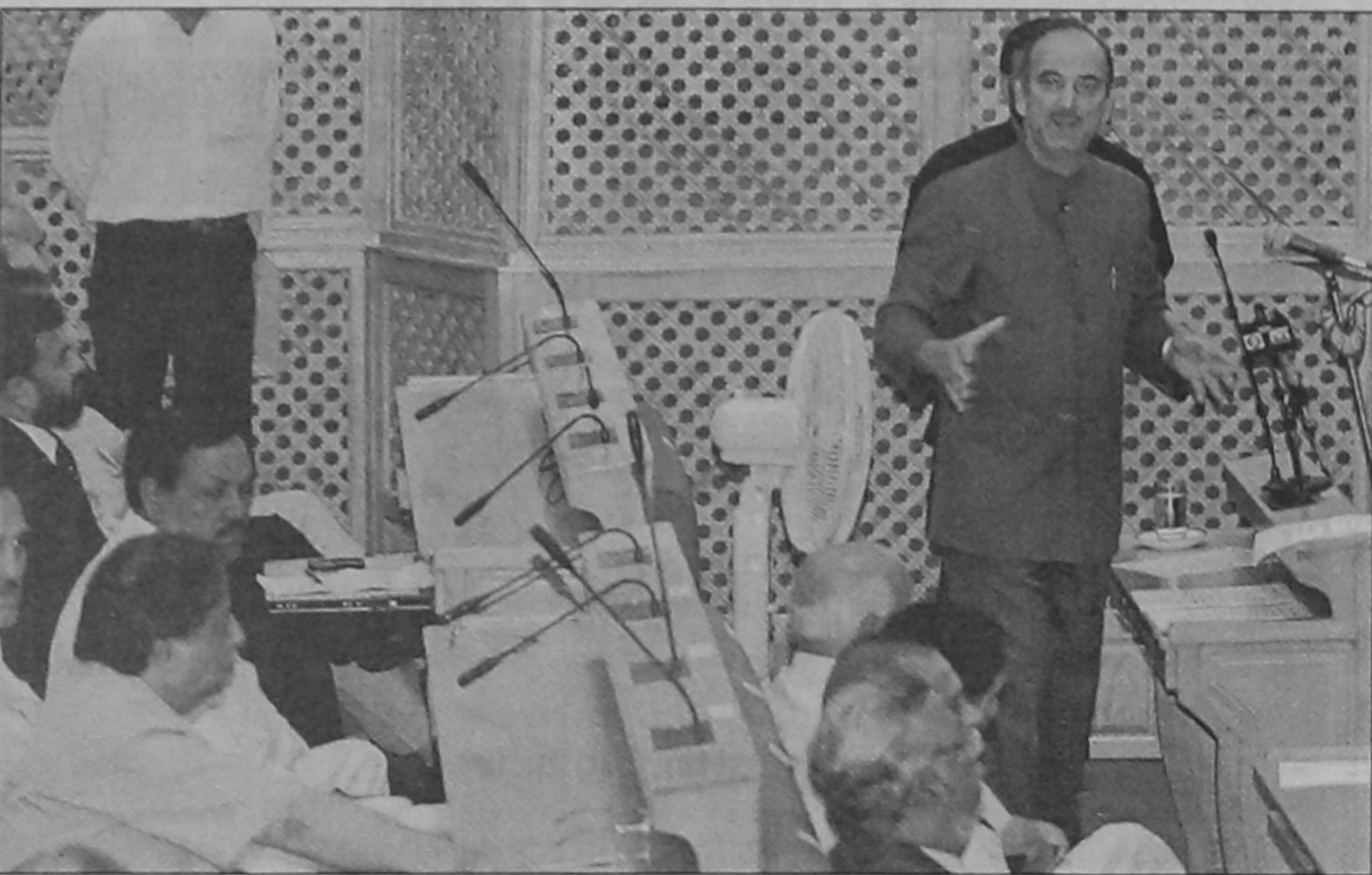


Kashmir CM quits in row over land to Hindus

AP, Srinagar
The top elected official in Indian Kashmir announced his resignation yesterday after weeks of violent protests over the transfer of government land to a Hindu shrine in the Muslim-majority region.

Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, a trust running a revered Hindu shrine. Muslim Kashmiris denounced the land transfer as an attempt to build Hindu settlements in the area and alter the demographics in India's only Muslim-majority state.

scheduled for October will be brought forward. The Amarnath shrine is a cave that houses a large icicle revered by Hindus as an incarnation of Lord Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction and regeneration.



Chief Minister of Indian-administered Kashmir, Ghulam Nabi Azad addresses the legislative assembly in Srinagar yesterday. Azad announced his resignation after the region was hit by violent protests over the allotment of land to a key Hindu pilgrim trust.

17 killed in fresh Lanka fighting: Military

AFP, Colombo
Fifteen Tamil Tiger rebels and two soldiers were killed in fresh fighting in Sri Lanka's north, the defence ministry said yesterday.

in Jaffna on Sunday, while four people were hurt when air force jets bombed the rebel-held Killinochchi area the same day. The defence ministry's latest claim of casualties takes the number of rebels reported killed by government troops since the beginning of the year to 4,770, against the loss of 429 soldiers.

accidental explosion inside a shop in Pasyala, to the north of Sri Lanka's capital, raised fears of another Tamil Tiger bomb attack. "The shop is on fire -- we believe a gas cylinder inside the shop may have caused the explosion," a ministry spokesman said, adding one person died and three others were hurt.

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"নিলাম দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"
০১) প্রকল্প / প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম: আশুগঞ্জ পাতার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড, আশুগঞ্জ, বি-বাড়ীয়া-৩৪০২।
০২) প্রকল্পের ব্র্যান্ডিং: আহাৎ (প্রকল্পের ব্র্যান্ডিং), আশুগঞ্জ পাতার স্টেশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড।
০৩) প্রকল্পের ব্র্যান্ডিং কোড: বি-বাড়ীয়া, বাংলাদেশ।

Investigators look for clues at Pak blast site

AP, AFP, Islamabad
Investigators yesterday examined the site of a suicide blast that targeted police in the nation's capital as officials sorted out clues about the alleged attacker. No one has claimed responsibility for the explosion that left at least 19 people dead and dozens wounded.

"This is against humanity," Gilani told reporters Monday after visiting some of the victims at an Islamabad hospital. "The law will take the culprits in its grip." Asif Ali Zardari, head of the main ruling party, insisted the attack would only strengthen the resolve of the government to confront the militants and extremists head on.



Afghan officials look on as a vehicle is moved from the site of a suicide attack in front of the Indian Embassy in Kabul yesterday. A suicide bomber rammed an explosives-filled car into the gates of the Indian embassy in Afghanistan, killing more than 40 people including four Indian nationals.

Myanmar PM promises better homes for cyclone victims

AFP, Yangon
Myanmar's premier promised better housing for cyclone victims in the devastated Irrawaddy Delta, where many people have received only a plastic sheet to use for shelter, state media said yesterday. Cyclone Nargis left more than 138,000 people dead or missing when it struck Myanmar on May 2, washing away entire villages.

newspaper. He also said the military government was working to restore the livelihoods of those in the delta, one of Myanmar's most important farming regions. "Officials concerned are to supervise cultivation tasks," Thein Sein said during a tour of the delta on Sunday, adding that seeds and tools would be distributed to help survivors replant their destroyed vegetable crops.

Some evidence of nuke proliferation could be made public

THE DAWN, Islamabad
The government is seriously considering making public some of the evidence collected during the last three years about the proliferation network and Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan's alleged role in order to counter the recent media campaign of the detained nuclear scientist to establish his innocence. Perhaps Dr Khan is up for a shock as he may not know that almost all the 'debriefing' or 'interrogation' sessions the Pakistani investigators had held, and during which almost every detail of the international proliferation operation had come to light, were videotaped.

And a senior government official claims that on several occasions during the debriefing Dr Khan confessed to his involvement, at times describing them as honest mistakes, slips or oversights. Dr Khan, however, insists that he is innocent, and in a series of recent interviews has denied any wrongdoing. Despite such statements by the detained scientist, these officials say Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and other members of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet, as well as a number of other ministers, are in full picture regarding the investigation.

