

43 killed in new Nigeria battle

AFP, Maiduguri

Troops struggled to crush an Islamist sect in northern Nigeria yesterday where fighting raged for a fourth day running, leaving around 300 people dead and forcing thousands from homes.

At least 43 people were killed yesterday in new clashes between security forces and members of an Islamic sect, a police source said.

"The 43 corpses are on their way to the police headquarters in Damaturu (state capital) in two police vans," said the source who demanded anonymity.

Police sources said fighting was concentrated in Maiduguri city, the base of the self-styled Nigerian Taliban following orders from President Umaru Yar'Adua for the armed forces to crush the movement "once and for all" although clashes were reported in neighbouring states.

The home of the sect's leader Mohammed Yusuf was shelled by forces on Tuesday evening, along with a mosque where many of his followers had gathered, but Yusuf appeared to have escaped.

Maiduguri, capital of Borno state, has seen the worst of the unrest in northern Nigeria since clashes first erupted on Sunday in Bauchi state when militants launched an attack on a police station.

Singh to outline Pakistan stand

BBC ONLINE, New Delhi

Indian PM Manmohan Singh is set to make a statement clarifying the government's stand on peace talks with Pakistan.

The move comes a fortnight after a joint statement issued by the two neighbours created confusion.

The statement had said they would fight terrorism without linking such co-operation to wider peace talks.

But after the joint statement Singh said India would not start peace talks with Pakistan until the Mumbai attacks suspects are brought to justice.

The joint statement was issued after Singh met his Pakistani counterpart Yousuf Raza Gilani on the sidelines of a summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in Egypt.

It said action on terrorism "should not be linked to the composite dialogue process" - which includes talks on the disputed territory of Kashmir.

Correspondents say many in India have seen the joint statement as a major climb-down in Delhi's stance.

The document also mentioned the situation in Balochistan, raising concerns in India that it implied the country's "meddling" in the internal affairs of Pakistan.

