

# Thai deputy PM appeals to police, army to act

## Protesters ride tanks in bizarre Bangkok emergency

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's deputy prime minister Suthep Thaugsuban yesterday appealed directly to soldiers and police to act to enforce a state of emergency.

Suthep, the minister assigned to implement emergency measures announced hours earlier, urged the security forces to get tough as they appeared reluctant to deal with anti-government protesters.

"Police and military, you must carry out your duty to your best ability and restore normalcy as soon as possible," he said in an address broadcast live to the nation.

"I... will take all responsibility for all your actions," he added. "These are not constitutional demonstrators. They have injured senior officials."

Red-clad protesters loyal to former

premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a coup in 2006, were earlier seen standing atop a pair of armoured cars driven by soldiers down a Bangkok highway.

Armed soldiers and tanks have been deployed across the capital and surrounding areas to crack down on protesters demanding Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's resignation and fresh elections.

Protesters armed with sticks and paving slabs earlier smashed a car they mistakenly thought was carrying the prime minister.

The incidents followed the arrest early Sunday of the leader of activists loyal to Thaksin who stormed an Asian summit on Thailand's coast on Saturday, forcing it to be cancelled.

Waving red flags and shouting slogans, jubilant anti-government protesters stood atop one of a pair of armoured cars

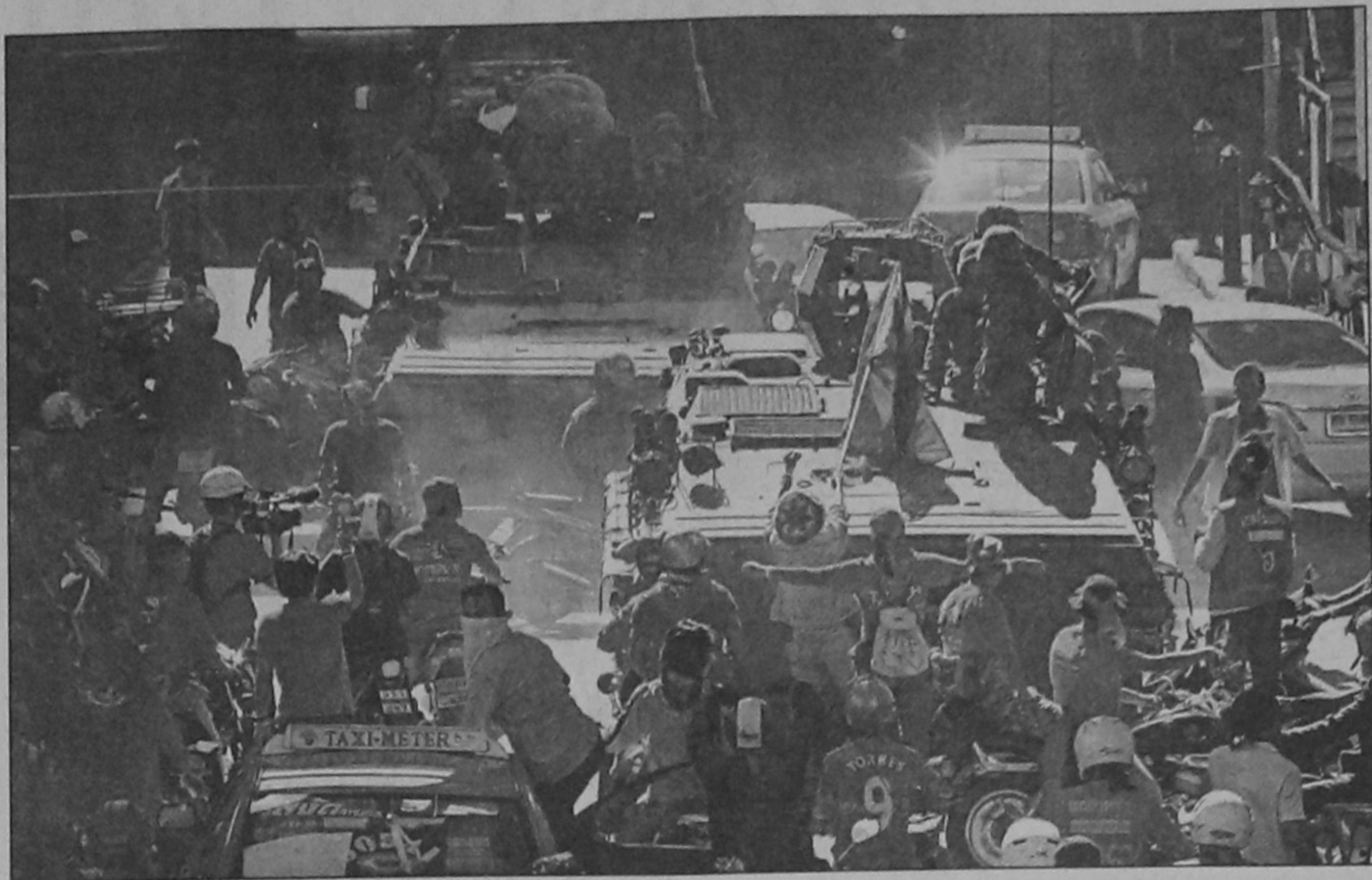
as they sped down a Bangkok highway -- driven by soldiers.

