

### India's Supreme Court demands report on religious riots

India's Supreme Court yesterday ordered eastern Orissa state to report on steps taken to stop a wave of anti-Christian rioting that has claimed 16 lives, a court official said.

Some 200 people have been arrested in connection with the riots and 13,000 others, mostly Christians, are sheltering under police guard in seven camps in Orissa's Kandhamal district.

Thousands of others have fled to the jungles after their homes, churches and prayer halls were torched.

The violence, which erupted after the August 23 murder of a popular Hindu leader by unknown gunmen, has drawn condemnation from the pope.

The court's ruling, directing the Orissa administration to submit its report on Thursday, came after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh ordered the state to punish those responsible for murder and arson.

### North Korea reassembling N-facility

North Korea has begun to reassemble its main nuclear facility, citing a delayed removal from a US list of terror sponsors, Japanese media and Fox News reported yesterday.

Japan's public broadcaster NHK and Kyodo News agency said North Korea started putting its Yongbyon facility back together Tuesday. The reports cited unidentified officials related to the disarmament talks.

North Korea last week said it had stopped disabling its nuclear reactor and threatened to restore the plutonium-producing facility, citing Washington's failure to remove it from the list of terror sponsors.

In response, Washington repeated its demand that North Korea must first agree to a plan to verify an accounting of nuclear programs it submitted in June, if it wants to be taken off the list.

Kyodo said the reassembling started at the Yongbyon facility on Tuesday.

Fox News carried a similar report from Washington, quoting an unidentified US official as saying that the North has been threatening the move for some time and it is considered as a way for it to express anger and "to put further pressure on us."

### 24 Taliban killed in Afghanistan

About two dozen Taliban fighters were killed in separate battles in Afghanistan, one of them in the same province where nine Australian troops were wounded, officials said Wednesday.

The Australian special forces were hurt in a Taliban ambush Tuesday in the southern province of Uruzgan in the nation's worst combat casualty toll in a single incident since Vietnam, the Australian military said.

The police chief of Uruzgan, Juma Gul Hemat, confirmed casualties to Australian troops serving in the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) helping to battle a Taliban-led insurgency.

He said there were several clashes between troops and militants in his province Tuesday.



Pakistani security personnel along with a sniffer dog secure the hilly area from where an attack was launched on the motorcade of Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani in Islamabad. Gilani escaped an apparent assassination attempt yesterday when his car was struck by two bullets fired by unknown assailants. Picture inset shows the bullets of the PM's car parked at the Prime Minister House after the attack in Islamabad.

## Foreign troops kill 15 civilians in Pakistan

### Pak troops kill 30 militants in Swat Valley

Women and children were among 15 people killed in an attack yesterday involving US-led forces in a Pakistani village near the border with Afghanistan, officials and a resident said.

Pakistan's government said that the cross-border raid involving US-led or Nato forces killed several civilians in a village near the Afghan border.

A statement from the Foreign Ministry described the raid in the South Waziristan region as a ground attack supported by air assets based in Afghanistan.

It said the attack caused "immense loss of civilian life" and called it a "gross violation" of Pakistani territory.

The statement said such strikes undermine joint efforts to fight terrorism.

South Waziristan is considered a militant stronghold, and the U.S. has pushed Pakistan to crackdown on insurgents who use it as a base to stage attacks inside Afghanistan.

However, both the coalition and separate NATO-led security force in Afghanistan said they had no knowledge of any such attack.

1st Lt Nathan Perry, a spokesman for the US-led coalition in Afghanistan, said it had "no information to give" about the alleged operation, while a spokesman for NATO troops there denied any involvement in the incident which reportedly took place in the remote tribal area that has become a haven for Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters.

Officials gave differing accounts of the pre-dawn raid in the South Waziristan region, part of the tribal belt where officials suspect Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida No. 2 Ayman al-Zawahiri are hiding. It was unclear whether any militant leaders had been killed or captured.

