

Brown vows N Ireland peace 'unshakeable'

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown vowed yesterday that peace in Northern Ireland was "unshakeable" despite the first killings of soldiers in 12 years, pledging to find the "callous murderers."

Speaking during a hastily-arranged trip to the province after the attack late Saturday, he said the Real IRA -- the dissident group which claimed responsibility -- "have no place in the politics of Northern Ireland."

"These are callous murderers, these are terrorists who showed no sympathy towards people who were dying... these people have got to be hunted down and brought to justice as quickly as possible," he said.

After meeting political leaders from both sides in the power-sharing government, he said: "They want to send out the message to the world, as I do, that the

political process will not and can never be shaken.

"In fact, the political process is now unshakeable," he added.

The two soldiers were killed Saturday night when two masked men pulled up outside the Massereene Barracks in Antrim, northwest of Belfast, as a pizza delivery arrived.

The gunmen fired a long burst of bullets -- and then walked across and let off a second burst of gunfire at their victims on the ground. As well as the dead, two other soldiers and the two pizza delivery men were injured.

On Sunday a man who said he was from the Real IRA claimed responsibility for the attack in a phone call to an Irish newspaper. The two dead soldiers were named Monday as Sapper Mark Quinsey, 23, Sapper Cengiz Azimkar, 21.

The attack raised fears that sectarian

violence could return to Northern Ireland, which has seen relative peace since 30 years of sectarian bloodshed was largely ended with the 1998 Good Friday peace accords.

Gerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Fein, the province's main republican Catholic party and the political wing of the now-defunct Irish Republican Army (IRA), said those behind the attack had no popular support and no strategy.

But he accused Northern Ireland's police chief Hugh Orde of making a "huge mistake" by calling in a small number of army surveillance specialists to track dissident republicans -- a move Orde admitted just 36 hours before the attack.

Republicans want Northern Ireland to leave the United Kingdom and join the Republic of Ireland to the south.

Leaders on all sides have condemned the attack.



British Prime Minister Gordon Brown (R) and Security Minister Paul Goggins (2nd R) meet Northern Ireland's First Minister Peter Robinson (L) and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness (2nd L) at Castle Buildings in Stormont, Belfast yesterday.

Iranian lawyer meets detained US journalist

US-Iranian journalist Roxana Saberi has been able to meet with a lawyer for the first time since she was detained in a Tehran prison more than a month ago, the attorney said yesterday.

"I met Ms Saberi yesterday (Sunday) at a revolutionary court. She appeared fine," lawyer Abdolsamad Khoramshahi told AFP.

"I have not read the file yet and can't comment on the nature of the accusation against her," he said, adding that he would "see her again in prison in one or two days."

Human rights activists often complain that prisoners do not get quick and easy access to defence lawyers in the Islamic republic.

US TROOPS WITHDRAWAL Iraqi MP demands immediate pullout

A senior MP of radical Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr's party yesterday called for the immediate withdrawal of US troops from Iraq, a day after plans for a drawdown of two US brigades were announced.

Iraq and the United States said on Sunday that 12,000 US troops will go home by the end of September in a first step toward completing a withdrawal by 2011 as governed by an accord signed between Baghdad and Washington last year.

"We don't pay attention to the speeches of US leaders about the withdrawal, and we call for the immediate withdrawal for all the American forces in Iraq," said Ahmad al-Masudi, the head of the pro-Iranian Sadrist bloc in parliament.

Under the US-Iraqi security agreement signed in November during president George W. Bush's tenure, US troops will withdraw from towns and cities by June 30 and from the whole country by the end of 2011.

Five held over plot against Turkish PM

Police have arrested five people in the southern Turkish city of Adana on suspicion that they were planning an attack against Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, media reports said yesterday.

The suspects were detained as part of security measures ahead of Erdogan's visit to Adana Saturday.

In remarks to Anatolia news agency, Adana Governor İlhan Atis confirmed that five people were detained, but would not give other details, saying that an official statement would be made later.

US to discuss Afghanistan with Nato allies

US Vice President Joe Biden headed to Brussels yesterday for consultations with Nato allies as a moment of decision looms on a new US strategy in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Biden, who holds a day of talks in Brussels Tuesday, will be on his second trip to Europe in a month, and officials said his high-profile journey was a sign of how seriously they took the war policy review.

President Barack Obama's deputy will be tracing the steps of US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who met Nato foreign ministers in Brussels last week.

"It's just an indication of the seriousness of the situation in Afghanistan, but I think it's also a recognition of the seriousness with which we take this," said a senior Obama administration official on condition of anonymity.

