

Nato seeks new deal with Karzai govt

AFP, Brussels

The international community will seek fresh agreement with Afghan President Hamid Karzai's new government, Nato chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen told AFP, warning that the administration would have to prove it was credible.

The alliance's Secretary General said a British-French-German initiative for an international conference on Afghanistan early next year was "an obvious step in the right direction."

Such a meeting would be a chance to renew "the contract between the international community and the government in Kabul," he said.

Meteor impacts may have cooked up life on Earth

ANI, Washington

A new research by scientists has confirmed that the organic matter needed for the origin of life could have been delivered to Earth through meteoritic impacts early in Earth's history.

Studies have shown that most of the delivered organics would have decomposed through shock heating or aerodynamic interaction with the ambient atmosphere.

However, Seiji Sugita from the University of Tokyo, Japan, and Peter H. Schultz from Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, US, suggest that some of the decomposed organics could have been revived through chemical reactions between the meteoritic matter and the ambient atmosphere during hypervelocity oblique impacts.



Angela Merkel

Merkel took sauna as Berlin Wall fell

AFP, Berlin

Chancellor Angela Merkel has reminisced about how she was taking a sauna 20 years ago as thousands of fellow East Germans surged through breaches in the Berlin Wall.

Merkel told how as a 35-year-old research scientist working in the communist East, she decided to stick by her weekly routine even as history was made around her on November 9, 1989.

"I thought something was going to happen, and had heard the announcement on television that the borders would open," Merkel said in an interview with journalists from Le Figaro, the Guardian, the New York Times and other newspapers.

"But it was Thursday, and Thursday was my sauna day so that's where I went -- in the same communist high-rise where we always went."



A young girl stands beside the rubble of a school building destroyed by militants on the outskirts of Bara town on Thursday. Taliban militants blew up the girls' school in Pakistan's Khyber district on Nov 5, the second such attack in the lawless region on the Afghan border in four days.

PHOTO: AFP

Gaza war probe gets UNGA approval

CNN, PTI, United Nations

The United Nations General Assembly approved a resolution endorsing a UN report calling for both Israel and Palestine to carry out independent investigations of possible war crimes committed in the Gaza Strip during last winter's conflict.

The nonbinding resolution passed Thursday condemned "all targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure" and called on the Security Council to act if either side fails to comply within a three-month time frame.

It calls on UN Secretary

General Ban Ki-moon to report to the General Assembly within three months "with a view to considering further action, if necessary, by the relevant United Nations organs and bodies, including the Security Council."