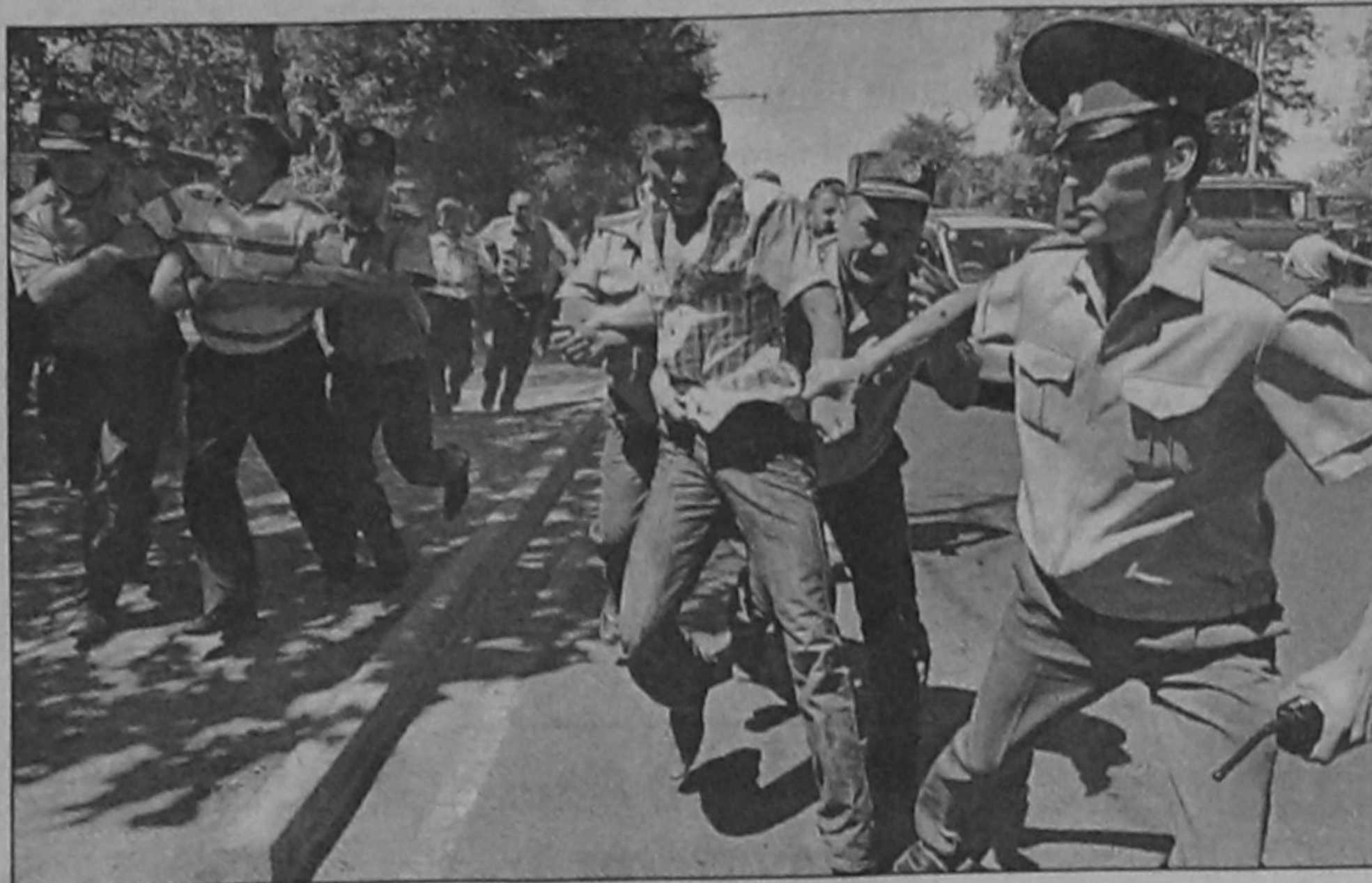


PHOTO: AFP

Kyrgyz policemen detain opposition supporters during their rally in central Bishkek yesterday. Police in Kyrgyzstan arrested around 200 protesters demonstrating against alleged fraud during last week's presidential election in the Central Asian state. Every protestor in the crowd of some 200 people was detained by police only about 15 minutes after the rally began, with two or three officers, some dressed in plain clothes, for each demonstrator.

Taliban kill militia leader in NW Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

Taliban militants stormed the home of a pro-government militia leader and shot him dead yesterday as troops continued a cleanup operation in northwest Pakistan, officials said.

More than 50 Taliban raided the residence of Khalilur Rehman and killed him in Shagla district near Buner where the army was engaged in an anti-militant operation, police and local lawmaker Mohammad Fazlullah told AFP.

Rehman, 60, who had formed a tribal militia known as lashkar, used to provide logistic support to the anti-Taliban fighters, residents said.

"He was shot dead soon after he entered the meeting hall of his house," senior police officer Gul Wail said adding that Rehman's servant was wounded.

Security forces retaliated and killed two militants, he said.

The Pakistani army launched an offensive to

dislodge Taliban guerrillas from the north-western districts of Buner, Lower Dir and Swat after rebels flouted a peace deal and thrust further south towards the capital Islamabad in April.

In another incident three paramilitary soldiers were wounded when Taliban attacked a military post in the tribal North Waziristan area, security officials said.

A local administration official said militants attacked Dosally post after midnight and an exchange of fire continued for more than an hour.

The gun battle also left three militants dead and four injured, he said.

Hundreds of Islamist fighters are believed to have fled Afghanistan into Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal areas to carve out safe havens after the US-led invasion in late 2001 toppled the hardline Taliban regime in Kabul.

Separately a lawyer was wounded and his guard was killed when a remote controlled bomb exploded near his car in the north-western town of Dera Ismail Khan, police said.

Musharraf snubs Pakistan's top court

AFP, Islamabad

Former military ruler Pervez Musharraf yesterday ignored a summons from Pakistan's top court to explain his decision to impose a state of emergency and controversially sack judges two years ago.

The Supreme Court, headed by recently reinstated Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry, issued notice to Musharraf to provide testimony as it investigates the decision that ultimately led to the ex-president's downfall.

But neither Musharraf, who lost power last year and has been a vocal critic of the current Pakistani administration, nor a lawyer on his behalf addressed the session Wednesday, said an AFP reporter.

"Is somebody appearing on behalf of general Musharraf?" asked Chaudhry to a resounding silence in the courtroom.

