



A Somali man, who was injured in a suicide bomb attack during a university graduation ceremony at a local hotel in Mogadishu, looks on while trying to draw attention of rescuers at the scene yesterday. Three ministers were among 19 people killed in the suicide attack.

## China sentences 5 more to death for Xinjiang riots

AP, Beijing

A Chinese court sentenced five more people to death yesterday for murder and other crimes committed during ethnic riots that rocked the western region of Xinjiang in July.

The Intermediate People's Court of Urumqi also sentenced two others to life in prison, said a woman who answered the phone at the media centre of the Xinjiang regional government. Like most Chinese officials, she refused to give her name.

China announced in the middle of last month that nine Uighurs had been executed for taking part in the ethnic rioting that left nearly 200 people dead in July.

The official Xinhua News Agency did not immediately give the names or the ethnic background of the latest five to be sentenced to death.

# US asks Karzai to fight graft or be sidelined

AFP, Washington

The White House on Wednesday warned Afghan President Hamid Karzai to fight corruption or see Washington bypass his cabinet and seek out lower level officials to provide essential services to Afghans.

The warning -- coming a day after Obama said the US government would no longer give Afghanistan a "blank check" for US aid -- turned up the pressure on Karzai to end the corruption seen as fuelling the Taliban insurgency.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters that Obama talked "about the notion that it is time for a new chapter in Afghan governance" in conversations with Karzai, including a secure videoconference late Monday.

When he unveiled his new Afghan strategy in a speech on Tuesday, Obama made it clear he expected major changes from the

Karzai government's status quo, and outlined several steps he wanted them to take.

"The days of providing a blank check are over," Obama said in the speech, noting that Karzai sent the "right message about moving in a new direction" when he was inaugurated last month as president for another term.

"And going forward, we will be clear about what we expect from those who receive our assistance," Obama said.

"We'll support Afghan ministries, governors, and local leaders that combat corruption and deliver for the people. We expect those who are ineffective or corrupt to be held accountable," the president added.

"And we will also focus our assistance in areas -- such as agriculture -- that can make an immediate impact in the lives of the Afghan people."

Gibbs on Wednesday took the warning a step further.

"If President Karzai is unable or unwilling to make changes in corruption or governance... we will identify people at a sub-cabinet level, at a district level that can implement the types of services and basic governance, without corruption, that Afghans need."

The White House spokesman said the Obama administration will also be watching whom Karzai chooses for his cabinet.

And he said Obama, in his speech, put forward a "strong incentive" for the Karzai government to "get its act together" by highlighting July 2011, when US forces are now expected to transfer responsibility to the Afghans.

In her testimony Wednesday to the Senate Armed Services Committee, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the administration has "real concerns about the influence of corrupt officials in the Afghan government, and we will continue to pursue them."

## UN climate head eyes Copenhagen aid deal

AFP, Washington

The UN climate chief voiced optimism Wednesday that the upcoming Copenhagen summit will offer immediate aid for developing nations but urged rich states also to chart out long-term help.

Yvo de Boer, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, said it was vital that developing countries come out of the December 7-18 summit with assurances so they can plan more carbon-efficient economies.

"We will need to see mechanisms created in Copenhagen that allow for prompt action -- immediate action -- the day the conference ends," de Boer told Washington-based reporters on a conference call.

"That will only be possible if Copenhagen also agrees a clear financial package," he

said.

Britain and France called last week for a 10-billion-dollar fund for developing nations to tackle global warming. Britain committed to 1.3 billion dollars.

US Senator John Kerry, a strong advocate of fighting climate change, has asked President Barack Obama to include three billion dollars for the effort in his upcoming budget.

Kerry, who joined de Boer on the conference call, said quick US aid would show a "good-faith effort to put finance where it needs to be" in climate negotiations.

"I think that there is a growing consensus on the short-term finance," de Boer said.

But he doubted rich nations would agree on how to split an estimated 100 billion-dollar bill to help developing countries reduce emissions and adapt to climate change, which UN scientists warn is on

course to worsen drought, floods and other severe weather.

"I think it will be difficult, if not impossible, to reach agreement on the exact long-term cost-sharing in Copenhagen," de Boer said.

"But Copenhagen must also offer the prospect of long-term finance as we seek to come to grips with this issue in the decades to come."

Aid is considered a crucial component of a deal as developing nations are resisting demands by Western states and Japan to be treaty-bound to take action on climate change, arguing that rich countries bear historic responsibility.

India on Tuesday shot down a proposal by summit host Denmark that was expected to seek a halving of global emissions by 2050, worried that the burden would eventually shift to developing nations.

## India ready to withdraw some troops from Kashmir

AFP, New Delhi

India's home minister said Wednesday the government was prepared to withdraw a "significant" number of troops from the restive Muslim-majority Kashmir region.