The bizarre scene unfolded after a state of emergency was declared to quell the demonstrations, sending tanks and armoured vehicles fanning into the streets of the capital backed by scores of troops.

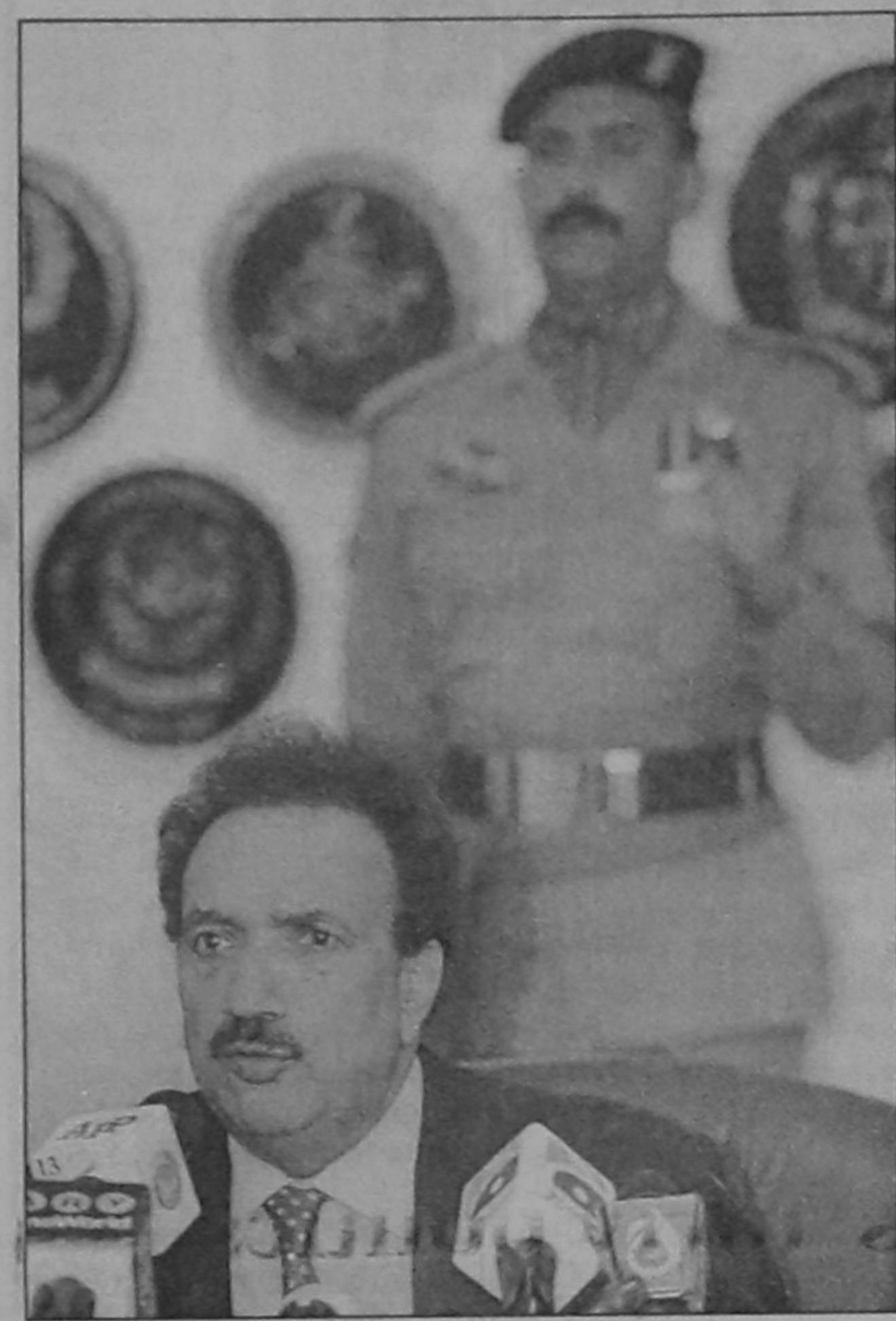
It was unclear whether the soldiers deployed to enforce the security measure were sympathetic to the demonstrators' cause, or just giving them a friendly lift.