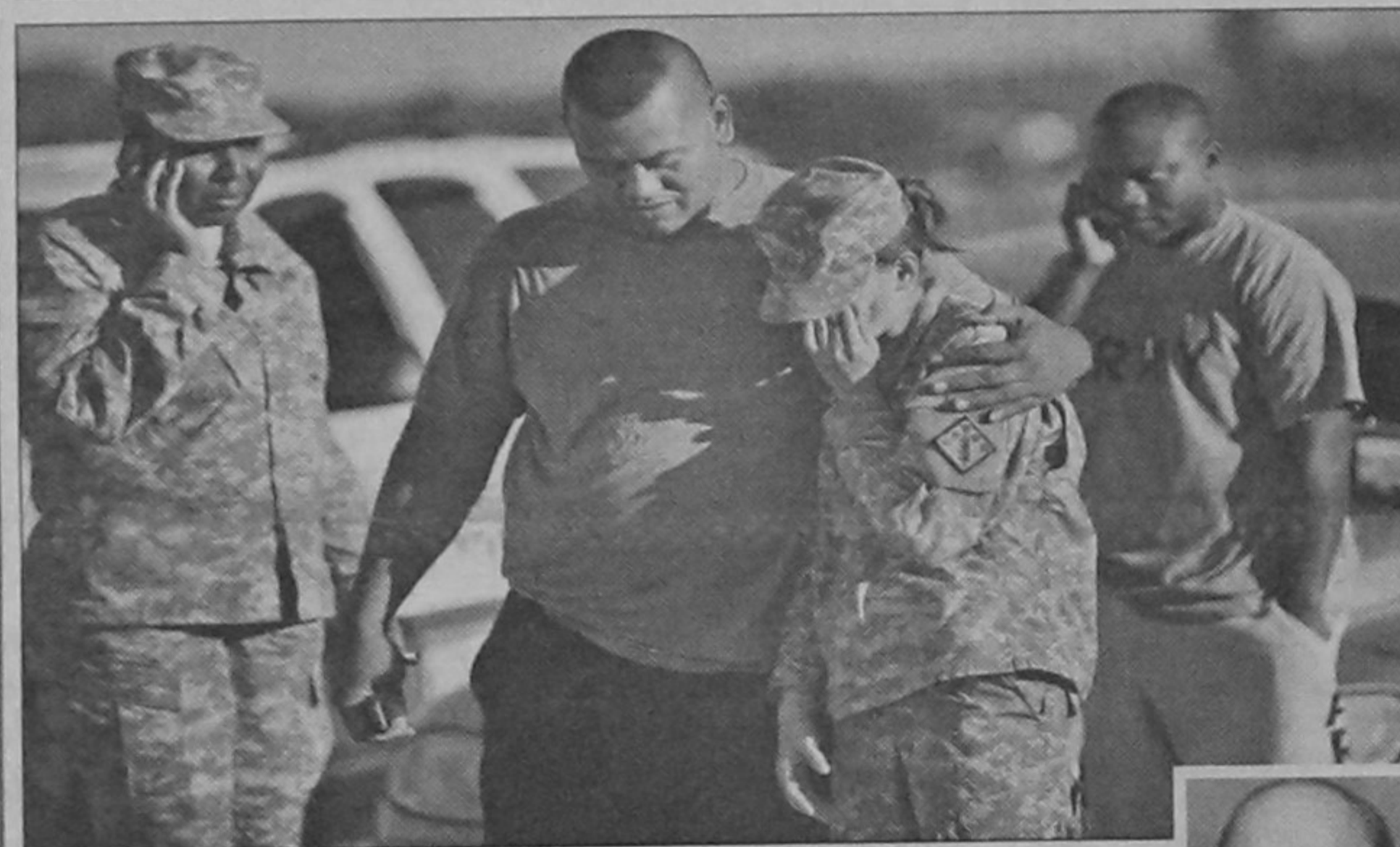
Passage was expected, given the widespread support for the Palestinians and the strong criticism of Israel that resonated in the speeches by 45 nations during the two-day debate. The 192-member world body approved the resolution by a vote of 114-18, with 44 abstentions and 16 countries not voting.

Prior to the vote, Israeli Ambassador to the UN Daniel

Carmon said the resolution "represents yet another pretext to bash Israel at the UN and is detrimental to any positive diplomatic engagement in the region."

The United States was among the 18 countries to reject the resolution, calling it "unbalanced and biased" and warning that it would stand in the way of progress in the Mideast peace process.

"The United States strongly supports accountability for human rights and humanitarian law violations in relation to the Gaza conflict," US deputy ambassador Alejandro Wolff told the General Assembly.



Sgt Fanuaee Vea embraces Pvt Savannah Green outside Fort Hood on Thursday in Killeen, Texas. One disgruntled US army official, Maj Nidal Malik Hasan (inset), killed 13 people and injured 30 in a shooting rampage at the Texas military base Thursday afternoon.

PHOTO: AFP



Muslim groups fear backlash after Texas base shooting

AFP, Washington

Fearing that a gunman who killed 13 people at a military facility in Texas may have been Muslim, US Islamic groups braced themselves for a public backlash against the faith on Thursday.

Soon after Pentagon officials named one of the shooters at the Fort Hood facility as Nidal Malik Hasan, groups rallied to condemn an act President Barack Obama had earlier described as a "horrible outburst of violence."

"The guy's name is a Muslim name," Ibrahim Hooper of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) told AFP, expressing fears about damage to interfaith relations, already strained by the September 11, 2001 attacks, and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In a statement, CAIR con-

demned the shootings as a "cowardly attack" adding that "no political or religious ideology could ever justify or excuse such wanton and indiscriminate violence."

