

# Troops kill 32 insurgents in Afghanistan

AP, Kabul, Afghanistan

Forces from the US-led coalition killed 32 armed insurgents during a clash in eastern Afghanistan, the military said yesterday.

The insurgents were killed Tuesday in a firefight that broke out during a strike on a Taliban bomb-making cell in Laghman Province, the military said in a statement.

As many as 75 armed militants converged on the troops, shooting at them from rooftops and alleyways, the statement said. The 32 insurgents were killed when coalition troops returned fire.

The troops also destroyed two caches of weapons and roadside bomb-making materials that were too unstable to move to another location, the statement said.

The deputy governor of Laghman Province, Hadayat Qalanderzai, said he had reports that some civilians were either killed or injured in the blast when the caches were destroyed, but said he did not have figures or details.

The military statement said the troops moved nearby civilians to a safe location before detonating the weapons, and that secondary blasts from the unstable explosives destroyed the building they were housed in. Spokesman Col. Jerry O'Hara said in the statement that the forces "prevented any civilian casualties."

The clash happened in Alishang district, about 100 kilometres northeast of the capital of Kabul.

## Pak-Afghan relationship on new grounds

AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan and Pakistan have overcome many hurdles and suspicions to forge a new relationship that will see cooperation on fighting terrorism and more, the Pakistani foreign minister said yesterday.

Shah Mehmood Qureshi told reporters that a declaration on bilateral cooperation signed late Tuesday, during Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari's first official visit to Afghanistan, was a "watershed" in relations.

The document affirms commitment to fighting the extremism and militancy affecting both Islamic neighbours as well as building cooperation in a range of areas including politics, development, trade and education.

It marks a dramatic change from the often frosty relations that had existed between the countries before Zardari took office in September, replacing former president and military dictator Pervez Musharraf.