But it underscored the way that the army has repeatedly been reluctant to use force during months of political turmoil despite the orders of their political masters.

The protesters, who want Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to quit, have capitalised on this apparent ambivalence to wreck an Asian summit in the beach resort of Pattaya, and then cause chaos in the capital over the weekend.



Supporters of Thai exiled ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra block armoured personnel carriers along a street in Bangkok yesterday. Anti-government protesters seized an army tank deployed to enforce a state of emergency in the Thai capital Bangkok and may have taken others.



Adviser to Pakistani Prime Minister on home affairs Rehman Malik addresses a press conference in Islamabad on Saturday. Malik said that Pakistan has asked India to share information, which prompted Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to issue a public statement about possible Taliban attacks during Indian elections.

# Mumbai attacks suspect 'prime target' for extremists

AFP, Mumbai

Mohammed Ajmal Amir Iman, accused of being part of a 10-man group that attacked the Indian city of Mumbai, was ripe for recruitment by Islamist militants, police and security experts say.

"He fits the profile if you look at the terrorists recruited by Lashkar-e-Taiba," said Wilson John, senior fellow at the Observer Research Foundation in New Delhi and a specialist in extremist groups.

"They come from lower-middle class or poor families. They're not entirely uneducated, just a little bit educated, they're unemployed and looking for a job. They're not religiously inclined but they can be brainwashed."

"He was a prime target," he told AFP.

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is accused of masterminding last November's attacks that killed more than 160 people and wounded over 300 others.

The few biographical details that have come to light so far show that Iman, also referred to as Mohammed Ajmal Amir Kasab, was born and brought up in Faridkot, in the Punjab region of Pakistan.

His father Mohammed Amir Iman ran a food stall in the village, and his mother was called Noor, Britain's The Observer newspaper said in December, citing the local electoral roll.

Iman dropped out of school in 2000 and worked as a labourer in the eastern city of Lahore until 2005, according to the defence's apparent "confession" to police, which was widely published here in December.

But two different versions have emerged of how he was recruited by LeT.

His "confession" said he and a colleague turned to the group for weapons training after deciding to embark on a life of crime.

A report in the Mumbai Mirror newspaper published in March and purporting to be a transcript of his questioning about an hour after his arrest, says he claimed his father duped him into it.

# Obamas pick 6-month-old Portuguese water dog

AP, Washington

It's decided: the Obamas have chosen a 6-month-old Portuguese water dog to be the first pet.

In what was one of the White House's most tightly kept secrets, President Barack Obama's daughters, 10-year-old Malia and 7-year-old Sasha, have settled on a black and white pup, a White House official speaking on the condition of anonymity told The Associated Press Saturday night.

