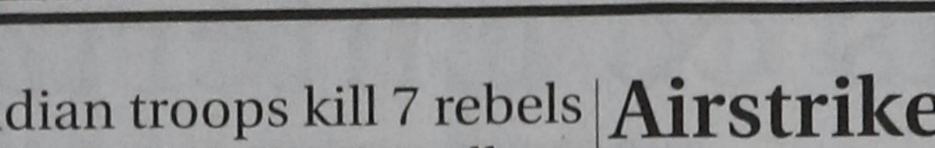
INTERNATIONAL



AFP, Srinagar

Indian troops shot dead seven Islamic militants, including Pakistanis, in revolt-hit Kashmir ahead of another round of voting in state elections, police said yesterday.

rebels have appealed to Kashmiris to boycott the polls, arguing that elections the disputed region.

But so far turnout for the seven-stage election has been strong in the Muslim-majority are battling New Delhi's rule.

"The militants were killed in two separate gunbattles in region. (southern) Pulwama and (northern) Bandipora districts," a police statement

Two of the militants were Pakistani nationals and "both were members of Lashkar-e-

Toiba" militant group, the statement said.

The hardline organisation has been blamed by Indian officials for multiple attacks on the country's financial centre Mumbai, which ended early Saturday and left nearly Separatist politicians and 200 people dead, including over 20 foreigners.

Lashkar spokesman Abdullah Gaznavi has denied strengthen India's sway over the group's involvement, saying the outfit was being named to "malign Kashmir's freedom struggle".

Kashmir is divided region where Islamic militants between India and Pakistan, both of which have nuclear arms and claim the whole

> The fighting came ahead of Sunday's third round of voting in the Kupwara district, considered "sensitive" by election officials because it borders the Pakistan-administered part of the region.

Indian troops kill 7 rebels ahead of Kashmir polls AFP, Srinagar Toiba" militant group, the Toiba" militant group, the Toiba militant group militan

AP, Kabul

Gunbattles and airstrikes by Nato and Afghan troops killed 53 militants in Afghanistan, including a wanted Taliban commander who tried to hide from soldiers under a woman's burga, officials said Saturday.

The US forces targeting the commander surrounded a house Friday in Ghazni province and ordered everyone inside to leave, a military statement said.

Six women and 12 children left the building, but while soldiers were questioning the women they discovered one was actually a man dressed in a burqa, the traditional all-encompassing dress that most Afghan women wear. The man, later identified as the targeted commander Haji Yakub, tried to attack the soldiers and was killed, the military said.

Yakub allegedly directed roadside bomb and suicide attacks against Afghanistan's government and coalition forces in Ghazni, according to the statement. Three other militants were killed in the operation, it said.

Meanwhile, Afghan and coalition forces killed 33 militants when their patrol came under attack in southern Helmand province

Friday, a military statement said. The troops responded to the attack with gunfire and air support, it said.

In Kandahar province, meanwhile, a threeday Nato-Afghan operation in Zhari district killed 12 militants, said police Chief Matiullah Khan. No police were killed in the operation, which finished on Friday, he said.

Police in western Farah province said they killed four insurgents setting up a makeshift base in a village, apparently aiming to launch strikes on Farah city.

Residents of Raj, about two miles (three kilometers) north of Farah city, tipped off officials that a convoy of enemy fighters had arrived in the village, provincial police chief Gen. Abdul Ghafar Watandar said.

Afghan army and police attacked the ninevehicle convoy, killing four insurgents and wounding another three as other insurgents fled, Watandar said. An Afghan police officer was also killed in the gunbattle, he said.

Afghanistan has seen a spike in violence over the last two years as more international troops pour into the country to battle a growing militant insurgency. Some 65,000 international forces now operate in Afghanistan.

2010 Myanmar election plans on course

Priyanka Gandhi (L) daughter of India's Congress Party President Sonia Gandhi chats with party

workers as she stands in line to cast her vote during polling for Delhi state assembly elections in New

(its) own transitional work

programmes," Than Shwe

was quoted as saying by the

New Light of Myanmar news-

"The government and the

people have to materialize in

harmony," he told the Union

Solidarity and Development

Association (USDA), a pro-

military social organisation,

has 24.6 million members,

about half of the country's 57

million population. Analysts

have said the junta could turn

ahead of the elections, which

Authorities say the group

the paper said.

Says military leader

AFP, Yangon

Delhi yesterday.

The head of Myanmar's military regime has told supporters plans for elections in 2010 under a controversial "road map" to democracy are well under way, state media reported yesterday.

Senior General Than Shwe's comments to a projunta group followed a number of heavy jail sentences handed down by the country's courts, including the lengthening of a prison term given to Myanmar's most famous comedian.

"The state's seven-step the USDA into a political party road map is, indeed, the only way to smooth (the) transi- are due in two years.

Somali pirates hope for 'favourable' Saudi reply AFP, Mogadishu tion to democracy as well as

Somali pirates demanding 25 million dollars for a Saudi supertanker seized two weeks ago said Saturday they were hoping for a "favourable" reply as the expiry for the ransom loomed.

