Officials said at least 144 people were injured and landslides trapped 100

Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda said the government was mobilizing troops, police and "everybody we possibly can" to find the missing and rescue and treat the injured.

bathers at a hot spring resort.

save as many lives as possible, and we are doing the best we can," he

The force of the quake, which was followed by 153 aftershocks, buckled countless roads, including one highway that was severed when a stretch of land collapsed, creating a cliffside. Electricity was cut to about 29,000 households and water to about 500 others, though services were mostly restored by

At a nuclear power plant in Fukushima, the jolt splashed 5 gallons of radioactive water from two pools storing spent fuel, operators said. Trade and Industry Ministry official Yoshinori Moriyama, however, said there was no leakage outside the plant.

The three dead included a man who ran out of a building in fear and was hit by a passing truck, another man buried in a landslide "Our most important task is to while fishing, and a construction worker who was hit by a falling rock at a dam, officials said.

tered in the northern prefecture (state) of Iwate, and was located about 5 miles underground revised from an initially estimated depth of 6.2 miles 10 kilometres. It was felt as far away as Tokyo.

couldn't stand still. I had to lean on the wall," said Masanori Oikawa, an Oshu city official who was at home near the epicentre when the quake struck. "When I rushed to the office, cabinets had been thrown onto the floor and things on the desks were scattered all over the place."

The quake also knocked down equipment and car parts at the Iwate factory of Kanoto Auto Works Ltd., a Toyota Motor Corp., subsidiary that assembles popular Corolla and other models, company spokeswoman Seiko Watanabe said. The company has not decided whether to resume production Monday.

Talks with China 'open new page': Taiwan

AFP, Taipei

The head of Taiwan's top China policy-making body said Saturday the resumption of talks with Beijing "open a new page" in relations between the long-time rivals.

Chiang Pin-kun, Taiwan's chief negotiator with China, returned to the island on Saturday after signing historic agreements in Beijing to set up direct flights and boost tourism.

His mainland counterpart Chen Yunlin has also accepted his invitation to visit Taiwan later this year.

"Chiang met the people's expectations to successfully accomplish the tasks and open a new page for positive cross-strait exchanges," said Lai Shin-yuan, chairwoman of the Mainland Affairs Council while meeting Chiangat the airport.

EU leaders vow to press on with treaty after defeat

AFP, Dublin

European leaders vowed Saturday to press on with a key EU treaty despite Ireland's shock rejection as Prime Minister Brian Cowen faced "It shook so violently that I a barrage of criticism for his handling of the campaign.

The referendum result against the Lisbon Treaty has pitched the whole 27-nation EU into turmoil because the document, which aims to make EU decision-making easier, has to be approved by all member states.

Ireland voted "no" by 53.4 percent to 46.6 percent, a much wider margin than had been expected after opinion polls put the two sides too close to call.

But European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso insists the Lisbon Treaty is still "alive" and has urged other countries to continue ratifying it, as 18 have already done.

5 soldiers killed in Indian Kashmir

AP, Srinagar

Islamic rebels ambushed an army vehicle and killed five Indian soldiers, including two senior officers, in Indian-controlled Kashmir, officials said Saturday.

The militants sprayed bullets at the vehicle carrying Lt. Col. Ajay Verma, Maj. Santosh Kumar Singh, a driver and two armed guards on a mountainous road Friday evening, killing all of them on the spot, said Lt. Col. Shantanu Dass Goswami, an Indian army spokesman.

The officers had gone for road reconnaissance and were returning to their base when they were ambushed, he said, adding that the rebels escaped with two assault rifles.

tary said yesterday.

defence ministry statement said.

diers, the ministry said.

Rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilanthirayan could not immediately be reached for comment.

Friday's fighting raises the number of rebels killed by security forces to 4,222 since January while 369 soldiers have died in combat during the same period, according to the defence ministry.

Hamas officials go to Opposition will never Egypt for truce talks govern in his lifetime Says Mugabe

tory's residents and led to widespread shortages.

bid to inject impetus into sluggish

despite months of regular meet-

ings of the negotiating teams and

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and

Rice was due in Israel late

US mediators.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

The Hamas officials are from the A spokesman for Hamas says repmilitant group's main bureau in resentatives plan to travel to Cairo to discuss an Egyptian-mediated Syria. Meanwhile US Secretary of State truce with Israel.