The dog, a gift from Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts who owns several Portuguese water dogs himself, will make his big debut Tuesday afternoon.

The Washington Post reported in its online editions Saturday night that Obama's daughters chose the name Bo for the pup because first lady Michelle Obama's father was nicknamed Diddle. The name for the dog was an apparent reference to the singer "Bo" Diddley.

# Unite to fight terrorism stalking Manhattan to Mumbai: Obama

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Washington

US President Barack Obama Saturday asked nations around the world to come together to solve global problems like a recession, climate change, nuclear proliferation and international terrorism that has claimed innocent lives 'from Manhattan to Mumbai'.

It is important to acknowledge no single nation can solve global problems, but working with other nations, the US can lead the way in overcoming these challenges, Obama said in his weekly address after a weeklong trip overseas.

Describing it as a "time when we face tests and trials unlike any we have seen in our time," the president spoke of "an economic crisis that recognises no borders. Violent extremism that's claimed the lives of innocent men, women, and children from Manhattan to Mumbai".

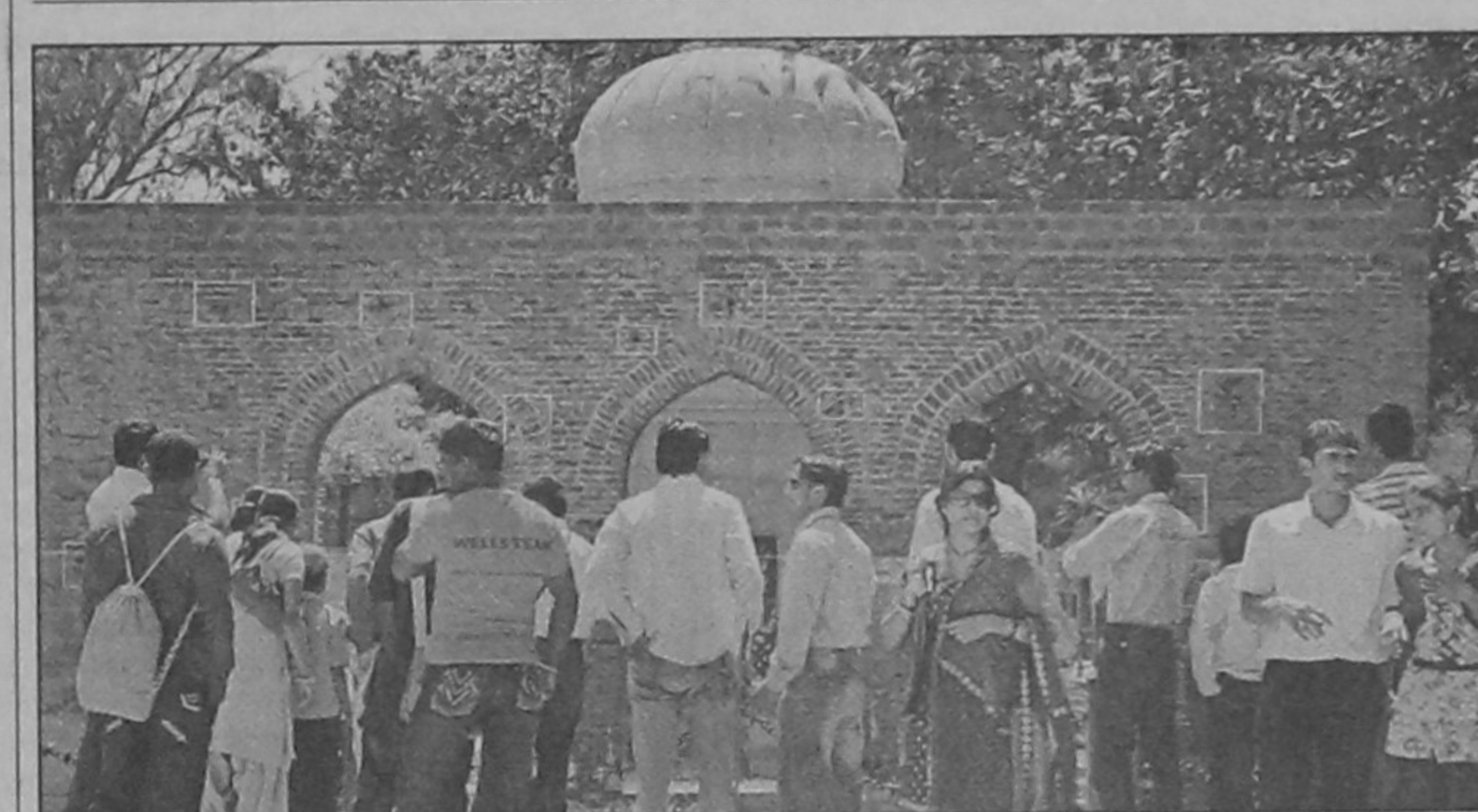
"An unsustainable dependence on foreign oil and other sources of energy that pollute our air and water and threaten our planet. The proliferation of the world's most dangerous weapons, the persistence of deadly disease, and the recurrence of age-old conflicts," he said listing the challenges.