'Enemies' of Afghan-India ties behind attack: Karzai

AFP, Kabul
President Hamid Karzai said "enemies" of the strong friendship between Afghanistan and India had exploded a car bomb at the Indian embassy Monday that killed 40 people, including two senior diplomats. India has been one of the strongest allies of post-Taliban Afghanistan, providing essential resources for reconstruction including for roads, electricity and other infrastructure.

were. Afghan officials often use this term to refer to Taliban and other extremists involved in a bloody insurgency against Karzai's Western-backed government. Afghan and US officials often accuse circles in neighbouring Pakistan, India's long-time rival, of harbouring and supporting Taliban militants. Pakistan has strongly rejected the claim. "Enemies of Afghanistan cannot stop expanding friendly relations by resorting to such attacks," the statement cited Karzai saying.

of consulates in several cities and resources for reconstruction -- has put it in competition with neighbour and long-time rival Pakistan, analysts say. Pakistan condemned Monday's car bomb attack that targeted the Indian embassy in Kabul, but the Indian media and commentators have been quick to see it as a part of an intensifying Afghan feud between the rivals. The nuclear-armed countries are officially at peace but are still seen by commentators as engaging in proxy tactics.

Indian PM set to meet Bush over nuke deal

AFP, New Delhi
Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh arrived here yesterday for a G8 summit where he is expected to tell US President George W. Bush he will move ahead on a stalled bilateral nuclear energy deal. The Indian premier, who is among 23 leaders meeting in Japan for a Group of Eight summit, is visiting after US pressure to advance the atomic energy pact before Bush ends his US presidency.

A four-member bloc of communist parties, who have 59 seats in the 545-member parliament, insist the deal would bind India too closely to the United States, and have threatened repeatedly to force early elections if it moves forward. In a pre-departure statement, Singh confirmed his meeting with Bush but made no direct reference to the controversial issue. "I will present India's perspective on a wide range of global issues, including the state of the world economy, development, trade, transfer of technology, energy security and food security," he said. "I will, in particular, highlight the impact of the sharp rise in fuel prices on the global economy and the need for joint action by both (oil) producing and consuming nations."

Singh's ruling Congress party successfully wooed its longtime arch-rival Samajwadi Party (SP), which holds 39 seats, into backing the deal. Such bargaining appears to have helped Singh's Congress party to outmanoeuvre the left, and to stage off elections ahead of the scheduled May 2009 date. Parties from the left are insisting the government tell them on Monday whether it plans to head to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to finalise a safeguards agreement -- the next step in the process. But with its new partners on board, the Congress has scoffed at the ultimatum. The United States meanwhile has been pressing India to move on the deal before the end of Bush's tenure, warning that the pact may not survive in its current form under the next administration.



Protesters from Nepal's ethnic Tharu community clash with policemen as they stage a rally in Kathmandu yesterday against the "One Mahadesh, One State" demand made by the Mahadheshi people residing in the country's southern belt.

UN nuclear agency sets India meeting

AP, Vienna
Diplomats say the International Atomic Energy Agency has scheduled a July 28 board meeting to approve the agency's nuclear rules for India. The meeting is important because it will move New Delhi forward in its quest to put into action a landmark nuclear deal with the US. Without so-called IAEA safeguards, India cannot hope to gain

the business of countries exporting nuclear technology which are grouped in the Nuclear Suppliers Group. The NSG group is expected to meet within days after any IAEA board approval of the pact. The diplomats demanded anonymity in divulging the date of the meeting because their information was confidential and not yet formally announced by the Vienna-based agency.

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"Invitation For International Tender"
01 Ministry/Division: Ministry of power, Energy and Mineral Resources/Power Division
02 Agency: Ashuganj Power Station Co. Ltd.
03 Procuring Entity Name: Convener, Procurement Committee, APSC, Ashuganj, B-Baria
04 Procuring Entity District: Brahman Baria, Bangladesh
05 Invitation for: Supply of 132 KV SF6 Circuit Breaker for Sub-station of APSC