

PHOTO: AFP

People walk past burnt out cars and buses on a street in Urumqi in China's far west Xinjiang province yesterday following a deadly riot. China Central Television (CCTV) frame grab shows two blood-stained women on the street during the rioting and police crackdown. China said on Monday at least 140 people were killed and over 800 injured when Muslim Uighurs rioted in its restive Xinjiang region.



### Smart Internet users defy China's censors on riot

AFP, Shanghai

Independent information about deadly riots in China's remote northwest filtered out on Twitter, YouTube and other Internet forums yesterday, frustrating government efforts to control the news. The communist authorities who built the so-called Great Firewall of China raced to stamp out video, images and words posted by Internet users about the unrest on Sunday which, officials said, left at least 140 people dead. Twitter and YouTube appeared to be blocked in China late on Monday afternoon, while leading Chinese search engines would not give results for "Urumqi", the city in Xinjiang where the riots occurred. Traditional press also carried only the official version of events, which blamed the unrest on ethnic Muslim Uighurs. But similar to the phenomenon seen last month during Iran's political turmoil, pictures, videos and updates from Urumqi poured onto social networking and image sharing websites such as Twitter, YouTube and Flickr. In many cases, items were reposted by other Internet users on sites outside China to preserve the content, while Twitter helped link people around the globe to images Chinese authorities did not want seen.

### Witnesses describe Xinjiang violence

AFP, Urumqi

Witnesses to the deadly unrest in the capital of China's Xinjiang region told yesterday how the peaceful protest turned into an orgy of violence that left at least 140 dead. Rioters torched cars and buses, smashed windows and attacked passers-by as armoured vehicles and military trucks rolled in to restore order in Urumqi. Chinese authorities blamed ethnic Uighur Muslims for orchestrating the violence, but exiled leaders of the ethnic group said security forces had over-reacted in their response and fired indiscriminately. The Xinjiang region is a vast area bordering central Asia that is home to nearly eight million Uighur Muslims, many who have chafed under Chinese rule for decades. "The Uighurs attacked motorists with rocks," said a Chinese woman who saw the riot unfold from the 11th floor of a local hospital. "They just attacked the Han people," she said. "At least 10 buses were set on fire and some private cars were overturned. I saw many people were lying on the ground and bleeding. A male student was dead."

## US won't stand in Israel's way on Iran: Biden

Tehran vows decisive retaliation if attacked

AFP, Washington

US Vice President Joe Biden said in a television interview that the United States would not stand in the way of Israel in its dealings with Iran's nuclear ambitions. "Israel can determine for itself -- it's a sovereign nation -- what's in their interest and what they decide to do relative to Iran and anyone else," Biden told ABC television's "This Week" Sunday. "Whether we agree or not. They're entitled to do that... We cannot dictate to another sovereign nation what they can and cannot do when they make a determination, if they make a determination, that they're existentially threatened." But the top US military officer meanwhile warned of the dangers posed by any military strike against Iran. "It could be very destabilising, and it is the unintended consequences of that which aren't predictable," Admiral Mike Mullen, the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff told "Fox News Sunday."

important, as we deal with Iran, that we don't take any options, including military options, off the table."

A senior Iranian official visiting Japan said Monday his country would respond "in a very full-scale and very decisive way" if it were attacked by Israel.

"I think that America and Israel are fully aware what kind of result such a wrong judgement will entail," Alaeddin Boroujerdi, chairman of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, said in Tokyo.

"Israel showed its military power sufficiently in the 22-day war," its offensive in Gaza early this year, he told reporters. "That kind of erroneous judgement poses a threat to the entire Middle Eastern region and the world."

He added: "If (an Israeli attack) occurred, then the Islamic Republic of Iran will respond in a very full-scale and very decisive way."

President Barack Obama has said he wants to see progress on his diplomatic outreach to Iran by year's end, while not

excluding a "range of steps," including tougher sanctions, if Tehran continued its controversial nuclear drive.

Hawkish Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has not ruled out a possible military strike against Iran, insisting that Tehran, which the Mossad spy agency could have a ready-to-launch nuclear bomb within five years, must not obtain nuclear weapons.

"If the Netanyahu government decides to take a course of action different than the one being pursued now, that is their sovereign right to do that. That is not our choice," Biden said. "But there is no pressure from any nation that's going to alter our behaviour as to how to proceed."

Israel, the region's sole if undeclared nuclear-armed state, contends -- as does the West -- that Iran is seeking to acquire a nuclear arsenal, despite Tehran's repeated denials.

The Jewish state has also called the Islamic Republic a threat to its existence, citing Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's call to wipe Israel off the map.

### Ten dead in Indian factory explosion

AFP, Bhopal

Indian police were investigating Monday a powerful blast at an explosives factory that killed at least 10 people in the central state of Madhya Pradesh. At least 40 others were injured when an explosion shook the factory Sunday night and the resulting fire spread to neighbouring buildings. The factory was located in the district of Singrauli, more than 750 kilometres (465 miles) from the state capital Bhopal. "Ten people are dead. Nine were recovered and one died in hospital," said Singrauli police superintendent Anurag, who goes by one name.



