Somchai unveils

new Thai cabinet

INTERNATIONAL

Pak army investigates US spy drone wreckage

AP, Islamabad

The Pakistani army said yesterday it found the wreckage of a suspected US spy plane near the Afghan border, but denied claims that it had been shot down.

strained ties between Washington drones at suspected militants American-led war on terrorism. targets on the Pakistan side of the

wounded 11 troops in the frontier by US commandos on Sept. 3. city of Quetta while security forces

der zone. Three Pakistani intelligence

Waziristan region. However, a Pakistan army state- an incursion. ment on Wednesday said security forces had recovered the crashed surveillance aircraft. It said a tech-

soldiers, police said.

RRC ONTINE

some apprehension.

ipated.

Tutu.

December.

President in 2005.

populist, Jacob Zuma.

NEWS ANALYSIS

South Africa's political landscape is

changing faster than anyone antic-

The speed of events over the past

atmosphere of uncertainty, and

a welter of calls for clear and strong

However, change has been on

by his long-time rival, Jacob Zuma -

sacked as South Africa's Deputy

with 4,000 ANC delegates from

exercising their democratic right to

force a change of leadership in the

wall for Thabo Mbeki and his allies.

After 10 years at the helm of the

conference, the writing was on the bank says.

conference in Polokwane last change.

Polokwane was a watershed, a trying time"

President Thabo Mbeki has drawn Mbeki.

few days has inevitably created an stop us", he declared.

investigating further.

loss of any their drones, which can also be equipped with video surveillance equipment.

Confirmation of Pakistani forces firing on U.S. troops or The incident comes amid aircraft could trigger a crisis in circling the Angoor Ada area of relations between Islamabad and South Waziristan for several hours. and Islamabad over a series of Washington, who are close but missile strikes from American uncomfortable allies in the

Pakistani leaders are condemning stepped-up American opera-In more signs that the militancy tions across the border from is escalating, a suicide bomber Afghanistan especially a highly killed an 11-year-old girl and unusual raid into South Waziristan backed by helicopter gunships had

killed 20 militants in another bor- to resolve the dispute diplomati- day near Khar, the main town.

officials earlier said troops and defend Pakistan's territory "at all tribal belt, levying taxes and tribesmen had shot down the cost," and Tuesday's incident was enforcing strict Taliban-style social drone late Tuesday near Jalal Khel, at least the third this month in codes and justice. a village in Pakistan's South which Pakistani troops have reportedly opened fire to counter Committee" executed four alleged

US President George W Bush did not directly refer to the incursions after he met his Pakistani nical problem appeared to have counterpart, Asif Ali Zardari, for the brought it down and that it was first time in New York on Tuesday.

A Pakistani Ranger stands guard at the site of a suicide bomb attack in Quetta yesterday. A suicide bomber blew

himself up near a security forces vehicle in southwest Pakistan, killing a young girl and wounding 13 people, mainly

S Africa ponders life after Mbeki

brations in January, the then leader

of the party's Youth League, Fikile

There has been a decidedly panic

Mbalula, signalled that the Zuma

mixed reaction in South Africa to

leadership, lest the country finds divided our country", said last the political left, such as the Cosatu

itself on the path to becoming "a week's Sunday Times. President trade union federation and the

economic slowdown and electric-

been since the early 1990's. Both

business and consumer confi-

dence have slumped," it continues.

volatile political transition is likely

It was Thabo Mbeki's steward-

"While investors may welcome could be grave.

ascendancy.

dominance

the man whom Mr Mbeki had Chartered Bank says "with the present.

The sudden resignation of the forced resignation of Thabo

banana republic", to quote the Mbeki's ousting may prove to be

words of Archbishop Desmond the undoing of the ANC's electoral

the cards since the historic African observers have expressed disquiet

National Congress (ANC) national at the timing of this political

term as party leader, was defeated turbulence in the world economy.

branches all over the countries country are the highest they have

ruling party, Thabo Mbeki found greater certainty in terms of the

himself rejected in favour of the future political outlook, a more

Within days of the Polokwane to cost the country dearly," the

At the ANC's anniversary cele-ship of the South African economy

"Your words have been very US officials did not confirm the strong about Pakistan's sovereign right and sovereign duty to protect your country, and the United States wants to help," Bush said.

The three Pakistani intelligence officials said the drone was hit after Wreckage was strewn on the ground, they said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to brief

A government official in the Bajur region said security forces killed at least 20 more militants in The government says it is trying fighting that erupted the previous

Militant warlords have estab-However, the army has vowed to lished virtual mini-states in the

Also yesterday, a so-called "Peace murderers in Wana, the main town in South Waziristan, a witness said. Din Muhammed said members of the committee used mosque loudspeakers to gather a crowd before the four were shot to death.

that has arguably been his greatest

During his presidency, the

period of steady economic growth.

appealed to South Africans not to

Zuma becomes President after next

South African Communist Party.

to Mbeki's economic policies,

marginalised, and that unemploy-

However, in the short term,

Motlanthe, may be the safe pair of

ment remains high.

party is now significant".

