

Red Cross urges safe passage for sick in Lankan war zone

AP, Colombo

Hundreds of sick and wounded people are stranded in a makeshift hospital in war-ravaged northern Sri Lanka, the Red Cross said Saturday as it urged the government and Tamil Tiger rebels to let the patients out of the conflict zone.

have been fighting for 25 years for an independent state for the country's ethnic minority Tamils. Wijeratne said the Red Cross was particularly concerned about the patients stranded in the community centre and school because Puttumatlan lacks clean drinking water.

BJP rakes up Ayodhya with eye on polls

PTI, Nagpur

BJP, which had kept its pet issues like Ramjanambhoomi on the backburner because of coalition compulsions 10 years ago, today revived the Ayodhya chant saying it would build a magnificent temple for Lord Ram if it gets a majority on its own.



An Indian policeman fires a tear gas shell into a crowd during clashes between supporters of the Gorkha People's Liberation Front (GJM) and local villagers in the Champasari village area on the outskirts of Siliguri yesterday.



US soldiers inspect a damaged Afghan police vehicle at the site of a Taliban attack in Laghman province yesterday. Two police officers were killed late Friday on their way to reinforce a police post that had come under attack from insurgents, a spokesman for Laghman province said.

Bomb attack at Pakistan police checkpoint kills 7

AP, Islamabad

Assailants threw a bomb at a police checkpoint in eastern Pakistan before dawn yesterday, killing seven officers, police said. District Police Chief Malik Tassadaq Hayyat said the attack came near the town of Mianwali in eastern Punjab province.

Police official Attique Shah said they had stepped up security. The two attacks came hours after authorities said security forces backed by helicopter gunships had killed 52 militants in two raids in northwestern Pakistan, a lawless region where the Taliban and al-Qaeda increasingly hold sway.

Pakistan wants no-strings aid from US: Diplomat

AFP, London

Aid from the Obama administration to Pakistan should come without strings attached, Pakistan's ambassador to the US said in a newspaper interview published yesterday.

to triple civilian aid but impose conditions to ensure military assistance to Pakistan goes towards fighting insurgents in Afghanistan, not building up defences against India. Biden is expected to give the first fully-fledged picture of Obama-era US foreign policy at a security conference in Munich, Germany on Saturday.

fighting its "primary threat", which he said currently comes from "terrorism and not from our eastern neighbour". But he warned: "There is no bullet that has been invented that Pakistan can be given to shoot at the terrorists that cannot be used in case there is a war with India."

17 killed in Afghan unrest

AFP, Kabul Jalalabad

Bomb blasts, ambushes and other incidents left seven Afghans dead, including government officials, authorities said yesterday, also reporting that security forces had killed 10 insurgents.

unrest has been on the increase in the seven years since the fall of the Taliban regime in late 2001, despite a huge international military and aid effort.

Nangarhar province governor Gul Agha Sherzai told AFP. It was not known who was behind the attack that killed Na'eem Khan Shinwar, the district chief of Goshita, he said.

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Terror infrastructure in Pakistan 'existing and active': Army chief

PTI, New Delhi

Terror infrastructure in Pakistan is "existing and active", according to Army Chief General Deepak Kapoor, who puts the number of terror camps there in between 30 and 50.

Kapoor, who has served as chief of the Northern Command which include Jammu and Kashmir, said by and large most of these camps are located parallel along the Line of Control (LoC) and between 10 and 50 km away from the LoC.

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Vacancy Announcement United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) - Bangladesh, invites applications from highly qualified, energetic, and experienced development professionals who want to join UNDP's dynamic working environment.

Pakistan seeks to calm nuclear worries over AQ Khan's release

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan yesterday sought to allay international concerns that the release of its disgraced nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan could lead to renewed nuclear proliferation.