INTERNATIONAL

anti-terror talks

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani and Indian officials held counter-terrorism talks in Islamabad yesterday, the foreign ministry said, in the latest step of a slow-moving peace process between the nuclear rivals.

It was the third meeting of a joint anti-terror panel since it was formed by the two countries in 2006 after train bombings in India's financial capital Mumbai killed 186 people in July of that year.

"Both sides shared fresh information on terrorist incidents," the ministry said in a statement after the talks, without going into further detail.

"They agreed to continue to work to identify counter-terrorism measures, assist in investigations through exchange of specific information and for preventing violence and terrorist acts," it added.

The talks were held ahead of Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi's visit to India starting June 27.

blames ISI for Karzai

AFP, Kabul

The US-backed Karzai survived the brazen April 27 attack at the nation's biggest annual military parade but three Afghans were killed,

"Evidence shows the hallmark

"We cannot provide further organisation.

Indo-Pak officials begin Musharraf could be impeached in July

19 killed in Pak violence, clashes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, PTI, Islamabad

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf could be impeached in July, albeit via an indirect route, with parliament washing its hands of the issue, a report in Islamabad said yesterday.

The ruling coalition might ask the four provincial assemblies to pass resolutions calling for the president's impeachment in the hope that he would then step

The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) that leads the coalition discussed the proposal with alliance partner Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N), The News quoted a senior PML-N leader as saying.

N around to the view that instead of tabling an impeachment motion in parliament, pressure should be built by issuing anti-Musharraf statements, followed by resolutions against him in the provincial assemblies, where the coalition commands a two-thirds majority.

"The PPP strongly believes that either Musharraf will soon bow out or the proposed resolutions, when passed, will leave him with no option but to say goodbye to the presidency," the PML-N leader

Party chairman Muhammad Zafarul Haq confirmed that in principle the PPP wanted Musharraf to quit on his own. The other parties in the coalition also favoured the president's impeach-

political instability in the country. Haq also admitted to differences between his party and the PPP on the methodology of proceeding against Musharraf but expressed confidence that a con-

sensus would soon be evolved. "We want him to resign before we go for the option, which will set a bad tradition in Pakistan's parliamentary history," PPP spokesman Farhatullah Babar said, when asked about PPP's stance on Musharraf's impeachment.

"The message from the ruling coalition is loud and clear from day one. When no one is there to defend him in parliament or outside, how can he survive?" Babar asked.

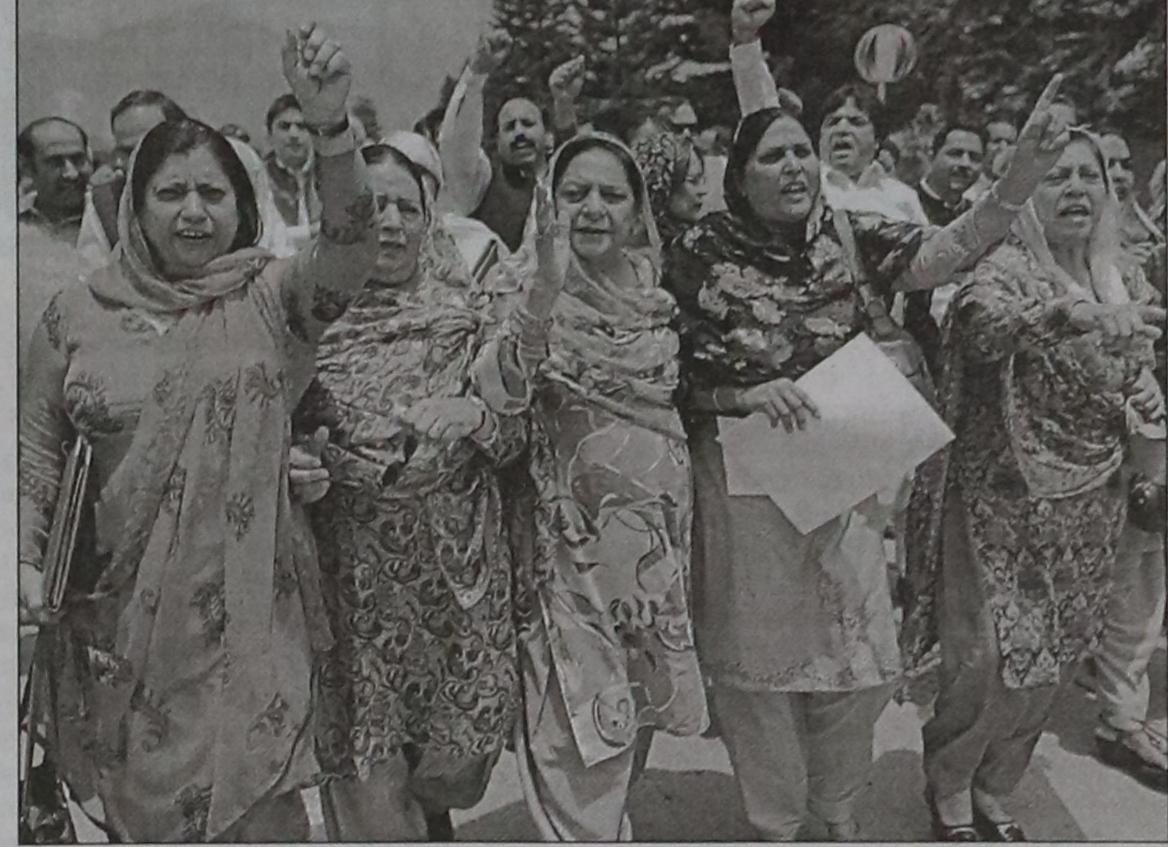
Meanwhile, 19 people, including a top Taliban commander, have ership was trying to bring the PML- considered the main source of and clashes between security peace committee.