Pakistan in covert talks with Baitullah

LAHORE, The Daily Times

The military has delayed a full-scale ground operation in South Waziristan Agency against Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan chief Baitullah Mehsud as the two sides have covertly reached an understanding, the Telegraph claimed on Tuesday.

A report in the UK daily said details are still not known, but the military had deliberately delayed launching the attacks against Baitullah after "having corralled his stronghold in South Waziristan".

Bomb kills 2, hurts 4 in Pakistan

AP, Dera Ismail Khan

Police say a bomb has ripped through the parking area at a court in northwest Pakistan, killing two men guarding a Shiite Muslim lawyer and wounding four people.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack yesterday in Dera Ismail Khan, but the city has witnessed both Taliban-related violence and sectarian fighting between Sunni and Shiite Muslims.

Police official Bawahal Khan says the lawyer, Mastan Khan, was wounded.

News in Brief

Ireland to take two Guantanamo inmates

AFP, DUBLIN: Ireland is to accept two detainees from the United States' Guantanamo Bay detention camp for resettlement in the country, Justice Minister Dermot Ahern said yesterday.

The two men, whose identity will not be made public, are expected to travel to Ireland in the "next couple of months," he said in a statement.

al-Qaeda blog claims bombing in Indonesia

AFP, JAKARTA: Two luxury hotels struck by suicide bombers less than two weeks ago re-opened yesterday in Jakarta, as an internet blog from "al-Qaeda Organisation Indonesia" claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Police said they could not tell if the claim was authentic but it was being investigated as part of the massive probe into the July 17 twin suicide blasts, which killed seven people including six foreigners.

Tajikistan kills suspected militant leader

AFP, DUSHANBE: Police in ex-Soviet Tajikistan yesterday said they had killed a leading Islamist militant with ties to insurgent groups in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Nemat Azizov, believed to be a senior member of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU), was killed Tuesday by security forces in the country's volatile Rasht Valley region near the porous border with Afghanistan.

US nat'l security advisor meets Israeli officials

AFP, JERUSALEM: US National Security Advisory James Jones was holding talks with senior Israeli officials yesterday as part of a push by Washington to revive stalled Middle East peace talks.

Jones, the last of three senior US officials visiting the region this week, met Defence Minister Ehud Barak in Tel Aviv. Barak's office said without providing details on the discussions.

Lebanon rivals close to agreement on cabinet

AFP, BEIRUT: Lebanon's rival factions are close to agreement on a new unity government nearly two months after a Western-backed alliance won parliamentary elections, speaker Nabih Berri said yesterday.

"I can affirm that the political process concerning the formation of the new government is complete," Berri told reporters after meeting President Michel Sleiman.