Pakistani former premier Nawaz Sharif (L) joint hands with the President of

Supreme Court Bar Association Aitzaz Ahsan (R) during the "long march" in

Islamabad yesterday. Tens of thousands of Pakistani lawyers and activists

streamed into Islamabad after a cross-country "long march" to demand the

reinstatement of judges sacked by President Pervez Musharraf.

Gaza-based Hamas spokesman Condoleezza Rice returns to the Ayman Taha says the Hamas offi- Middle East on Saturday in a fresh cials will listen to Egyptian mediators and then discuss with senior members what position to take.

AP, AFP, Gaza City/ Jerusalem

Egyptian officials are mediating marred by violence in the Hamasbetween Hamas and Israel to secure a truce in Gaza. Israel's envoy left Egypt on Thursday after conveying his country's position. Negotiations are faltering over each side's demands.

Israel wants Hamas to halt weapons smuggling and release a Saturday and will meet Israeli captive Israeli soldier. Hamas wants Israel to lift its blockade of Palestinian president Mahmud Gaza that has locked-in the terri- Abbas on Sunday.

AFP, Harare

Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe said yesterday the opposition will never govern in his lifetime and he is ready to fight on less than two weeks ahead of a tense

run-off election. "Should this country be taken by The negotiations have been traitors... it is impossible," Mugabe said, referring to the opposition ruled Gaza Strip and new Israeli party MDC, in a speech at the burial settlement projects and have of a former independence fighter. shown little sign of progress

"It shall never happen... as long as I am alive and those who fought for the country are alive," he added. "We are prepared to fight for our country and to go to war for it."

Mugabe also raised the spectre of war on Friday if his arch-rival Morgan Tsvangirai, head of the

opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) wins the June 27 second round election.

The opposition accused authorities of trying to "cripple" their campaign. Mugabe has ruled the country since independence from Britain

in 1980. Since he began his land

reforms at the turn of this decade, the economy has gone into freefall. Inflation, officially put at 165,000 percent, is thought to be nearer two million percent while

food shortages are widespread. Tsvangirai has insisted that he passed the 50 percent threshold in the first round vote on March 29, but is nevertheless taking part in the run-off because he knows a boycott would hand victory to Mugabe.



Local residents call their relatives with their mobile phone as a road is blocked by a landslide near Kurihara city in Miyagi prefecture, northern Japan yesterday. A powerful earthquake, 7.2 on the Richter scale, struck northern Japan killing six people, injuring more than 100 more and trapping guests at a hot-spring resort buried by a landslide.

Bomb kills 4 US troops in Afghanistan

AP, AFP, Kabul

A US military spokesman says a roadside bomb has killed four troops in Afghanistan.

Lt Col David Johnson said the bat deaths in Afghanistan had bomb targeted a vehicle used by US personnel in the country to help train the Afghan police. One US personnel was wounded in the Saturday attack.

The bombing comes a day after Defence Secretary Robert Gates told his counterparts in Europe that for the first time, the monthly total of American and allied com-

The four deaths bring to at least 44 the number of US troops killed in Afghanistan this year, according to an Associated Press count.

exceeded the toll in Iraq during May.



India's main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Delhi president Harsh Vardhan (C) and BJP supporters ride on a bullock cart and shout slogans against Congress-led UPA government during a protest in New Delhi yesterday.

N-deal a pretext to make India an US outpost against China: CPI

PTI, New Delhi

The civilian nuclear deal is a pretext by the United States to make India its "outpost" in the region to check the growth of China, CPI general secretary A B Bardhan said

At a function to commemorate the 80th birth anniversary of legendary revolutionary Che Guevara here, the CPI leader alleged the US was adopting various means to draw the country into the controversial deal. "The US is adopting various

means to draw the country into a strategic partnership. They have a purpose, an aim. It wants India to act as its outpost in the region to counterbalance China," he said.

Mars Phoenix lander offers up first secrets

AFP, Washington

About three weeks after it landed on Mars, the Phoenix lander has collected particles that offer a snapshot of millions of years of life on the Red Planet, the team behind the probe said Friday.