"American Muslims stand with our fellow citizens in offering both prayers for the victims and sincere condolences to the families of those killed or injured."

Qaseem Ali Uqadah, who was a Marine for 21-years before becoming the Executive Director at American Muslim Armed Forces and Veterans Affairs Council, now fears a "witch-hunt" like that which followed September 11, 2001.

"This is a criminal act and we have to treat it like a criminal act, not something to do with religion," he told AFP.

For the estimated 3,500 Muslims in the US armed forces, Uqadah said there could be some fallout from the attack.

Aila-hit embankments

FROM PAGE 16

In Satkhira, says they have repaired breaches at 24 out of 28 points.

He adds repairing the remaining four points -- Shora-9, Chalkbora, Jelyakhali and Khalishabunia -- with larger cracks is beyond their capacity.

Amzad Hossain, chairman of Padmapukur union, another worst-hit area, says four larger breaches -- in Jhapa, Chandipur, Chaulkhola and Garkumarpur -- in the union could not be repaired.

He alleges they did not get adequate materials from WDB and was forced to abandon the work.

The WDB officials say they have done the repair in small breaches on a temporary basis with the help of the local administration.

Majibur Rahman, WDB executive engineer of Division-1, told The Daily Star recently that a 176-kilometre stretch of the embankments covering Kaliganj, Debhata, Shyamnagar and Satkhira Sadar was destroyed in the cyclone.

He added they have repaired the small breaches of around 31km on a temporary basis and other small points in order to tackle the situation. "We could not repair four major points in only Gabura," he said.

He admitted that the "repaired portions also suffered badly in the new-moon-tide wasting a handsome amount of money." They have done the repair work in exchange of 1,580 tonnes of food grains under the "food for work" programme, he informed.

Shahabuddin Ahmed, WDB executive engineer of Division-2, said they have done the repair in Ashashuni, a part of Shyamnagar and a part of

Iran offers IAEA 3 options on uranium deal

AFP, Tehran

Iran is preparing to give the International Atomic Energy Agency more details of its response to proposals from the major powers for the supply of nuclear fuel, Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said yesterday.

"We have some more details which we have to give to the IAEA," state television quoted Mottaki as saying on its website.

"We have three options -- enrich the fuel ourselves, buy it directly or exchange our uranium for fuel," he said.

"They have to choose from these options. Given the need of Iran to have the fuel, my view is that they (the IAEA and the major powers) will accept another round of discussions."

A plan drawn up by the IAEA after talks between Iran and major powers in Vienna calls for Iran to export most of its stocks of low-enriched uranium abroad for further enrichment in Russia and conversion by France into fuel for a research reactor in Tehran.

Iran had been due to give its response to the deal by October 23 but it has so far given only an initial reply, which Iranian media say requested amendments to the plan.

On Thursday, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton urged Iran to accept the plan unchanged.

"As I have said, this is a pivotal moment for Iran, and we urge Iran to accept the agreement as proposed," Clinton told reporters.

"We will not alter it, and we will not wait

forever," she said.

But in his sermon at the main weekly Muslim prayers in Tehran on Friday, hard-line cleric Ahmad Khatami asked what guarantee Iran had that it would get the fuel if it shipped out 75 percent of its low-enriched uranium in one go first as proposed.

"What guarantee do we have that if we deliver our enriched uranium, we will get the fuel?" he asked.

"If they want to harm our rights, our response will be to enrich the fuel ourselves."

President Barack Obama's recent declaration that Americans do not intervene in Iranian events is a lie because the United States and its national media do interfere.