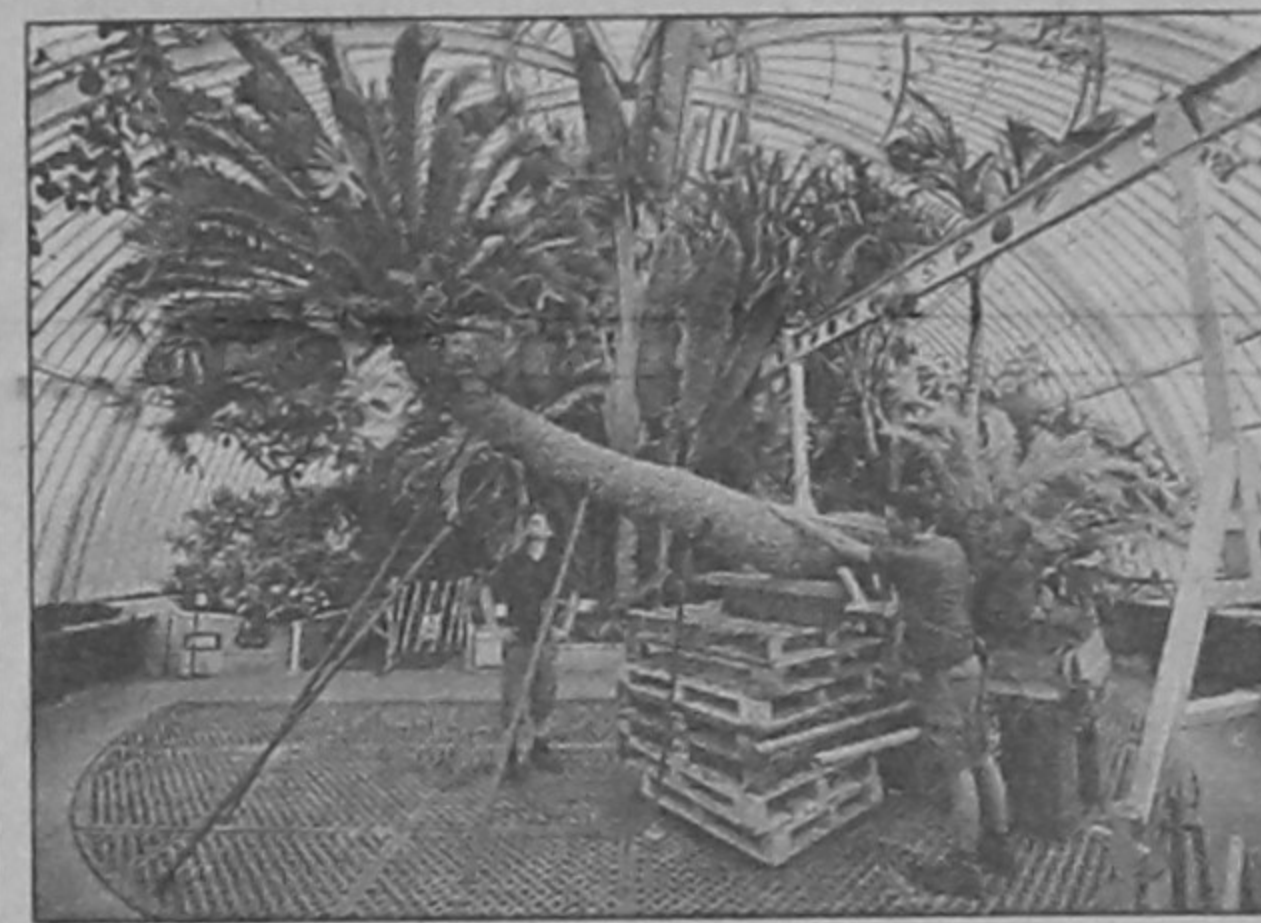


PHOTO: AFP

A 234 year-old plant known as a cycad, and believed to be one of the oldest pot plants in the world, is re-potted at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew, in west London yesterday. Cycads are generally long lived and very slow growing.