NASA's 420-million-dollar lander has also possibly located ice and is in the process of providing a 360-degree view from its landing site in the Martian polar region, with rocks and hills fading into the dusty distance.

"We're getting about twice the data volume we were told to expect," said Peter Smith, Phoenix principal investigator at the University of Arizona.

DRIVING TOWARDS ANEWHORIZON





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জোনাল অফিসঃ রানার মটরস লিঃ ১৩, বর্নালী মোড়, গ্রেটার রোড, রাজশাহী, ফোনঃ ০১৭১৩০৯৪৮৮৯, ০৪৪৫৯৩৫৭৬৪৮, এবং পর্যটন মোড়, আর কে রোড, রংপুর, ফোনঃ ০১৭১৩০৯৪৮৯১, ০১৭১৩১৪১১২০

শো-রুম ঃ রানার মটরস্ লিঃ ১৯, নিউ ইস্কাটন রোড, ঢাকা, ফোনঃ ৮৩৬৩৭০১, ০১৭১৪০৯০৯৫০, এবং গাজীপুরা বাজার, ময়মনসিংহ রোড, টঙ্গী, গাজীপুর, ফোনঃ ০১৭১৩১৪১৩০১ ডিলারঃ ঢাকা বিভাগঃ কৃষি সেবা মটরস, ময়মনসিংহ, ফোনঃ ০১৭১১৬৮৭৮১১, ০১৭১১২২৬৮৫২, এলিট মটরস, ঢাকা,ফোনুঃ ৯৮৯৩২৮২, ০১৭১১৭৯০২৭৮, রাজশাহী বিভাগঃ কৃষি প্রগতি, বগুড়া, ফোনঃ ০৫১-৬৫৬৬৩, ০১৭১১৮৯০৫৪২, দ্বীন মটরস, নওগাঁ, ফোনঃ ০৭৪১-৬২১৪১, ০১৭১১৮০৪১১৭, দ্বীন মটরস, দিনাজপুর, ফোনঃ ০১৭১৬১৭২৬৭২, রিজিয়া

মটরস, পাবনা, ফোন ঃ ০১৭১৪০২০১৪১, ০১৯১১৩৪৪৬০৩, আরিফিন ট্রেডার্স, গাইবান্ধা, ফোনঃ (০৫৪২৪), ৫৬০৫৯, ০১৭১১৮৯১৯০৮, **চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগ** ঃ এরিন মটরস্, চট্টগ্রাম, ফোন ঃ ০৩১-৭১৫০২৪, ০১৭১১৭৯০২৭৮, এরিন মটরস্, কক্সবাজার, ফোন ঃ ০১৭১১৩২৮৬৭৭, ০১৭১৫৬০৯৯৯৮, এরিন মটরস্, ফেনী, ফোনঃ ০১৭১৫৬০৯৯৯০, ০১৭১৫৬০৯৯৯১, এরিন মটরস্, কুমিল্লা, ফোনঃ ০১৭১৫৬০৯৯৯৩, এরিন মটরস্, নোয়াখালী, ফোনঃ ০১৭২৭০৭২৯৭৪, ০১৭২৭০৭২৯৭০, সিলেট বিভাগঃ বসুন্ধরা মটরস্, সিলেট, ফোনঃ ০৮২১-২৮৩০১৭৫,০১৭১১৩৮০২৩৯, ইসলাম মটরস্, মৌলভীবাজার, ফোনঃ ০১৭১১২০৯২৭২, ০১৭১৯০৯৫৩৩৬, খুলনা ও ব্রিশাল বিভাগ ঃ ভেনাস মটরস্, যশোর, ফোনঃ ০৪২১-৬৩৬৯৭, ০১৭১৪৫০৩৩৩২, মেসার্স শাওন এন্টারপ্রাইজ, খুলনা, ফোন ঃ ০৪-৭২২৮৭৪, ০১৭১১৯৭১০৪০, রয়েল মটরস্, কুষ্টিয়া, ফোনঃ (০৭১) ৫৩০০৭, ০১৭১১৩২৩০৫৭