Pakistan has links to LeT terror plots in India

Says Chidambaram

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, NDTV, Hyderabad / New Delhi

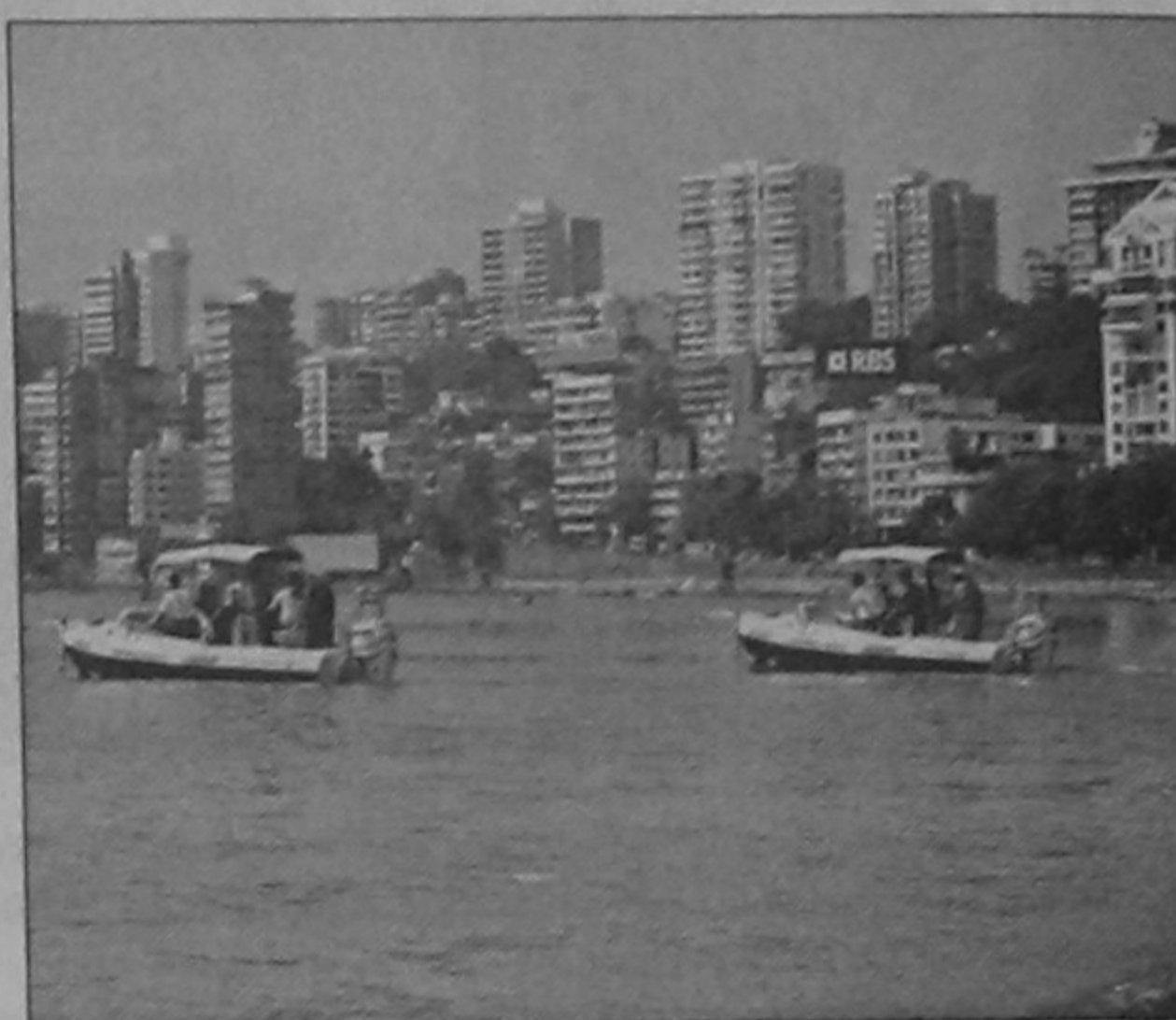
Union Home Minister P Chidambaram yesterday confirmed there was a definite Pakistani link to the terror plot uncovered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the US but said Indian security forces were capable of thwarting any attack.

"There is an obvious Pakistan link. If you have read the affidavit of the FBI agent filed in the court and reproduced in papers, there is a Pakistan link. David (Coleman) Headley visited Pakistan a number of times," Chidambaram told reporters after the passing out parade at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy here.

"I think on the advice of the FBI, two or perhaps more persons have been arrested in Pakistan. There is a definite Pakistani link," he said.