PHOTO: AFP

US President Barack Obama shakes hands with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev (L) at the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday. Obama arrived in Russia for a summit aimed at agreeing a roadmap to nuclear arms cuts and reviving a relationship troubled by a string of crises.

## UN rights mission holds hearings on Gaza war

AFP, Geneva

A UN human rights mission investigating alleged violations committed during the war in the Gaza Strip at the turn of the year resumed its public hearings here yesterday. The two-day session in Geneva follows a first set of hearings in the Gaza Strip nearly 10 days ago that included gruesome testimony of Palestinians caught under Israeli shelling during the 22 day offensive. The session at the UN's human rights headquarters in Switzerland is meant to allow those

who were not able to travel to Gaza to provide public testimony, notably witnesses from Israel who were targeted by rocket attacks. The mission has a broad scope to investigate alleged violations committed by all sides during the offensive in December and January, which Israel said was aimed at stemming rocket fire from the Hamas-ruled coastal enclave. The mission headed by Richard Goldstone, former war crimes prosecutor for both ex-Yugoslavia and Rwanda, has not been allowed into Israel or been given access to the occupied West Bank, according to the United Nations.

## N Korea spent \$700m on nuclear, missile tests

AFP, Seoul

Impoverished North Korea has spent an estimated 700 million dollars this year on nuclear and missile tests, enough to solve its food shortage for at least two years, South Korean news reports said Monday. The figure includes the estimated 43 million dollar cost of test-firing five Scud and two Rodong missiles Saturday, according to unidentified government officials quoted by Chosun Ilbo newspaper. The latest tests, staged on the US Independence Day holiday, were seen as a show of defiance to Washington as it seeks tough enforcement of UN sanctions aimed at shutting down the communist state's nuclear and missile programmes.

## Obama's diplomacy being tested in Russia

AP, Moscow


President Barack Obama opened his first Moscow summit with confidence on Monday, predicting "extraordinary progress" out of meetings set to test his diplomatic skills on important priorities such as nuclear arsenal reductions and the fight in Afghanistan. "The United States and Russia have more in common than they have differences," Obama said he sat down in an ornate Kremlin room with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. "If we work hard in these next few days... we can make extraordinary progress that will benefit the people of both countries." With both men eager to reset damaged relations, Obama's host launched the high-stakes summit with similar good will. "We'll have a full-fledged discussion of our relations between our two countries, closing some of the pages of the past and opening some

of the pages of the future," Medvedev said, through a translator. "It is my hope that it will be possible to tackle successfully" a range of problems from the economy to security and energy and the environment.

The first US-Russia summit since the early part of the George W. Bush presidency presents a challenge for Obama, with Russia home to a wary public, a two-headed leadership and lingering hard feelings. What much of the world will watch are signs of Obama's relationship with Russia's two leaders, Medvedev and his mentor, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

The foundation set now could affect how much cooperation Obama gets in areas in which the US needs help from Russia chiefly pressuring Iran and North Korea to give up their nuclear weapons ambitions, but also in tackling terrorism, global warming and the economy.

Both sides talked going in of improving ties and of the importance of early results.



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Swisscontact is a Zurich-based foundation which was founded in 1959 by personalities from the Swiss private sector and academia for development cooperation. The goal of Swisscontact is to promote sustainable development through collaboration with public and private sector partners in developing countries.

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- Strong communication skill in Bengali and English,
- Strong computer skills will be preferred

Interested candidates are requested to send their resumes with one recent passport size photograph and a cover letter to the **Country Director, Swisscontact-Bangladesh**, House 38/A (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor), Apartment-B, Road 63, Gulshan 2, Dhaka-1212 on or before **July 14, 2009**. Position applied for should be clearly marked on the top of the envelop.

Only short-listed candidates will be called for interviews.



PHOTO: INTERNET

The romance between Michael Jackson and his children's, Ugandan-born nanny Grace Rwamba was an open secret among the singer's staff.

### Jackson's memorial service today

AFP, Los Angeles

The details of Michael Jackson's 2002 will are to be examined in a Los Angeles court-room here Monday as authorities ramp up preparations for the music superstar's memorial service.

Lawyers for Jackson's family and two men named as executors in the will are to face off in Los Angeles Superior Court, in the first significant hearing to address the tragic King of Pop's multi-million dollar estate.

A judge named Jackson's 79-year-old mother Katherine temporary administrator of her son's assets on June 29 after lawyers for the musical clan said they were not aware of the existence of a valid will.

Los Angeles Police Department assistant chief Jim McDonnell on Sunday urged ticket-less fans seeking to pay at 10:00 am (1700 GMT) service to watch the event on television.

### 'Jackson was dating his kids' nanny'

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, London

Pop legend Michael Jackson was secretly dating his children's nanny before his death, says the singer's personal photographer.

The romance between Jackson, who died of a suspected cardiac arrest on June 25, and Ugandan-born Grace Rwamba was an open secret among the singer's staff. His three children - Prince Michael, 12, Paris Katherine, 11 and six-year-old Prince Michael II - even looked on her as their mother.

"Grace loved Michael and he loved her. The kids called her 'mom'," femalefirst.co.uk quoted Ian Barkley, Jackson's personal photographer, as saying.

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**FORM SALE: ALL DAYS OF THE WEEK FROM 10:00 A.M.-8.00 P.M.**

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