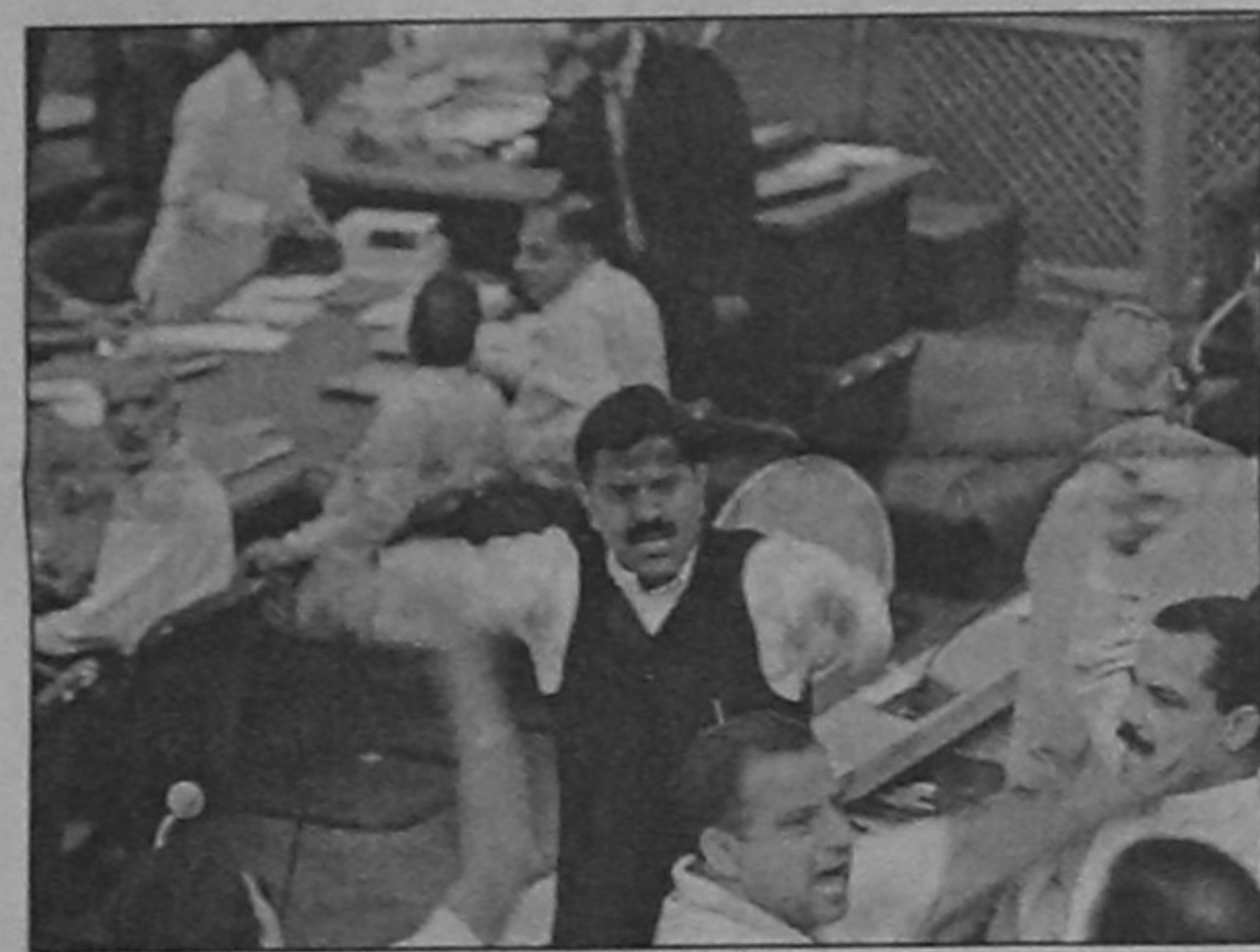


PHOTO: AFP

Members of the legislative assembly (MLA) shout during a session in Jammu and Kashmir's state assembly in Srinagar yesterday. The main opposition in Indian Kashmir demanded a judicial probe into the allegations that the region's top elected official was involved in a sex scandal. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah resigned on July 28.

