

Bush, Sarkozy warn Syria, Iran

AFP, Paris
US President George W Bush and 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.

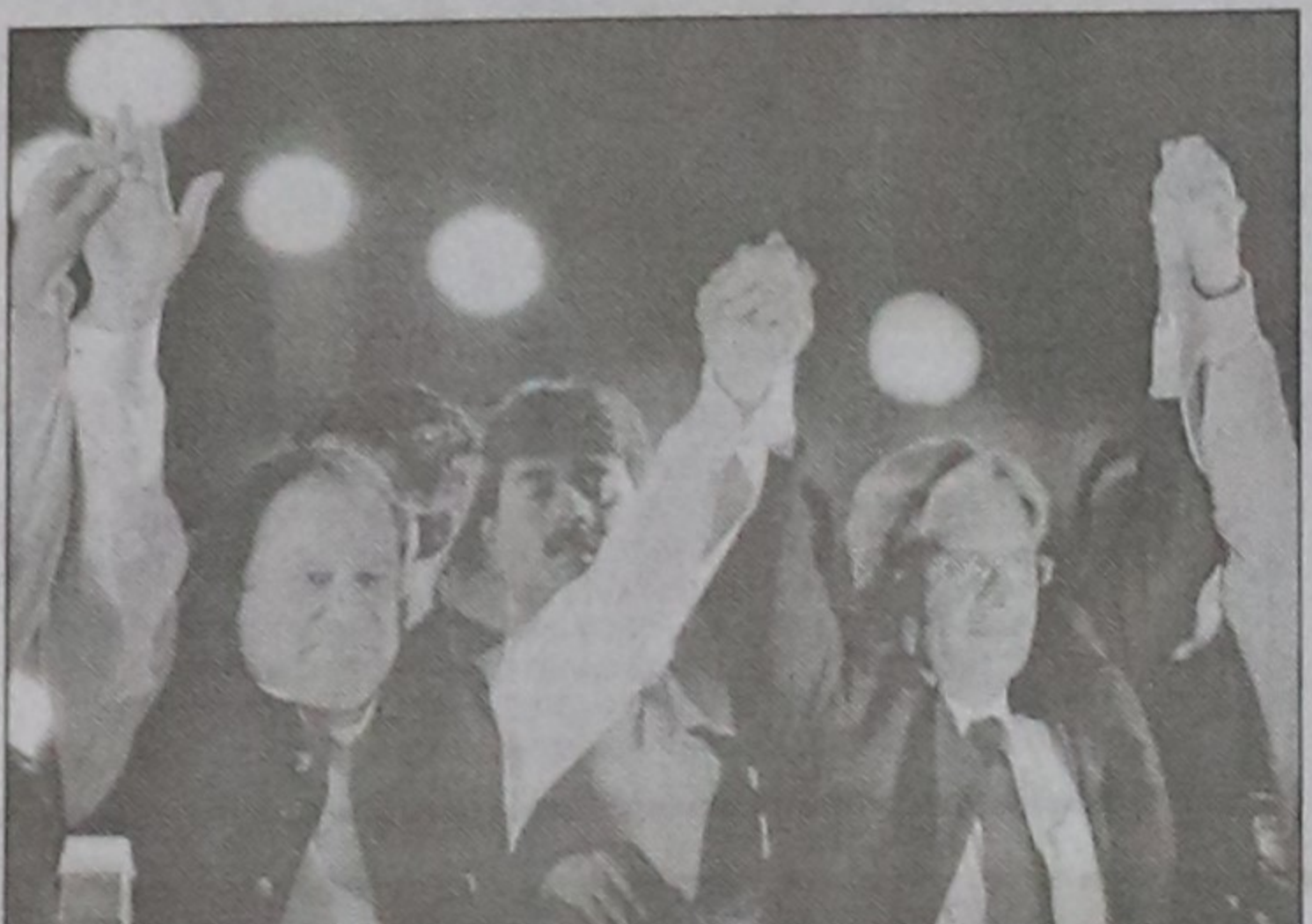
Syria. The US president had a blunt message for Damascus: "Stop fooling around with the Iranians and stop harbouring terrorists" and warn Tehran "that the West is serious" about curtailing the Islamic republic's nuclear program.

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.



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 as 1,100 prisoners and killing at least 15 guards, officials said.



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.

Lankan fighting kills 13 rebels, 7 soldiers

AP, AFP, Colombo
Battles between government troops and Tamil Tiger separatists in Sri Lanka's north left 13 rebels and seven soldiers dead, the military said yesterday.

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.

Quake kills 6 in Japan

AP, Kurihara
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.

The 8:43 a.m. quake was centered 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.

It shook so violently that I 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.

Hamas officials go to Egypt for truce talks

AP, AFP, Gaza City/Jerusalem
A spokesman for Hamas says representatives plan to travel to Cairo to discuss an Egyptian-mediated truce with Israel.

Opposition will never govern in his lifetime Says Mugabe

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.

opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) wins the June 27 second round election. The opposition accused authorities of trying to "cripple" their campaign.



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.

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.

Bomb kills 4 US troops in Afghanistan

AP, AFP, Kabul
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 combat deaths in Afghanistan had exceeded the toll in Iraq during May.

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 today.



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.

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.

Advertisement for Eicher trucks featuring the slogan 'DRIVING TOWARDS A NEW HORIZON'. It displays six different truck models: 10.75 CNG, Jumbo 20.16, 10.75, 11.10, Terra 16, and Galaxy 33.25. The ad includes contact information for Runner Motors Ltd in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and lists various regional distributors.