The pirates hijacked the 330metre long Sirius Star on November 15 and have given the owners of the giant oil carrier up to Sunday to pay the ransom.

"Though the ultimatum for the payment of the 25 million dollars is about to expire, we are still expecting to get a favourable reply," Mohammed Said, the leader of the group holding the Sirius Star, told AFP.



Foreign tourists who have been stranded in Thailand for days stand beside a Kuwait Airways aircraft on the tarmac of the U-Tapao military airport, some 140 km southeast of Bangkok, during their evacuation yesterday.

Thaksin warns coup will bring bloodshed

AFP, Bangkok

Former Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by the military in 2006, has warned of bloodshed if the army stages another coup to end the political turmoil paralysing the kingdom.

Thaksin also said in a video interview posted on a reporter's blog that the army had a duty to '

enforce law and order as protesters force the closure of Bangkok's two airports.

"If the coup were to happen there will be bloodshed -- it will not be an easy coup like in the past because the people in Thailand, now they are in hardship," he said in the interview with US blogger Thomas Crampton.



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Canadian govt delays vote of no-confidence

AFP, Ottawa

Canada's Conservative government faces possible defeat as early as December 8, after refusing to back away from a showdown with the opposition over stimulus measures and spendingcuts.

Opposition parties had threatened to vote on Monday to oust the ruling Conservatives unless Prime Minister Stephen Harper rushed through an economic stimulus package to help Canadians facing a possiblerecession.

And while in talks to form a new coalition government to succeed Harper's team, the opposition also demanded funding for political parties not be cut -- as was proposed in a fiscal update on Thursday that kicked off the constitutional firestorm.

Harper responded by deferring the vote, avoiding a possible power grab or the nation's fourth elections in four years -only six weeks after being returned to office with a strongerminority in the last election.

"Less than two months ago the people of Canada gave our party a strengthened mandate to lead Canada during the most serious global economic crisis in generations," Harpersaid.

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CGH's Ear, Nose and Throat Department offers a comprehensive, specialised service with emphasis on good patient care and evidence based treatment. Services provided include general ENT and subspeciality clinics in rhinology, allergy, otology, voice, snoring and obstructive sleep apnoea, as well as head and neck cancer. CGH's Integrated Sleep Service (ISS) provides a comprehensive assessment, diagnosis and treatment service for patients with different sleep disorders under one roof. ISS combines expertise from ENT, Respiratory Medicine, Oral and Maxillofacial, Sports Medicine, General Surgery and Psychological Medicine.



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Headed by a Female Breast Surgeon, The Breast Centre @ changi is equipped with state-of-the-art technologies and equipment including the latest, most advanced Digital Mammography, Ultrasound Elastography, prone table biopsysystem and Mammotome biopsy. We believe in patient-focused management, where comfort and convenience of our patients are our utmost concern. Patients appreciate the added convenience of having their digital mammogram and ultrasound at the same centre, leading to a faster and more accurate diagnosis.



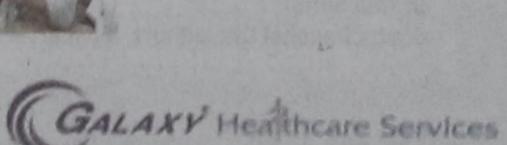
CGH Dermatology

CGH's Dermatology Department offers specialised consultation for skin problems. This includes common skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis and vitiligo, as well as serious medical conditions involving the skin. We also offer a comprehensive range of skin treatments including dermatopathology test, botox injection, chemical peel, cryosurgery, electrosurgery, phototherapy and laser treatments.



CGH Orthopaedic

CGH Orthopaedic specialists provide professional consultation and treatment for various orthopaedic conditions and disorders. The services provided include General Orthopaedic and Trauma Clinics, Paediatric Orthopaedics, Adult Reconstructive Surgery, Spinal injury, and Shoulder, Hand and Wrist, Knee, Ankle and Foot Clinics, and Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction. CGH also has the largest multidisciplinary Sports Medicine Centre in

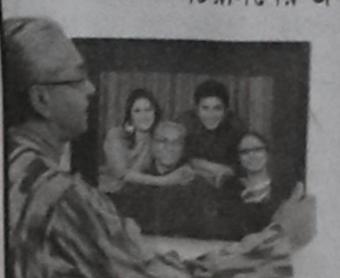


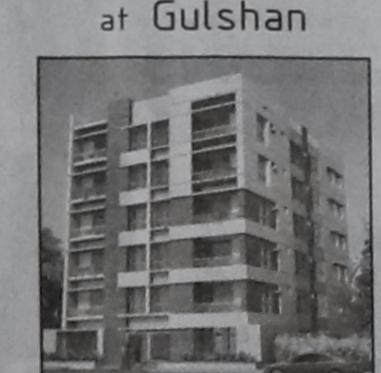
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