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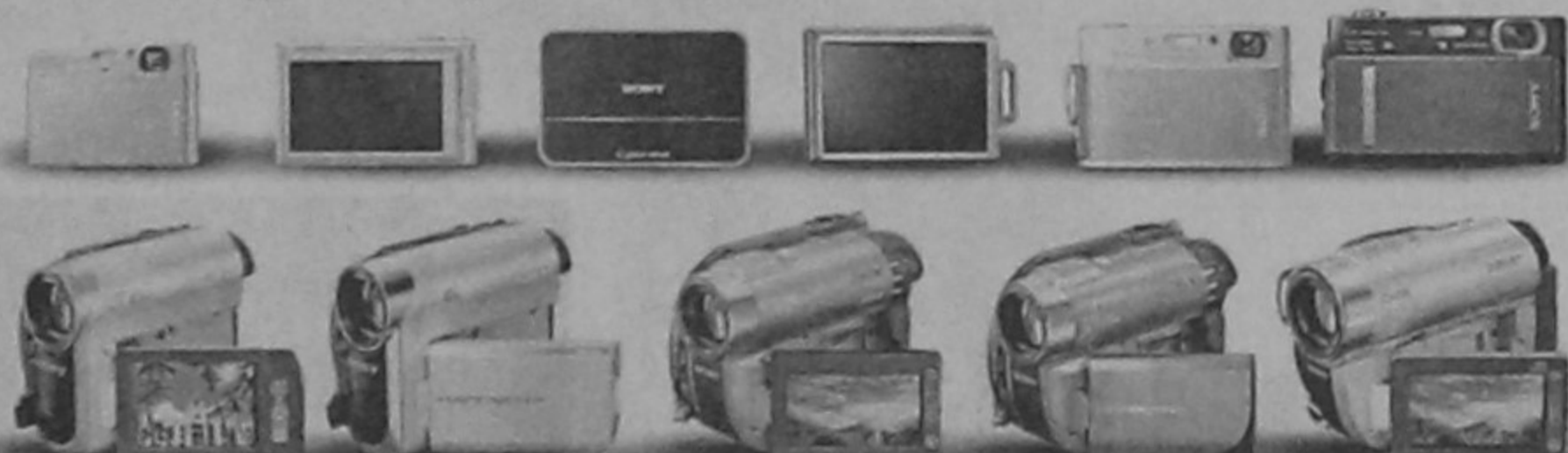
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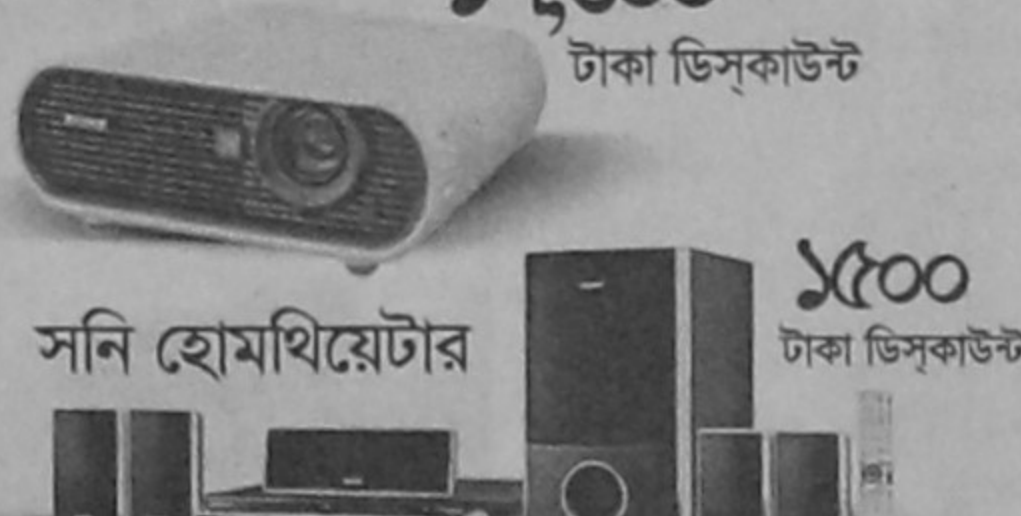
বর্ধিত ট্যাক্সমুক্ত ইলেকট্রনিক্স সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের সুযোগ আর মাত্র ২ দিন

নতুন বাজেট অনুযায়ী ১ জুলাই '০৯ থেকে আমদানীকৃত ইলেকট্রনিক্স সামগ্রীর উপর ৫% রেগুস্টারী ডিউটি, পণ্যভেদে ২০% - ৬০% সাপ্লিমেন্টারী ডিউটি, রিটেইল ভ্যাট ১.৫% এর পরিবর্তে ২.২৫% যোগ করে নতুন মূল্য নির্ধারিত হয়েছে। ১ জুলাই '০৯ এর পূর্বে আমদানীকৃত সনি-রাংগস এর পণ্য সারা বাংলাদেশের শো-রুম ও ডিলারদের নিকটে যে স্টক আছে তা পূর্ব মূল্যে ডিস্কাউন্ট অফার সহ (স্টক থাকা সাপেক্ষে) ৩১ জুলাই '০৯ পর্যন্ত ক্রয় করা যাবে। ০১ আগস্ট '০৯ থেকে নতুন ট্যাক্স / ডিউটি অনুযায়ী নতুন বর্ধিত মূল্য কার্যকর হবে।