"This is not just lip service, the idea of consultation, we mean it, and in return we want concrete ideas and concrete assistance," said the official.

Biden will hold consultations with the North Atlantic Council, the political and decision-making body of the alliance's 26 member states, Nato secretary general Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and Belgian government officials.

Obama initiated a new policy review on the war in Afghanistan and the struggle against extremism and instability in neighboring Pakistan shortly after taking office in January.

Former CIA official Bruce Riedel is due to deliver the results of his study to the president and national security advisor James Jones before Obama heads to the Nato summit along the French-German border on April 3 and 4.

White House sources said the president would have the review in hand when he heads off to Europe, on a trip which also includes the G20 economic summit and a European Union-US summit in Prague.

Hamas makes Islamic Jihad vow not to fire rockets

Security forces of the Palestinian Islamist movement Hamas in Gaza detained several Islamic Jihad activists and made them sign an agreement not to fire rockets at Israel, a Jihad leader said yesterday.

"At least 10 activists from the Al-Quds Brigades were arrested by the Hamas interior security," he said in reference to the armed wing of the Islamic Jihad.

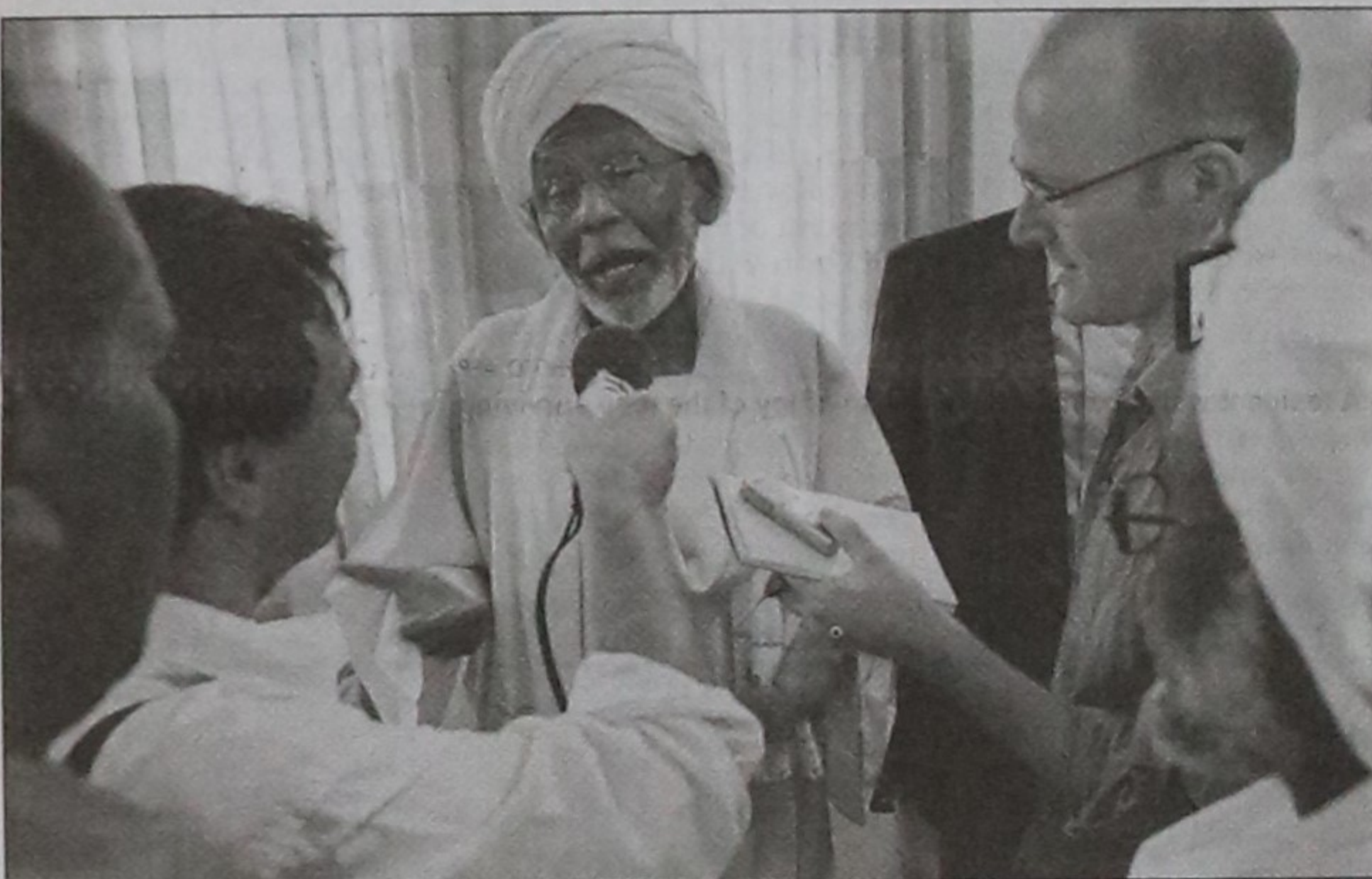
"They were tortured and interrogated about the identities of those who fire rockets," he told AFP by telephone under condition of anonymity.