The governor of North West Frontier Province, the chief administrator for the tribal belt, said three coalition helicopter gunships and commandos carried out an "outrageous" attack on a village. Mukhtar told reporters in Lahore.

Meanwhile as many as 30 suspected militants were killed in clashes with Pakistani troops in the troubled northwestern Swat valley yesterday, the army said.

"Up to 30 militants are confirmed dead and some 25 wounded in a ground and air offensive by the army troops," spokesman Major Nasir Ali told AFP.

Ali said the operation targeted the central headquarters of radical pro-Taliban cleric Maulana Fazlullah, also known as Mullah Radio, whose followers have been engaged in bloody clashes with troops since late last year.



British journalist and peace activist Lauren Booth, sister-in-law of former British premier Tony Blair who is now an international Middle East peace envoy, speaks on her mobile phone in Gaza City yesterday. Booth said she was trapped in Gaza as Israel refuses to let her leave the Palestinian territory she entered aboard a protest boat

## Pakistan politics testy ahead of presidential vote

Pakistan prosecutors confirmed Tuesday they were pressing ahead with corruption cases against opposition leader Nawaz Sharif, a move his supporters said was aimed at further sidelining Sharif's party ahead of presidential elections.

Members of the main governing Pakistan People's Party insisted the judicial proceedings had nothing to do with them.

But the news threatened to further sour the main ruling party's relations with Sharif, a popular figure whose party holds the second-largest number of seats in parliament and which was just days ago part of the ruling coalition.

Asif Ali Zardari, head of the Pakistan People's Party and widower of slain ex-Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, is expected to easily win the presidency in Saturday's vote by lawmakers. Sharif's party is fielding a retired judge as its candidate.

The US is keenly awaiting the outcome of the election in Pakistan, a country it considers crucial in the fight against Islamic extremism. Pakistan has been

fighting insurgents in its northwest regions near Afghanistan, and police said Tuesday that eight suspected militants had been killed in the Swat Valley area.

In mid-August, Sharif and Zardari's parties forced longtime US ally Pervez Musharraf to quit the presidency. Sharif left the coalition soon after over disputes about who should succeed Musharraf and how to restore judges the former president sacked last year.

Both Zardari and Sharif have

The cases stretch back years, and their accusations against Sharif include money laundering, loan defaults and accumulation of wealth beyond his known sources of income.

"It appears to be aimed at using the accountability courts against Nawaz Sharif," said the opposition leader's lawyer, Khwaja Haris. "It appears to be used for political ends."

Sharif aide Ahsan Iqbal said pursuing the cases smacked of "political bankruptcy."

"Sometimes, if you cannot get things done politically, then you try to blackmail the opposition," he told Dawn News TV. "I would still hope that the ruling party would refrain from such tactics."

Information Minister Sherry Rehman said Zardari's party "will not pursue the politics of revenge." Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, meanwhile, said the accountability bureau, which the new government has vowed to reform, "has no value."

Zardari has garnered the support of several political factions and parties in recent days, making him a virtual lock for the presidency. His party aides are calling him the "consensus candidate,"

even though Sharif's party and the main pro-Musharraf block oppose him.

Zardari has stunned many by becoming the country's most powerful politician, despite holding no elected position. For years, Zardari has been best known as Bhutto's husband and derisively called "Mr. 10 Percent" for allegedly receiving kickbacks on government contracts during his wife's terms as prime minister.

Zardari's party is generally considered more in line with American policies on fighting Islamism than Sharif's, which has a more conservative base.

But many Pakistanis consider Musharraf's support for America's foray into Afghanistan as the reason for rising violence in their country. Such sentiments have led Zardari's party to tread carefully in fighting insurgents.

The government at first tried peace deals with militants, but more recently resorted to force, staging an offensive in the Bajur tribal region that killed hundreds and displaced hundreds of thousands. That military campaign has halted for the Muslim holy month, Ramadan.