forces and militants in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province and the adjoining tribal belt bordering Afghanistan, officials said yester-

Moreover, security forces launched search operations in Jandola area of Tank district in the NWFP following clashes between two rival Taliban groups that killed 12 people. The fighting between the rival groups has now stopped.

Members of commander Baitullah Mehsud's Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan attacked followers of deputy commander Mirbaz Khan of the Turkistan group on Monday.

Khan is the chief of a progovernment peace committee in the Tank area. Mehsud's men also According to him, the PPP lead- ment at the earliest because he was been killed in incidents of violence kidnapped 15 members of the



Pakistani legislators shout slogans as they come out from the National Assembly in Islamabad yesterday to protest against the court decision. Pakistan's government will appeal against a court ruling that bars former premier Nawaz Sharif, a key partner in the ruling coalition, from standing in elections, the law minister said.

Afghanistan attack

Afghanistan's government yesterday said a "foreign intelligence agency" was behind an April assassination attempt on President Hamid Karzai during a military parade in Kabul.

one of them a parliamentarian.

of a particular foreign intelligence agency, which we believe was behind this attack," Karzai's spokesman Homayun Hamidzada said, citing an investigation into the incident.

details at this time as the investigation continues," the spokesman told reporters, refusing to name the foreign country or the spy

Sarkozy speaks out for Palestinian state

AFP, Bethlehem

French President Nicolas Sarkozy yesterday spoke out strongly in favour of a Palestinian state after talks with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas in the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem.

"The security of Israel is nonnegotiable for France, but the creation of a viable, democratic, modern state for the Palestinians is a priority for France," he said as he wrapped up a three-day visit at a joint news conference with Abbas in the Biblical town.

ation of your state. We will use the same strength, the same commitment we used in ensuring Israel's security," said Sarkozy, who on Monday had addressed the Israeli parliament.

freeze Jewish settlement activity in while the World Bank says they are the West Bank, widely seen as a major obstacle to Palestinian major hurdle to already slow- economic growth.

moving peace talks.

Israel in recent months announced the construction of hundreds new homes for settlers in the West Bank, infuriating Palestinians and drawing sharp criticism from the international community.

"I told our Israeli friends the injustice done to the Jewish people can't be resolved by creating conditions of injustice for the Palestinian people," Sarkozy said.

The French leader, who earlier urged Israel to ease travel restrictions in the West Bank, said "it was a pleasure to come here to Bethlehem "We will work towards the cre- to see what the checkpoints were like, the wall, the misunderstandings on either side. This must stop."

Israel has set up hundreds of roadblocks and checkpoints and erected a separation barrier in the Palestinian territory. Israel claims He reiterated his call for Israel to the measures are vital to its security

Flood situation improves in West Bengal districts

PTI, Kolkata

The flood situation has eased considerably in both West and East Midnapore districts in West Bengal with major rivers flowing below the danger mark, but the outbreak of diarrhoea in some of the worst-hit areas has become a cause of concern.

Medical teams have already been rushed to attend to the diarrhoea patients 2,995 in West Midnapore and 252 in East Midnapore districts and necessary steps are being taken to prevent any further spread of the disease.

The state's irrigation minister, Subhas Naskar, told reporters in Kolkata on Tuesday after briefing Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharjee regarding the latest flood situation that normalcy was fast returning to both the districts, though vast areas of Potashpur and Bhagabanpur in East Midnapore district were still heavily waterlogged.