"Before they were released they had to sign an agreement not to fire rockets at the occupied territory," he said in reference to Israel whose existence both Hamas and its smaller Islamist rivals in Jihad oppose.

A Hamas police spokesman in Gaza City, Islam Shahwan, declined to comment on the report.

Hamas, which seized control of the Gaza Strip in June 2007, is involved in Egyptian-mediated negotiations with Israel to try to consolidate a January 18 truce which ended a 22-day Israeli military offensive in Gaza.

The stated aim of the offensive, which killed more than 1,300 people, almost all Palestinians, was to significantly reduce the number of rockets fired at southern Israel, many of them by Islamic Jihad.



Sudan's Islamist opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi (C) briefs reporters at his home following his release from jail in Khartoum yesterday. Turabi was detained in January after calling for President Bashir to surrender to the International Criminal Court.

KILLING OF ARMENIANS Turkey warns US against recognition of 'genocide'

Turkey's Foreign Minister Ali Babacan said Sunday there was a "risk" that US President Barack Obama would recognise the massacre of Armenians a century ago as genocide.

But Babacan said in an interview with the NTV television channel that such a move would only impede efforts to reconcile Turkey and Armenia.

Obama, who is expected to visit Turkey in April, said several times during his election campaign that he would recognise the 1915-1917 massacres under the Ottoman Empire as genocide.

The United States has previously condemned the killings while not calling them genocide to avoid tensions with Turkey, a Nato member and key Middle East ally.

"I still see a risk," Babacan said. "Mr Obama made the promise five times in a row."

He added however that "The new American administration understands Turkey's sensibilities better today" and called on the United States not to interfere in the dispute between the neighbours.

The two countries offer starkly different accounts of the events, and the dispute has been a major obstacle in relations between Ankara and Yerevan.

Armenians say up to 1.5 million people died between 1915 and 1917 in orchestrated killings as the Ottoman Empire fell apart. More than 20 countries have recognised the killings as genocide.

Zimbabwe's Tsvangirai says wife's death an accident

Zimbabwe Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai sought to dispel speculation yesterday over the cause of the car crash that killed his wife, saying her death was a tragic accident.

Susan Tsvangirai died and he was injured when a foreign aid truck slammed into their 4x4 on Friday, sending it flipping off a highway outside Harare.

His face still swollen from his injuries, Tsvangirai told about 100 mourners gathered at his Harare home that he did not believe any foul play was behind the collision.

"When something happens, there is always speculation but I want to say in this case, if there was any foul play, it was one in a thousand," said Tsvangirai, wearing dark sunglasses to cover his eyes.

"It was an accident and unfortunately it took her life," he told the crowd including relatives, party members, and worshippers from his church.

"I want to thank God giving me 31 years with my wife," he said. "Life will go on, and I am certain she would have liked life to go on."

"I know it would be difficult without her," he added. "We must celebrate life. We went through trials and tribulations together. I know it is painful."

Speculation over the cause of the accident erupted as soon as the crash was reported, due to a long history of political figures dying in suspicious road accidents in Zimbabwe.

Tsvangirai flew to neighbouring Botswana on Saturday for further medical checks, but returned to Harare on Monday to prepare for the funeral.

"We understand from the information we are getting from Botswana that the progress in terms of his recovery is quite remarkable and satisfactory," Nelson Chamisa, spokesman for Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), told South African radio earlier.



Sarah Calderon (L), the wife of Arian Cruz Calderon, who was detained in an immigration row, and their 13 year old daughter Noriko Calderon attend a press conference in Tokyo yesterday. Japan detained a Filipino man and threatened to deport him and his family in an immigration row centred on his teenage daughter that has drawn much public sympathy here. The couple face deportation because they entered the country on false passports nearly 17 years ago, but they have pleaded to be allowed to stay so their Japan-born daughter can finish her schooling in the country.