## Turkish police round up 30 in coup probe

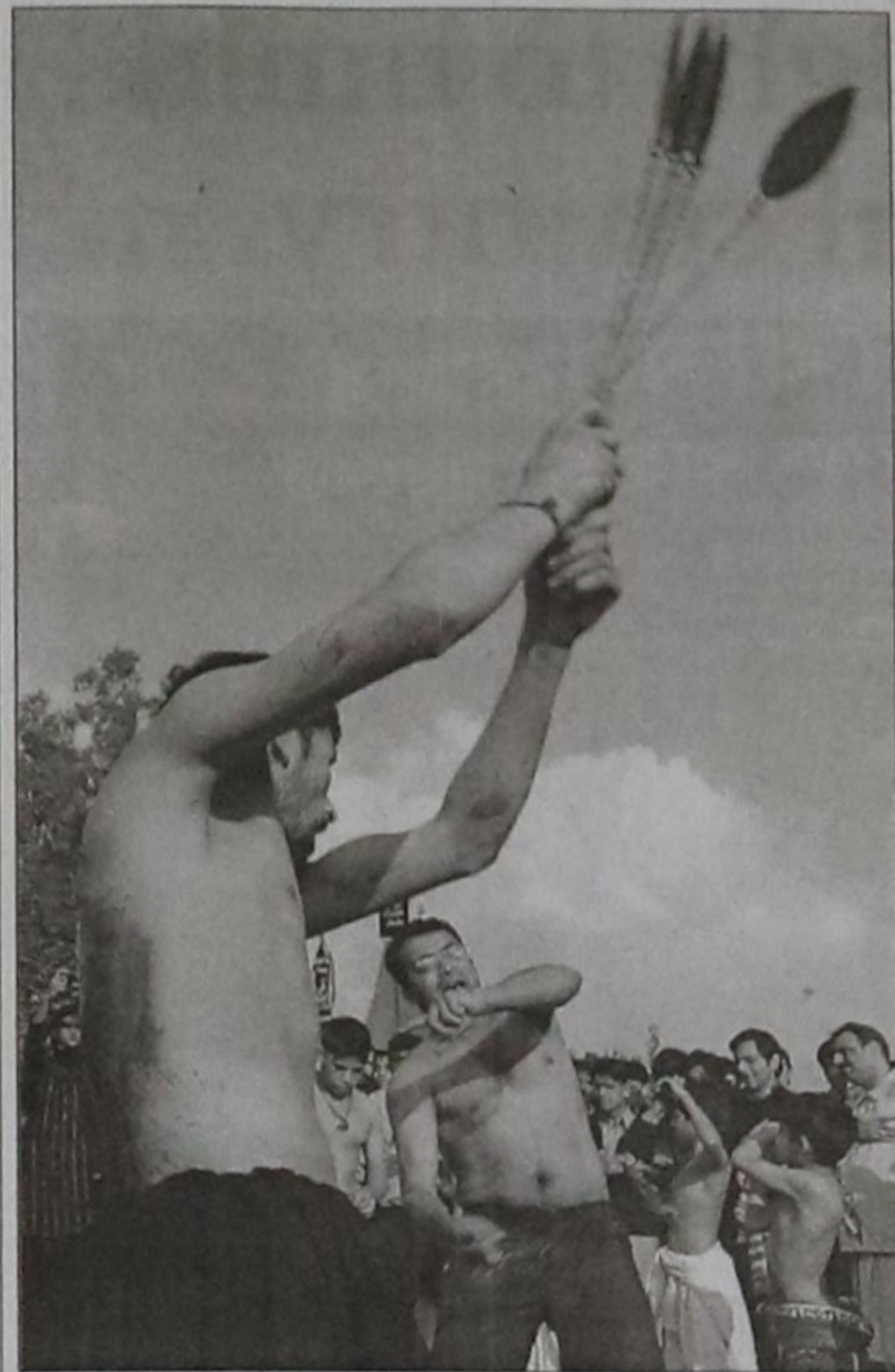
AFP, Ankara

Turkish police yesterday rounded up more than 30 people, including academics and retired generals, as part of a country-wide investigation into a purported plot to topple the Islamist-rooted government, media reports said.

The arrests came in simultaneous raids in six provinces, including Ankara and Istanbul, on instructions from the Istanbul court investigating "Ergenekon," an alleged gang of anti-government secularists, the Anatolia news agency said.

The agency put the number of detentions at more than 30, while the NTV and CNN-Turk news channels said nearly 40 people had been detained.

Among them are Yalcin Kucuk, a prominent but controversial academic, retired general Tuncer Kilinc and several other retired officers, as well as Kemal Gurus, the former head of Turkey's higher education watchdog, reports said.



Pakistani Shia Muslim devotees flagellate themselves during religious procession on the ninth day of holy Islamic month of Moharram in Islamabad yesterday

## Indian Kashmir gunbattle enters seventh day

AFP, Srinagar

A gunbattle between Indian troops and a group of heavily-armed Islamic militants raged for a seventh day yesterday, making it one of the longest battles in Kashmir in years, officials said.

The fighting erupted last Thursday in the Indian-administered Kashmir district of Poonch after soldiers and police, acting on a tip-off, carried out a search operation of a densely forested area.

The battle has so far left four militants, two soldiers and a policeman dead and several security force members wounded.

The militants were using natural caves as hideouts.

senior army officer Brigadier Gurdeep Singh said.

"We are carrying out a deliberate operation to wear out the terrorists and to ensure that the casualties among our own forces are avoided," he said.

Police say some eight to 10 militants are holed-up in the area.

A Muslim insurgency in Indian Kashmir has claimed at least 47,000 lives in the past two decades.

Sri Lanka seizes key rebel defense line in north

# Pakistan intel chief says no India war

AP, Islamabad

Pakistan's intelligence chief said there will not be war with India over the Mumbai attacks and emphasised terrorism not India was the greatest threat to the country, according to a rare interview.

Lt Gen Ahmed Shuja Pasha also told German news magazine Der Spiegel that his powerful Inter-Services Intelligence agency thought to have a high degree of independence was under the control of the recently elected civilian government.

The interview appeared on the magazine's Website on Tuesday.

India blames Pakistani militants for the November attacks on targets in Mumbai that killed more than 160 people. The charges have raised tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbors, which have fought three wars in 60 years.

On Tuesday, Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Pakistani state agencies must have had a hand in the attacks, charges dismissed by Islamabad as "propaganda."

Pasha told the magazine that "there will not be war."

"We are distancing ourselves from conflict with India, both now and in general," he said.

Pasha seldom gives interviews to reporters, and one of his aides said Wednesday that the comments made in early December were meant to be off the record. The aide spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

India has said the gunmen had connections to the Pakistan-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba and gave Islamabad evidence it said proves those accusations. Lashkar is widely believed to be a 1980s creation of the agency Pasha heads in order to pressure India over the disputed area of Kashmir.