"These are challenges that no single nation, no matter how powerful, can confront alone. The United States must lead the way. But our best chance to solve these unprecedented problems comes from acting in concert with other nations," he said.

That is why he had met with leaders of the G20 nations to ensure that the world's largest economies take strong and unified action in the face of the global economic crisis, Obama said.

"It is only by working together that we will finally defeat 21st century security threats like al-Qaeda," he said.

"Make no mistake: we live in a dangerous world, and we must be strong and vigilant in the face of these threats," Obama said.



Indian visitors look towards the bullet-pocked wall at the historical Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar yesterday. The Amritsar massacre, also known as the Jallianwala Bagh Massacre, took place on April 13, 1919 when British Indian Army soldiers on the direct orders of their British officers opened fire on a civilian gathering killing at least 379 men, women and children, according to official records.

# US ship reaches Kenya minus kidnapped captain

AP, Mombasa

Nineteen American sailors who escaped a pirate hijacking off the Horn of Africa reached safe harbour on Saturday, exhilarated by freedom but mourning the absence of the captain they hailed for sacrificing his freedom to save them.

With a throng of reporters shouting questions from shore, the crew of the Maersk Alabama described an ordeal that began with Somali pirates hauling themselves onto the deck from a small boat bobbing on the surface of the Indian Ocean far below.

"They came from the stern of the ship and came on with hooks and ropes and were firing in the air when they got on board," said

ATM Reza, a crew member who said he was the first to see the pirates board Wednesday.

As the pirates shot in the air, Capt. Richard Phillips, 53, of Underhill, Vermont, told his crew to lock themselves in a cabin and surrendered himself to safeguard his men, crew members said. Phillips was still held hostage in an enclosed lifeboat Saturday by four pirates being closely watched by US warships in an increasingly tense standoff. A Pentagon spokesman said negotiations were ongoing.

"He saved our lives!" second mate Ken Quinn, of Bradenton, Florida, declared from the ship as it docked in the resort and port city of Mombasa. "He's a hero."

# World powers must accept nuclear Iran, says Larijani

AFP, Tehran

Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani said yesterday world powers must accept the Islamic republic as a nuclear power as top officials vowed no let-up in Tehran's sensitive uranium enrichment drive.

Larijani's comments came after the five permanent members of the UN Security Council -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- plus Germany offered to hold direct talks with Iran over its nuclear programme.

"Now the 5+1 has no reason to deny or refuse Iran's nuclear technology and the expected negotiations will be based according to the rights mentioned in the Non-Proliferation Treaty," Larijani said in a speech to parliament reported by the ISNA news agency.

The international community has called on Iran to halt its uranium enrichment programme which some countries suspect is aimed at making atomic weapons, a charge strongly denied by Tehran.

Their call was reiterated again by French

Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner in an interview with Iranian daily Etemad.