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Vacancy Announcement for 'Agricultural Adviser'

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) is implementing a project titled "Microfinance for Marginal and Small Farmers Project (MFMSFP)" with financial assistance of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Applications are invited for the post of "Agricultural Adviser" of the project:

Duties & Responsibilities	The Agricultural Adviser will be primarily concerned with up-scaling of appropriate technology based agricultural lending outside of the MFMSFP area. He/she will also provide specific support to the MFMSFP for identification and introduction of new agricultural technologies. Major tasks will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assist in developing strategies to up scale appropriate technology based agricultural credit and monitoring the performance of PKSF POs. - Provide technical support to the project. - Establish an expert panel to help identifying and screening new agricultural technologies. - Develop proper monitoring system and appropriate modules for agro-based training. - Assist in evaluation studies by drawing up TOR and providing guidance to the agencies. - Review technology choices of PKSF's sub-sector development initiatives. - Establish linkages between PKSF and its POs, & between public and private agricultural support organizations. - Facilitate in publishing articles and papers in PKSF and other journals and newsletters and, represent PKSF in agricultural forums and meetings.
Qualification	An appropriate degree in agricultural science from any renowned university.
Experiences	Minimum 20 years working experiences in relevant public and private sectors, specially donor funded projects. High level of computer skill (MS Word, Excel, Power Point etc.) with fluency in writing and oral English is essential. Person having working experience in agricultural extension with proven track record of promoting innovations in agricultural development and employment generations will be given preference.
Duty station	Dhaka with frequent field visit to the project areas.
Salary	Negotiable.

The appointment would be on contractual basis for initial period of 01 (one) year, renewable subject to satisfactory performance and requirement of PKSF up to the project period (i.e. 30, June 2011). Interested persons are requested to send their applications along with detailed CV and two copies of recent photograph to the undersigned mentioning the name of the post on the top of the envelope on or before March 31, 2009.

Only short listed candidates would be called for interview. This vacancy announcement can also be seen on the website of PKSF.

Assistant General Manager (Admin.)

Obama to overturn policy on stem cells

President Barack Obama is ending former President George W. Bush's limits on using federal dollars for embryonic stem cell research, with advisers calling the move a clear signal that science, not political ideology, will guide the administration.

Obama was to sign an executive order and memo Monday in an East Room ceremony, a long-promised move that would fill a campaign promise.

Advisers said it was part of a broader declaration on science that would guide the administration's policies on matters ranging from renewable energy to climate change.

"I would simply say this memorandum is not concerned solely - or even specifically - with stem cell research," said Harold Varmus, chairman of the White House's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology.

He said it would address how the government uses science and who is advising officials across federal agencies.

Bush limited taxpayer money for embryonic stem cell research to a small number of stem cell lines that were created before Aug. 9, 2001. Many of those faced drawbacks. Hundreds more of such lines - groups of cells that can continue to propagate in lab dishes - have been created since then. Scientists say those newer lines are healthier and better suited to creating treatments for diseases, but they were largely off-limits to researchers who took federal dollars.

"We've got eight years of science to make up for," said Dr. Curt Civin, whose research allowed scientists to isolate stem cells and who now serves as the founding director of the University of Maryland Center for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine. "Now the silly restrictions are lifted."

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সূত্র নং- জি.এম(কারিগরি)/এনওসিএস(দেহ)/ডিপিডিসি/২.০২/০৯/২৪৮; তারিখঃ ০৮/০৩/২০০৯ ইং

দরপত্র বাতিল বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, মহাব্যবস্থাপক (কারিগরি), নেপওয়্যার্ক অপারেশন এন্ড কন্ট্রোল সার্ভিস (সৌউথ) ডিপিডিসি এর আওতাধীন দপ্তর সমূহে সিকিউরিটি গার্ড নিয়োগের নিমিত্ত সূত্র নং- GM(T)/NO & CS (South)/DPDC/08/2.02/116; Date- 06/11/2008 ইং মোতাবেক আহ্বানকৃত দরপত্রটি অনিবার্য কারণ বশতঃ বাতিল করা হইল। যথাসময়ে সিকিউরিটি গার্ড নিয়োগের পুনরায় দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি দৈনিক পত্রিকার মাধ্যমে প্রকাশ করা হইবে। সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল দরদাতাগণের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক (কারিগরি)
নেটওয়ার্ক অপারেশন এন্ড কন্ট্রোল সার্ভিস (দক্ষিণ)
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