But Pasha said Pakistan was focused on fighting terrorism, not fomenting it.

"We may be crazy in Pakistan, but not completely out of our minds," Pasha was quoted as saying. "We know full well that terrorism is our enemy, not India."

Pakistan is under pressure to crack down on militants in its northwest, from which the Taliban is believed to plan attacks on U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan.

On Wednesday, at least four police were killed in the volatile region, according to a local official. Mayor Afzal Khan said another three police officers went missing after insurgents attacked their checkpoint in Hangu district. The motive for the attack was unclear however. Hangu has in the past witnessed sectarian violence, and the attack occurred as minority Shiite Muslims prepared to mark Ashura, a key holy day.

Pasha's ISI has played a powerful role in Pakistan ever since the 1980s when the agency worked with Islamic militants to force the Soviets out of Afghanistan.

The agency has sometimes been called a "state within a state" because of its behind-the-scenes role in making or breaking governments.

## 2 million pilgrims swarm Karbala for Shia festival

AFP, Karbala

More than two million Shia Muslims from across the Middle East swarmed the shrine city of Karbala in central Iraq yesterday for the climax of the annual Ashura ceremonies amid tight security.

Wailing men and even young boys in flowing white robes marched with blood streaming down their faces after slashing their scalps open with knives in a ritual that commemorates an imam slain 13 centuries ago.

Accompanied by drummers and horn players, other pilgrims pounded on their

chests and whipped their backs with metal chains as part of the devotional self-flagellation that characterises Ashura.

The focus of the pilgrims in the desert city of Karbala, 100 kilometres south of Baghdad, were two gold-domed holy shrines -- one to Imam Hussein and the other to his half-brother Imam Abbas.

More than two million pilgrims from across Iraq as well as from Iran, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Pakistan and Tanzania have streamed into Karbala, said Sheikh Nameh al-Salman, a city official.

The rituals, which began 10

days ago and reached a frenzied pinnacle on yesterday, mark the holiest days for Shias in a commemoration of the death of Imam Hussein, who was killed by the armies of the Sunni caliph Yazid in 680.

Tradition holds that Hussein, grandson of the Prophet Mohammed and the third of 12 imams in Shia Islam, was decapitated and his body mutilated by Yazid's armies.

To show remorse for not saving Hussein, Shia volunteers whip themselves with metal chains while some cut their scalps with knives as they chant his name on the way to the two shrines.



PHOTO: AFP

A bus driver removes snow from under his bus yesterday downtown Milan. Overnight snow in northern Italy forced the closure of Milan's Malpensa and Linate airports and more area schools closed down, following several closures in the Turin and Milan areas the day before.



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Name of Project	Positions Required (Field-based, except those marked with an asterisk*based in Dhaka)
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<b>Building Pro-Poor, Inclusive &amp; Gender Sensitive Local Governance (Funded by EC)</b>	-Technical Coordinator Community Empowerment & Advocacy -Technical Coordinator Training -Technical Coordinator Learning & Monitoring -Finance & Administrative Officer
<b>Cost of Violence against Women Initiative (Funded by USAID)</b>	-Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist -Learning and Documentation Manager -Behavior Change Communications Specialist -Finance Manager -Project Development Officers -Project Officer

CARE Bangladesh invites applications from qualified individuals. Summary job descriptions and the application format can be found on the website at: [www.carebd.org](http://www.carebd.org) (from Sunday 11 January) Please note that only applications filled in as per CARE format will be considered. Please email the application to [hr@carebangladesh.org](mailto:hr@carebangladesh.org) on or before January 22, 2009. For those wanting to send hard copies of the CARE application format please send to: Human Resources Manager, CARE Bangladesh, 20-21, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka 1215. Interested persons may also collect the application format from our Reception desk (9<sup>th</sup> fl).

\*Women are strongly encouraged to apply. Please refer to CARE Bangladesh's website for more details on special privileges for female staff.