Iran announced on Thursday the opening of its first nuclear fuel plant and said it has tested two new high-capacity centrifuges used to enrich uranium, although Washington has voiced scepticism over the claimed nuclear advances.

Tehran maintains it is allowing the UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, to inspect its nuclear work and that as a signatory to the NPT, it has the right to enrich uranium as fuel for nuclear power plants.

Larijani, Iran's former chief nuclear negotiator, said that the "more intense supervision as advocated by some of the members of 5+1 is baseless and has no legal foundation."

Larijani's remarks were echoed by Mohammad Saeedi, deputy head of the Iranian Atomic Organisation.

"The world has to accept Iran as a nation with nuclear power for peaceful purposes," Saeedi was quoted as saying on the website of state-run television.

# New orangutan population found in Indonesia

AP, Jakarta

Conservationists have discovered a new population of orangutans in a remote, mountainous corner of Indonesia perhaps as many as 2,000 giving a rare boost to one of the world's most endangered great apes.

A team surveying forests nestled between jagged, limestone cliffs on the eastern edge of Borneo island counted 219 orangutan nests, indicating a "substantial" number of the animals, said Erik Meijaard, a senior ecologist at the U.S.-based The Nature Conservancy.

"We can't say for sure how many," he said, but even the most cautious estimate would indicate "several hundred at least, maybe 1,000 or 2,000 even."



In this undated photo released by The Nature Conservancy, an orangutan of a newly found population is seen in Sangkulirang forest on Borneo island, Indonesia.

# Netanyahu vows to talk peace with Abbas

AFP, Jerusalem

Israel's hawkish Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed on Sunday to hold talks with the Palestinians, in his first remarks on the troubled Middle East peace process since taking office.

In a phone call with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, Netanyahu "spoke of the cooperation and the discussions that they have had in the past and added that he intends to do so again in the future in order to advance peace between us and the Palestinians," a statement from his office said.

Abbas had called Netanyahu for the Jewish holiday of Passover and the two had a "friendly and warm" conversation, it said.

The statement did not mention the creation of a Palestinian state -- an idea that Israel had committed itself to under a 2003 international "roadmap" peace plan but that Netanyahu currently opposes.

Abbas insists that Israel's new government must commit to a two-state solution before the resumption of peace talks, and Israel's staunch ally Washington has also repeatedly reaffirmed its support for a Palestinian state.

A senior official from Abbas's office would only say that the president had called Netanyahu to "congratulate him on Passover."

It was Netanyahu's first statement on the peace process since he took office on April 1 at the helm of a largely right-wing government that has sparked concern over the fate of the stalled negotiations.

Until now, the only comments on the topic were made by Netanyahu's firebrand Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman, who had said the new cabinet was not bound by a 2007 agreement reached at a peace conference in the US city of Annapolis to revive negotiations on core issues.

Netanyahu's opposition to the idea of a Palestinian state -- he wants the economy in the occupied West Bank to improve first -- and Lieberman's rhetoric risk putting Israel on a collision course with the United States.

President Barack Obama has vowed to vigorously pursue peacemaking and following Lieberman's remarks on Annapolis reaffirmed his support of the peace agreement.

"Let me be clear: the United States strongly supports the goal of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security," Obama said in an address to the Turkish parliament last week during a European tour.

"That is a goal shared by Palestinians, Israelis, and people of goodwill around the world," he said. "That is a goal that the parties agreed to in the roadmap and at Annapolis. And that is a goal that I will actively pursue as president."

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B.Sc. (Hons.) in Biochemistry	4.5 - < 5 (Science)   25%
B.Sc. (Hons.) in Public Health Nutrition	4.3 - < 5 (Arts / Commerce)   25%
B.Pharm. (Hons.)	Without 4th subject.
Pharmacy Council of Bangladesh has granted ACCREDITATION to our Pharmacy education	Sibling   50%
	Female Students   20%
	CGPA 3.75 at Primeasia University   50%
	Admission test : 17 April 2009
	Last date of application: 16 April 2009

B.Arch (Architecture)  
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