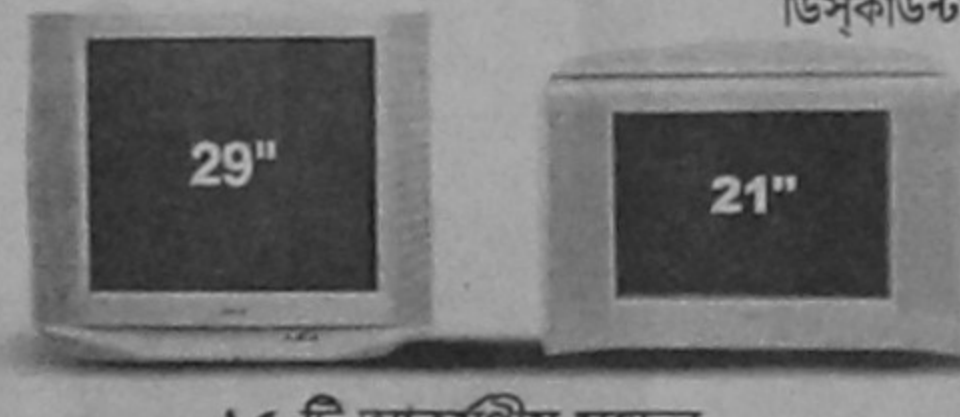
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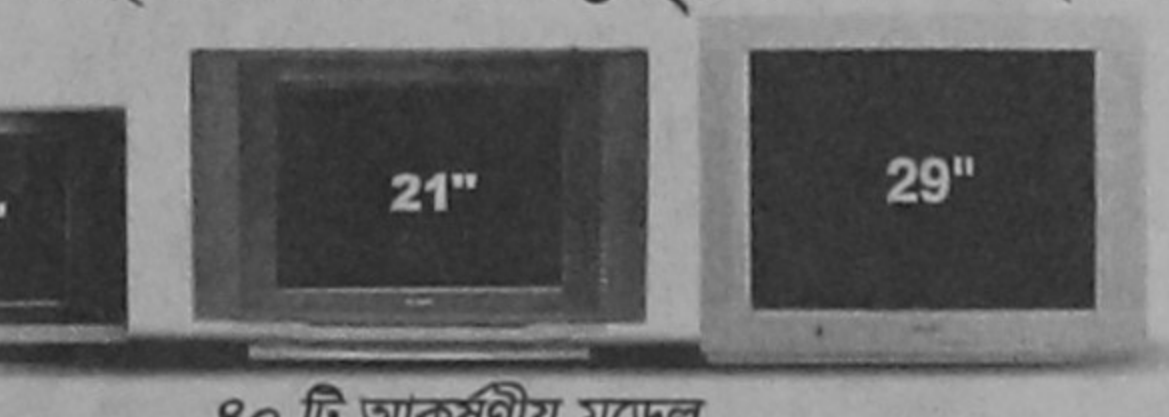
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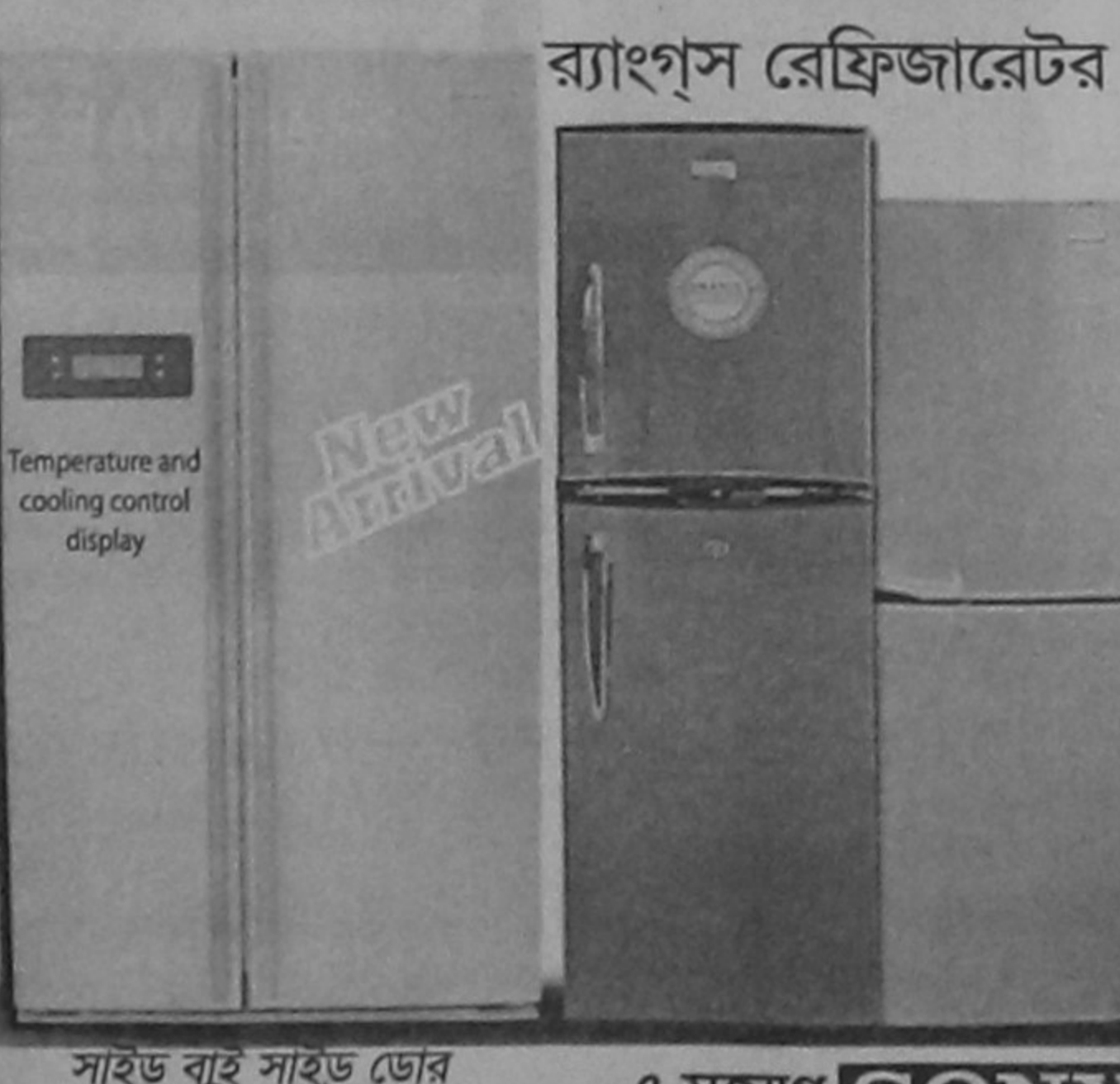