Pak govt to challenge Sharif election bar: PM

PML-N won't challenge disqualification

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani Premier Yousuf Razai Gilani said yesterday that his government would challenge a court decision barring Nawaz Sharif, a partner in the ruling coalition, from contesting elections.

His announcement came as hundreds of supporters of two-time former premier Sharif protested outside parliament and blamed President Pervez Musharraf for orchestrating their leader's disqualification. A court in the eastern city of

Lahore ruled late Monday that Sharif, ousted by Musharraf in a 1999 coup, was ineligible to stand in a by-election on Thursday because of previous criminal convictions.

"We will file an appeal in the Supreme Court against the ban on Nawaz Sharif standing in the byelection," Gilani, a senior member of the party of slain ex-PM Benazir Bhutto, told parliament. "We will always take along our

coalition partners and we will

remain with them in all difficult times," he said, adding that the government would ask the election commission to postpone the byelection involving Sharif. Law minister Farooq Naeq said

the challenge would be filed on Wednesday. The government's move was

apparently aimed at consolidating the shaky coalition between Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-N party (PML-N) and Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP), who together beat Musharraf's allies in elections in February.

MPs from Sharif's party walked out of parliament and held a demonstration outside the building to protest the court decision, where they were joined by supporters.

Sharif's party said earlier that it would not appeal because it did not recognise the judges, but it was not immediately clear if it would accept any successful challenge by the government following Gilani's announcement

Sd/-

Managing Director

Fair presidential election US may open diplomatic [impossible in Zimbabwe outpost in Iran

Declares UN

AP, United Nations

Outraged at the turmoil in leave the embassy Tuesday or Zimbabwe, the UN Security Council declared that a fair presidential vote is impossible because not be harmed. of the "campaign of violence" waged by President Robert Mugabe's government.

The 15-nation council Monday unanimously said it "condemns the campaign of violence against the political opposition ahead of the second round of presidential elections," which has resulted in the killing of scores of opposition activists and other Zimbabweans.

The move came after opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai withdrew from the vote reportedly fearing for his safety and police Friday. raided his Harare headquarters, hustling away dozens of his supporters.

Tsvangirai was fleeing soldiers when he took refuge at the Dutch Embassy in Harare, Senegal's president said, offering some of the first details on the latest twist in the southemAfrican's country's political crisis.

Senegalese President Abdoulaye Wade made the comment in a statement released late Monday about his attempts to

4 Americans, 6

Iraqis killed in

Two US soldiers, two American

civilians and six Iraqis were killed

in a bomb attack on Tuesday in the district council building of the Iraqi

capital's Shiite bastion of Sadr City,

A US embassy official said one of

the civilians was a State Department employee and the other worked for the Defence Department. They were

both attached to the American

The US military confirmed two

An Iraqi security official said six

The attack took place mid-

morning inside a the council build-

ing where local elections were set

to take place, an Iraqi security

of its soldiers were killed in the

blast, while another one was

Iraqis were also killed in the attack

while 10 others were wounded, including three members of the

bomb blast

AFP, Baghdad

officials said.

wounded.

district council.

official said.

mission in Baghdad.

AP, Washington

French President Nicolas Sarkozy (C) and his wife Carla Bruni-Sarkozy (L) are

welcomed by Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas (R) yesterday in Bethlehem.

Sarkozy is on a three-day visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories.

mediate in the Zimbabwean crisis.

Wednesday after receiving assur-

ances from the regime that he will

activists and other Zimbabweans.

Tsvangirai said he planned to

The Bush administration is considering setting up a diplomatic outpost in Iran in what would mark a dramatic official US return to the country nearly 30 years after the American embassy was overrun and the two nations severed relations.

Recent bloodshed widely Even as it threatens the Iranian blamed on supporters of Mugabe regime with sanctions and possible has killed dozens of opposition military action over its nuclear programme, the administration is The non-binding presidential floating the idea of opening a US statement was the council's first interests section in Tehran similar to the one the State Department formal action on Zimbabwe's runs in Havana, diplomatic and political and humanitarian crises. political officials told The Council members also agreed that Associated Press on Monday. the violence and restrictions on

Like the one in communist opposition activists imposed by Cuba, an interest section, or de the Mugabe government "have facto embassy, in the Iranian capimade it impossible for a free and tal would give the United States a fair election to take place" on presence on the ground through which it can communicate directly The 84-year-old Mugabe and with students, dissidents and others without endorsing the United Nations Zimbabwean government, one official said.