BIRDEM (An Enterprise of the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh) Ibrahim Memorial Diabetes Centre 122, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000.		
Employment Notice		
Applications are invited from the citizen of Bangladesh for the following posts.		
Sl #	Name of the Post	Qualifications
1	<b>Director/Joint Director (Administration)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 16800-20700/- Tk. 15000-19800/-	<b>For Director</b> 1st Class Master Degree or 2nd Class Master Degree with 2nd Class Hons with 15 years experience or MBA with 10 years experience in Administration. In both cases 3 years shall be in the equivalent post of Joint Director Administration. Age limit is 50 as on 30.06.2009.
		<b>For Joint Director</b> 1st Class Master Degree or 2nd Class Master Degree with 2nd Class Hons with 12 years experience or MBA with 10 years experience in Administration. In both cases 4 years shall be in the equivalent post of Deputy Director Administration. Age limit is 45 as on 30.06.2009.
2	<b>Joint Director/Deputy Director (Procurement)</b> Pay Scale :Tk. 15000-19800/- Tk. 13750-19250/-	<b>For Joint Director</b> 1st class Master Degree or 2nd class Master Degree with 2nd class Hons, having at least 12 years experience or MBA with 10 years experience in the field of International and Local procurement of various items of stores. In both cases 5 years service shall be in the equivalent post of Deputy Director in a large organization. Age limit is 45 as on 30.06.2009.
		<b>For Deputy Director</b> 2nd class Master Degree with 2nd class Hons. with 10 years experience or MBA with 8 years experience in relevant field. In both cases 4 years service shall be in the equivalent post of Asstt. Director in a large organization. Age limit is 40 as on 30.06.2009.
3	<b>Asstt. Professor (Immunology)</b> Pay Scale: Tk. 11000-17650/- (Preference will be given to full time doctor for the position of Asstt. Professor (Immunology). In such case salary will be negotiated).	1 MBBS from a recognized Institution or an equivalent academic qualification as recognized by BMDC and Registration with BMDC.
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		3. Candidates having teaching experience & Publication in relevant subject will get preference.
4	<b>Junior Consultant (Nephrology)</b> Pay Scale : Tk. 11000-17650/- (Preference will be given to full time doctor for the position of Junior Consultant (Nephrology). In such case salary will be negotiated).	1. MBBS or Equivalent and Registration with BMDC.
		2. Any of the following Post-graduate Degree recognized by BMDC: PhD/DSc/D.Phil/FCPS/MD/MRCP/M.Phil/MSc or equivalent in relevant subject
		3. Candidates having teaching experience & Publication in relevant subject will get preference.
5	<b>Resident Surgeon (Ophthalmology)</b> Pay Scale : Tk. 11000-17650/- (Full time & will be allowed to practice under existing rule).	1. MBBS from a recognized Institution or an equivalent academic qualification as recognized by BMDC and Registration with BMDC.
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		3. Candidates having teaching experience & Publication in relevant subject will get preference.
6	<b>Assistant Registrar</b> i. Paediatrics ii. Ophthalmology iii. Urology Pay Scale :Tk. 7400-13240/- Non-Practising Residential (Single Accommodation)	MBBS or equivalent degree from any Medical College or Institute recognized by BMDC with one year of Internship training and registration from BMDC.
7	<b>Social Welfare Asstt.</b> Pay Scale: Tk.3500-7500/-	2 <sup>nd</sup> Class Graduate (having Social Welfare/Sociology).
8	<b>Assistant Cook</b> Pay Scale: Tk.2850-5410/-	5 years experience in a reputed Hospital /Hotel at home or abroad.
9	<b>Pantry man</b> Pay Scale: Tk.2500-4590/-	Class VIII with necessary experience in the related field preferably in Hospital/ Clinic/Hotel.

For all posts other allowances will be admissible in addition to pay scale mentioned.

Age limit for serial 7-9 is 30 years as on 30.06.2009. Applications to be submitted in prescribed form, obtainable from Room # 208, BIRDEM, 122 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1000, on all working days (from 9-00 A.M. to 12-30 P.M). The price of each application form for serial 1-6 is Tk. 40/- and serial 7-9 is Tk. 20/-

Name of the applied post to be clearly written on the envelope. One copy of money receipt must be attached with the application form. For the post of Sl. # 06 applicants should mention clearly the speciality. The application along with required papers (as per instruction on the application form) should reach on or before 18.01.2009 either dropped in the box placed in front of room # 230 or sent by post. Only short listed candidates will be called for interview. Incomplete applications may be rejected.