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৪০ টি আকর্ষণীয় মডেল



সাইড বাই সাইড ডোর রেফ্রিজারেটর

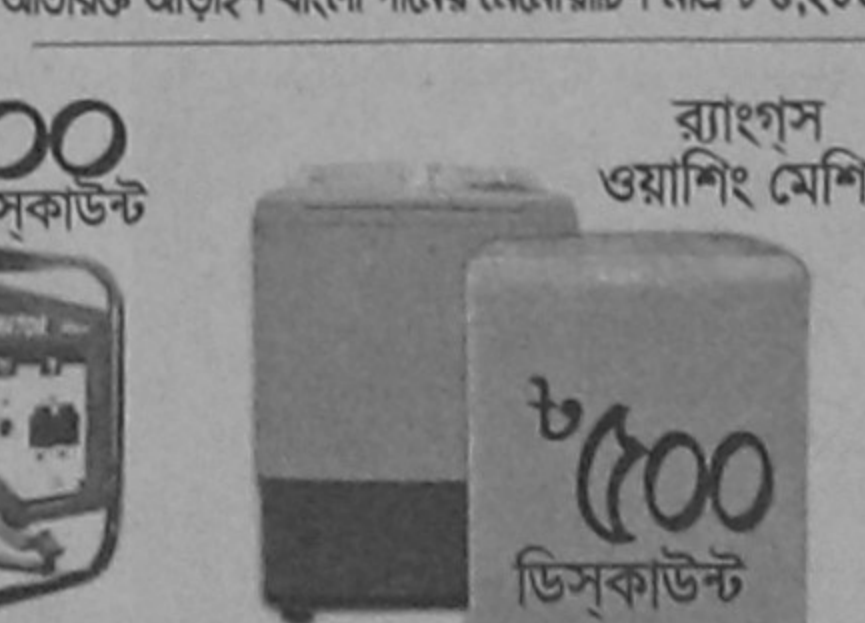
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