year's elections, he may be

There are fears that if Jacob

They have always been opposed

achievement.

camp in the ANC was firmly in the country has enjoyed its longest

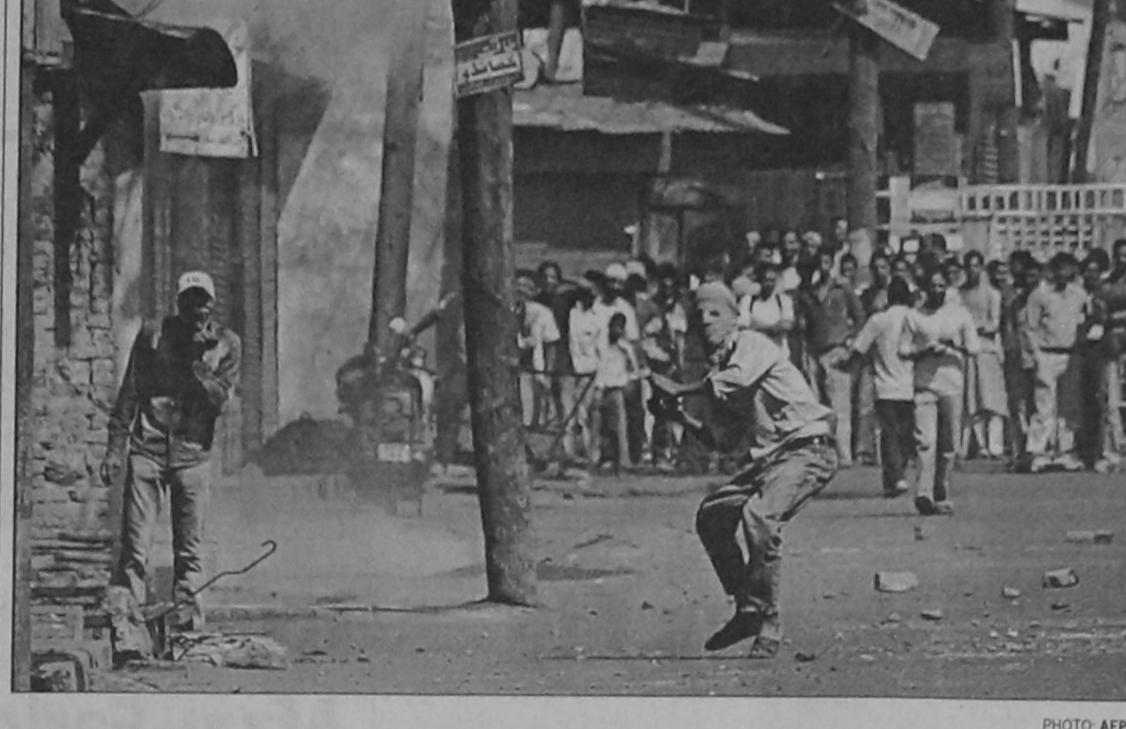
"We are the future. No-one can The ANC leader, Jacob Zuma, has

"He was a bad president. He beholden to some of his allies on

But many commentators and arguing that the poor have been

They believe it could leave there are hopes that the likely

An analysis by Standard hands that the country needs at



A Kashmiri demonstrator (R) throws stones towards Indian Police during a protest in Srinagar yesterday on September 24, 2008. Demonstrators took to the streets after an overnight hand grenade attack on the residence of senior separatist and leading cleric Maulana Showket Ahmed Shah, which caused no injuries.

killed, 13 hurt in Pak suicide blast

AFP, Islamabad

A suicide bomber blew himself up near a security forces vehicle in southwest Pakistan yesterday, killing ayounggirland wounding 13 people, mainly soldiers, police said.

The bomber walked up to the vehicle and detonated the explosives strapped to his body on the main road leading to the airport in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province, police officer Ishtiaq Ahmed told AFP.

"One girl standing on the roadside was killed and 11 soldiers were wounded," provincial police chief Asif Nawaz said.

Tribal rebels in gas-rich Baluchistan, which borders Afghanistan and Iran, are waging an insurgency, demanding political autonomy and a greater share of profits from the region's natural resources.

Lankan forces kill 16 Tamil

ligers

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lankan government forces have killed 16 Tamil Tigers and lost three of their own troops in the latest clashes across the north of the island, the defence ministry said yesterday.

The fighting on Tuesday also saw government jets raid the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) northern capital of Kilinochchi, the objective of the current offensive.

There was no comment from the LTTE, although the pro-rebel Tamilnet website reported the rebels set off a roadside mine in the eastern town of Batticaloa on Tuesday, killing two government soldiers.

The Sri Lankan government pulled out of a ceasefire with the rebels in January, and is currently trying to dismantle their northern mini-state.

"Aerial bombardments, shelling, and small arms fire, in areas close to Kilinochchi town continue to be reported as the military campaign has intensified," the UN's Inter-Agency Standing Committee Thabo Mbeki, seeking a third South Africa vulnerable at a time of acting president, Kgalema saidin a statement.