## Flood-hit Indian state appeals for more help

Flood-hit northern India is in dire need of international aid on the level of that seen after the 2004 Asian tsunami, a state official said yesterday.

A large swathe of the already desperately poor state of Bihar is likely to remain under water for several months, leaving authorities coping with millions of people who have lost everything, officials and aid workers said.

"We will definitely need the support of international organisations and agencies, the same as after the tsunami (in 2004) or the Gujarat earthquake" in 2001, said Bihar disaster minister Nitish Mishra.

"It is not possible for just the government to have a complete rehabilitation policy on its own.

Whatever more is available, we need it."

The flooding started on August 18, when a river burst through defences upstream in Nepal and changed course to cut across a large rural area in Bihar state.

The UN has said at least a million people are homeless, although the aid group Save the Children said the figure could be five times higher.

"This is six times the number of people that were made homeless by the cyclone in Myanmar four months ago and 7.5 times the number of people in India that were made homeless after the tsunami in 2004," the agency said.

"The reported death toll is not high, but the number of people affected by this flooding is on an unimaginable scale."

## Suu Kyi refuses talks with junta officer

Myanmar's detained democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has refused to meet with the junta's liaison officer and declined a visit from her personal physician, state media said yesterday.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner in recent weeks has refused even the minimal contact that the regime allows her with the outside world.

Suu Kyi refused to meet her personal physician and a top government minister, indicating her continued frustration at the slow pace of reform in the military-ruled country, her spokesman said yesterday.

Suu Kyi refused to attend a Tuesday meeting with Relations Minister Aung Mye Thaw whom Myanmar's junta appointed last year to facilitate talks aimed at bringing democratic reforms to the impoverished and isolated country.

Suu Kyi, who has been under house arrest for 13 of the past 19 years, also declined a checkup from her personal physician, Dr. Tin Myo Win, Nyan Win said. The Nobel Peace Prize winner's last checkup was Aug. 17, when her doctor said she was well.

Nyan Win said he did not know for certain why Suu Kyi had refused the meetings but that it was likely to do with the government's failure to embrace a timetable for democratic reform.

## Strike fizzles as Thai protests continue

A strike meant to pile pressure on Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej fell flat yesterday, but thousands of protesters besieging his offices refused to back down on their demand for him to quit.

With Bangkok under a state of emergency for a second day, Thailand's political stalemate showed no sign of easing even as the strike threatened by utility workers flopped.

Meanwhile Thailand's foreign minister handed in his resignation yesterday. An aide to Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej, who would not be named, told AFP that Foreign Minister Tej Bunnag submitted his resignation citing his wife's ill health, but it has yet to be accepted by the prime minister.

Unions representing 200,000 employees at state enterprises had threatened to make crippling cuts to water and power supplies nationwide. But few workers heeded their call, with services running as usual.

Some workers who began disrupting train services last week returned to the job yesterday, the State Railway of Thailand said, adding that operations had actually improved, with trains suspended only in southern provinces.

Flag carrier Thai Airways reported no disruptions and transport authorities in Bangkok said public buses were running as usual.

But the thousands of activists who stormed Samak's official compound 10 days ago refused to budge, raising fears of new violence after one man was killed and 44 injured in clashes between Samak's opponents and supporters late Monday.

The violence prompted Samak to invoke a state of emergency early Tuesday, essentially giving control of the capital to the military.

Political gatherings are banned and the army is empowered to suspend civil liberties.

But while the protesters have defied the ban on assembling, the army chief, General Anupong Paojinda, said he would use force rather than violence to end the siege.

The military has made no move to evict activists squatting in the Government House compound, and one of the key protest leaders said they would only open negotiations if Samak resigns.

"Our stand is always firm -- that Mr Samak has to go. If Mr Samak doesn't go we will not talk to anybody," said media mogul Sondhi Limthongkul, who has spearheaded the movement.