Ambassador Boniface Chidyausiku It would process visa applicapledged to press ahead with tions and serve as a centre for Friday's vote, despite the interna-American cultural outreach to tional criticism and the lack of locals, the officials said, speaking opposition. on condition of anonymity to Tsvangirai said the election was discuss internal deliberations.

rigged and his supporters face too Now, the US has no diplomatic much violence for him to keep presence in Iran and relies on the running. He won the first round of Swiss Embassy in Tehran to serve as voting on March 29, but lacked an its "protecting power." The Swiss outright majority against Mugabe. now pass messages to the Iranian

foreign ministry on Washington's behalf and handle the affairs US citizens in the country.

The idea of a separate US flag office was born in part out of concern about Switzerland's decision earlier this year to sign a long term gas contract with Iran. The United States now has a

small office in the Gulf state of Dubai that handles routine visa matters for Iranians but officials say it is not easily accessible and unable to do the work that an interests section could do. The interests section concept is

an old idea now being revisited by a very small group of diplomats and political officials at the State Department, with the blessing of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Rice declined to confirm or deny the idea, which was first reported in a Washington Post opinion column on Monday. But, without being asked, she

said the United States wanted more Iranians to come to the United States and hinted that the current arrangement in Dubai was not satisfactory.

"We know that it's difficult for Iranians sometimes to get to Dubai," she told reporters Monday aboard her plane en route to a conference in Germany. "We want more Iranians visiting the United States. ... We are determined to reach out to the Iranian people."



Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd.

T K Bhaban (13th Floor) 13, Kawran Bazar Dhaka-1215

NOTICE INVITING (2ND RETENDER)

SEALED TENDERS containing "Technical Offer" and "Financial Offer" in 2 (two) separate envelopes are hereby invited by the undersigned from reputed Manufacturer of Passenger Lifts or their authorized Agents in Bangladesh for "Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of 4 (four) Nos. 1350kg Passenger Lift" for 20-storied shopping-cum-office building for Fareast Islami Life Insurance Co. Ltd. at 35, Topkhana Road, Dhaka.

The intending tenderers shall have to apply in their letter heads to the undersigned along with the following documents in support of their eligibility and obtain prior permission for the issuance of the Tender Documents:

- 01. Documentary evidence to prove that the tenderer has at least 3 (three) years experience in Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning and after-sales service and maintenance of the offered brand of lifts in Bangladesh.
- 02. Attested Photocopies of valid Agency Certificate/Agreement from the respective manufacturers of Passenger Lifts.
- 03. Attested Photocopies of the valid ABC contractory & supervisory electrical license.
- 04. Attested Photocopies of the valid Trade License, upto date Income Tax clearance certificate and VAT registration certificate.
- 05. Attested photocopies of completion certificates & work order for minimum 5 nos. 1.50m/sec speed 1000 kg capacity lift in multi-storied building in Bangladesh of the same brand and origin which the tender intends to offer for this tender.
- 06. Attested photocopies of completion certificate for minimum 10 nos. lift of the same brand and origin which the tender intends to offer for this tender.
- 07. Documentary evidence (catalogue) to prove that the manufacturer of the offered brand lifts has minimum 3.0m/sec capacity lift as standard product.
- 08. Financial Solvency Certificate from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh indicating OD limit, if any from the applicant's Bankers.

Tenderers without having the required eligibility as stated above need not apply for issuance of Tender Documents.

Tender documents will only be issued to the permitted eligible tenderers. Tender Document will be issued from the office of the Accounts Department of Fareast Life Insurance Co. Ltd. on cash payments of Tk.5,000.00 (Taka five thousand) only (non-refundable) from 25.06.2008 to 30.08.2008 during office hours. The Tenderers shall have to submit an earnest money minimum 1% (one percent) of the bid amount in favour

of Fareast Islami Life Insurance Co. Ltd. in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any schedule bank along with the Technical Offer. Tenders submitted without Earnest Money shall be rejected outright. For any clarification regarding and submission of Tender, the tenderers may contact the Office of the

Consultant, BCL-DECON Consortium Ltd. (Attn: Arch. Masum Kabir/Engr. Mushtaq Ahmed) at (i) House No. 95A, Road No. 4, Block-F, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Phone: 9862713 or (ii) House No. 86, Road No. 9a, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209, Phone: 9118013). Tenders will be received in the Head Office upto 12:30 hours on 04.08.2008 and the Offers will be

opened at 14:30 hours on the same day in presence of tenderers who wish to be present. Fareast Islami Life Insurance Co. Ltd. reserves the right to accept any tender or reject any or all

tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.



PHOTO: AFP

Kashmiri protestors throw pieces of bricks towards Indian police in Srinagar yesterday. Indian police fired teargas shells as hundreds of stone pelting protesters staged fresh street demonstrations in parts of Kashmir's main city against a government decision to transfer forest land to a Hindu shrine trust.