Indo-Pak premiers to meet in New York

PTI, New York

With infiltration and ceasefire violations witnessing a rise recently, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is expected to seek concrete action by Islamabad to stop such activities when he meets Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari in New York.

An announcement on launch of cross-LoC trade in Jammu and Kashmir next month is also expected after the meeting, the first between the two leaders since Zardari became the President earlier this month.

The issue of spurt in ceasefire AFP, Mumbai violations and infiltration is expected to figure prominently in An Indian court yesterday senthe talks, with Singh likely to underline that such activities do not help in the normalisation of relations and need to cease to ensure conducive atmosphere for carrying on the dialogue process.

Revealing his mind ahead of his meeting with Zardari, Singh said Tuesday that Pakistan must address the rising issue of cross-

border terrorism. " He said India and Pakistan faced "enormous challenges" and "we have to convert these challenges into opportunities and see how peace can be brought and how we can work together." "We welcome the advent of democracy in Pakistan. We are looking forward to working with them and how we can work together," the Prime Minister told journalists accompanying him dence.

on the US visit.

Official sources accompanying the Prime Minister said India expects Zardari to come out with steps to end rising incidents of cross-border terrorism and ceasefire violations.

It is up to Zardari to find a way out to remove the impediments in normalisation of Indo-Pak relations, they said.

6 sentenced to death in India

tenced to death six people who were found guilty of murdering members of a low-caste Hindu family, a crime that sparked violence and outrage from political leaders.

The court gave life sentences to two others who were found guilty

The woman, her daughter and two sons were attacked by a mob over an alleged land dispute in a village near the city of Nagpur, 900 kilometres (560 miles) northeast of Mumbai, in September 2006.

Their bodies were found dumped in a canal. The woman's husband managed to escape.

Earlier last week after a year-long trial, a court in Bhandara, near Nagpur, acquitted three other defendants due to a lack of evi-

prised of both politicians and Thailand's new Prime Minister non-politicians."

intention as the cabinet is com-

The list was released after Thailand's King Bhumibol heal rifts within his own party and Adulyadej signed off on the cabi-

restore stability as anti- net. The finance minister post goes After days of intense horse to economist Suchart Thada-Thamrongvech, while former Thaksin advisor Sompong Amornviwat gets the foreign ministry job.

Former police chief Kowit a few controversial faces from Wattana will retain his position as interior minister.

Royalist protesters besieging Chavalit Youngchaiyudh, Thai the main government compound prime minister from 1996 to 1997 will be watching closely for signs and a prominent political figure of the influence of ousted pre- in Thailand, will be one of five mier Thaksin Shinawatra, as they deputy prime ministers. continue their campaign to bring

Somehai has taken the down any government with links defence portfolio himself, becoming only the fourth civilian Somehai implored Thais to in the post in a nation where the give his cabinet a chance to solve military has historically played a the turmoil in the kingdom, as the prominent role in politics. protesters dug in for the second

Parliament last week elected Somehai as Thailand's 26th prime minister after his toughtalking predecessor Samak "Please let my cabinet work to Sundaravej was forced from the prove themselves," Somchai told job when a court ruled he had taken illegal payments for a TV cooking show.

Taiwan calls for food safety hotline with China

AFP, Taipei

AFP, Bangkok

the past.

to him.

compound.

Somchai Wongsawat yesterday

unveiled his cabinet, looking to

trading with the ruling People

Power Party's five coalition

partners, Somchai revealed a 36-

member cabinet made of vet-

eran politicians, academics and

month of their occupation of

Bangkok's main government

reporters yesterday. "I am confi-

dent that they will work with good

government protests drag on.

Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou yesterday called for the creation of a food safety hotline with China in the wake of a toxic milk scare there.

have a deeper understanding of food safety and consumer protection systems on the mainland," Ma told a group of local doctors.

"We should build a hotline so that we won't have insufficient information."

Taiwan has banned the import of Chinese milk products and nondairy creamers, and ordered stores to remove all remaining items from shelves after more foodstuffs were found to be tainted with the industrial chemical melamine.

Retailers face a fine of up to 150,000 Taiwan dollars (4,700 US) if suspect items are not removed by Wednesday night, said an official at the Department of Health.

Products that test negative for tein.

melamine content will be certified by the government before being replaced on shelves, while those found to be contaminated will be destroyed, the official said.

At least 17 local food companies "In the long term, we need to had imported milk products from China, according to Taiwanese authorities.

> Taiwan seized nearly 10 tonnes of milk powder produced by Sanlu Group, the company originally at the centre of the health scare on the mainland.

China has said 53,000 children have been sickened by milk lacedwith melamine, which is normally used to make plastics.

It has led to four deaths so far and prompted a host of nations to ban, or at least scrutinise, Chinese dairy imports, further tarnishing the reputation of the "Made in China" label.

Melamine, when added to milk, can make it appear richer in pro-

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Tourists visit the temple of Abu Simbel, south of Aswan, 800 kilometres south of Cairo yesterday. Sudanese forces were laying siege yesterday to a remote desert hideout where bandits have 19 people captive, including European tourists, but said they did not plan to storm the area.