### Advertisement regarding rate of rental of Grameenphone's transmission capacity

1. Capacity from BR/R&H Fibers (at E1 & STM-1 level):

A. Selling Unit: E1 (30 channels):

Monthly Rent/Km	Limit of Rate (BDT/Km)	
	Minimum	Maximum
a) 0-50 Km	560	840
b) 51-100 Km	320	480
c) 101-200 Km	240	360
d) 201-300 Km	200	240
e) Above 300 Km	100	120

Note to Table-1. A:

- For any lease/sublease, the minimum rental of BDT 16,800 per month shall be charged for any distance below 30 Km.
- A discount may be considered depending on bulk, tenure of utilization, data/voice, type/category of client and the route of lease/sublease as per below:

Sl.	Type of client	E1 rate per month in Tk.	Discount on Bulk and Tenure (No. of E1 years)		
			12-48 E1 month	60-108 E1 month	120 + E1 month
1	Cellular Operator	X1	Nil	15%	25%
2	PSTN Operator	X2	Nil	15%	25%
3	DATA/ISP/DDCSP/Corp.	X3	Nil	15%	25%
4	Rural DATA/ILDTS/SME/Media	X4	Nil	15%	25%

Note: x1, x2, x3 & x4 may be, for example, x1, x2=.8x1, x3=.95x2, x4=.95x3  
Sample calculation is given below:

Variable	Sample Price	Sample Price	Sample Price	Sample Price	Sample Price
X1	1,26,000	1,25,000	1,24,000	1,23,000	1,22,000
X2	1,00,800	1,00,000	99,200	98,400	97,600
X3	95,760	95,000	94,240	93,480	92,720
X4	90,972	90,250	89,528	88,806	88,084

B. Selling Unit: STM-1 (63 E1)

- This rental shall be determined by multiplying the unit cost of one E1 by 63
- For an STM-1, a discount within the range of 20% to 70% may be considered depending on bulk, tenure of utilization, data/voice, type/category of client.

2. Capacity from PGC Fiber on Dhaka-Chittagong Section (at E1 & STM-1 level)

A. Selling Unit: E1

Monthly Rent/E1	Limit of Rate (BDT)	
	Minimum	Maximum
E1 (Dhaka-Chittagong: 246 Km)	15,000	85,000

B. Selling Unit: STM-1 (63 E1)

- This rental shall be determined by multiplying the unit cost of one E1 by 63
- For an STM-1, a discount of maximum 20% may be considered depending on bulk, tenure of utilization, data/voice, type/category of client and the route of lease/sublease.

3. Channel Level Capacity and CBD from BR/R&H/PGCB Fibers:

A. Selling Unit: Channel (64 kbps)

Monthly Rent/Channel	Limit of Rate (BDT)	
	Minimum	Maximum
64 kbps regardless of length	4,000	15,000

Note to Table-3. A:

- A discount may be considered depending on bulk, tenure of utilization, data/voice, type/category of client and the route of lease/sublease as per Note to Table-1. A (ii).

B. Selling Unit: Capacity Block on Demand (CBD)

Rent per CBD Product	Limit of Rate (BDT)	
	Minimum	Maximum
1 CBD of 4 hours (Between any two points where available)	25,000	1,00,000

Note to Table-3. B:

- For multiple quantity (i.e. 2 CBD, 3 CBD), charges would be multiplied accordingly.
- No fraction of CBD will be considered (i.e. 1.5 CBD = 2 CBD)
- Standard bandwidth for CBD would be 2 mbps (1E1)
- Usage over multiple & long-term commitment shall be entitled to discount to the range of 30% to 75%.

4. Special Tariff:

A. Special Tariff: Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Cases  
In special cases like CSR, Grameenphone will take prior approval from BTRC.  
This tariff will not be treated as reference tariff by any other organization.

B. Special Tariff: Cases of National Interest  
In special cases like National Interest, Grameenphone will take prior approval from BTRC.  
This tariff may vary from case to case and shall not be treated as reference tariff by any other organization.

5. All charges are excluding VAT.  
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