This is the first reaction from Indian government to reports that terrorists were planning major attacks in India.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Friday said there has been no input from Pakistan on the Lashkar-Headley terror plot against India.



Mumbai police's seagull amphibious crafts patrol the Arabian Sea off the Mumbai seafloor yesterday. After the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks, the city police has embarked on a number of measures to enhance security around the coastal waters, including the procurement of four amphibious crafts.

PHOTO: AFP

Climate deal 'unlikely' this year

BBC ONLINE, Barcelona

The UK government says it is highly unlikely that a new legally binding climate treaty can be agreed this year -- and a full treaty may be a year away.

Two years ago, the world's governments vowed to finalise a new treaty at next month's climate summit in Copenhagen.

Climate Secretary Ed Miliband has until now said it could be done -- but now he says only a political deal is likely, echoing some other senior figures.

Developing countries reacted with frustration and

disappointment.

"When we left (UN talks in) Bali two years ago, we all expected that would be agreeing on a legally binding outcome to respond to the urgency... that we were on the verge of catastrophic climate change, so we're very disappointed," said Selwin Hart from Barbados, speaking for the group of small island developing states.

"If we don't take urgent and ambitious action, the reality is that some small island developing states will not be around within a couple of decades -- certainly not by the end of the century."

This is thought to be the first time that UK ministers have acknowledged the slim chances of achieving anything legally binding.

In the middle of October, Miliband said a new treaty looked "more do-able" following a meeting of the Major Economies Forum in London.

His comments now echo warnings from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Denmark's Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen and US chief climate negotiator Todd Stern that only a "politically binding" agreement can now be achieved.

UN probe asks Pak govt to arrange meet with Musharraf

ANI, Islamabad

The UN commission probing the former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's assassination case has asked the government to arrange a meeting with the former President General Musharraf and several other top military officials.

In a letter to the Pakistan government, chief of the enquiry commission, Heroldo Munoz has sought access to Musharraf, and top military and ISI officials for interrogation.

"They have shown a desire to meet the top leadership of the army and the ISI and, if there is an inability, the commission would have to reflect it in the final report," The Dawn quoted the letter, as saying.



PRICE-SENSITIVE NOTICE

This is for information of all concerned that in response to our application dated 22 June 2009, the Board of Directors of Chittagong Stock Exchange Limited (CSE) in their Meeting held on 3 November 2009 approved direct listing of Ocean Containers Limited, 100%-owned subsidiary of Summit Alliance Port Limited under Chittagong Stock Exchange (Direct Listing) Regulations, 2006 subject to compliance of requirements specified by CSE, vide letter Com-LD/OCL/Dir-Listing/01 dated 3 November 2009 addressed to Ocean Containers Limited.

Dated, Dhaka
November 04, 2009

S/d-
Syed Fazlul Haque FCA
Director & Company Secretary
Summit Alliance Port Limited

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING TRAVEL RELATED SERVICES

UNICEF-Bangladesh, on behalf of all UN Agencies in Bangladesh, invites proposals from established reputable local organizations/companies having minimum 3 years of professional work experience with appropriate human resources, equipment/ software etc. for Travel Related Services.

Interested agencies having a strong record and credibility of providing full, prompt, accurate and expert international travel products and services of similar scope and complexity, are requested to collect (without any charge) detailed Request for Proposal (RFP/2009/056) for above-mentioned service from UNICEF-BCO, 3rd Floor, Right Wing, Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Annex Building, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000 from Sunday, 08 November 2009, between 09:30 to 15:30 hours till the briefing date (15 November 2009).

A briefing session on the requirement of the assignment will be held on Sunday, 15 November 2009, at 14:30 hours in UNICEF-BCO.

The proposal must be submitted at or before 14:00 hours on Tuesday, 24 November 2009 in the "Tender Box" located at UNICEF Reception area on the 3rd Floor, Right wing, BSL Office Complex, 1 Minto Road, Dhaka-1000.

PLEASE NOTE, NO BID WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE STIPULATED CLOSING TIME AND DATE.

unite for
children

unicef