The presence of Indian soldiers in Kashmir, especially in the Muslim-dominated Kashmir valley, has long been a major source of tension in the region where Islamic rebels have battled New Delhi's rule for two decades.

Briefing lawmakers in parliament on the state of domestic security, P Chidambaram noted that militant violence in the region had dropped in the past few years.

"I would take what appears to be a risky step of withdrawing a significant number of battalions of security forces in Kashmir," the minister told members of parliament, according to the Press Trust of India.

"We are now transferring

more and more law and order duties to the Kashmir police," the news agency quoted Chidambaram as saying.

Chidambaram, however, did not state how many troops would be withdrawn or give a timetable for their pullout.

In June, he made a similar pledge, announcing that India was ready to phase out the presence of a large number of its troops across Kashmir, but gave no time frame.

Indian troops have regularly been accused of human rights violations including rape, murder and torture in the region.

Earlier this year, Kashmir witnessed violent protests in response to the alleged rape and murder of a 17-year-old girl and her 22-year-old sister-in-law, whose bodies were found in a stream on May 30.

If the withdrawal plans are implemented, it would mark the first time Indian armed forces have been pulled out from the region since the insurgency erupted.



Syrian policemen inspect a damaged bus following a blast near a Shia shrine in the Sayyeda Zeinab area of Damascus yesterday. The explosion that wrecked an Iranian bus in Damascus and killed three people was not a terrorist act but a tyre exploding as it was being repaired, Interior Minister Saeed Sammur said.

## Russia to take tough action against terror

AP, Moscow

Prime Minister Vladimir Putin vowed yesterday that the Russian government will step up the fight against terrorism following a deadly train bombing that killed 26 people last week.

Putin admitted that terrorism remains a top threat to the nation and promised that the authorities would act "very harshly" to uproot terrorists.

"We have enough resolve and firmness for that," he said, opening a question-and-answer session broadcast live by Russia's state television.

The bombing last Friday of the Moscow-to-St Petersburg express train fuelled fears that Russia could face another wave of terror attacks outside the volatile North Caucasus region following years of relative calm and official claims that Islamic militants had been defeated.

It was the first deadly terrorist attack outside the North Caucasus since the bombings of two airliners and a Moscow subway station attack in 2004.

## Enlistment Notice

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An Mi-17 helicopter takes off with the Kongde mountains in the background in Syangboche yesterday. Nepal's cabinet is due to hold a meeting today on a plateau 5,262 metres (17,192 feet) high, in the shadow of Mount Everest, to draw attention to the effects of global warming before a key climate change summit in Copenhagen.

## Nepali ministers to meet on Everest today

AFP, Lukla

Nepalese ministers began arriving yesterday in Lukla, one of the main towns in the Everest region, ahead of a high-altitude cabinet meeting to stress the impact of global warming on the Himalayas.

Nepal's cabinet is due to hold a meeting on Friday on a plateau 5,262 metres (17,192 feet) high, in the shadow of Mount Everest, to draw attention to the effects of global warming before a key climate change summit in Copenhagen.

Scientists say the Himalayan glaciers are melt-

ing at an alarming rate and creating huge glacial lakes that threaten to burst, devastating mountain communities downstream.

They warn that the glaciers could disappear within decades, bringing drought to large swathes of Asia, where 1.3 billion people depend on rivers that originate in the Himalayas.

Crowds of local people gathered at the Tenzing-Hillary airport in Lukla -- named after the first men to reach the summit of Everest -- to welcome ministers as they arrived by helicopter from Kathmandu.

## Newspapers push to reclaim online identities

AFP, Hyderabad

Newspaper editors and owners meeting in India have urged their industry to seize back the online publishing initiative from search engine "parasites" living off their work.

Speaker after speaker at the ongoing three-day World Newspaper Congress in the southern city of Hyderabad has argued that the current crisis in the newspaper industry requires a drastic rethink of Internet strategies.

With print advertising revenues in freefall, the search for real income from digital editions has become something of a Holy Grail for newspaper houses worldwide.

"One thing is sure, unless we protect and commercially

exploit our high value content, the journalistic standards so important to our readers and to society will no longer be financially viable," said Timothy Balding, chief executive of the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA).

But options are limited, with WAN-IFRA warning in its annual world press trends update that "at no time in the foreseeable future" will digital advertising revenues replace those lost to print.

In a 182-billion-dollar press advertising industry, newspapers' digital income amounted to less than six billion dollars last year and is forecast by consultancy PricewaterhouseCoopers to grow to no more than 8.4 billion dollars by 2013.

Garments & Textile Inspectors	
<b>Job Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform inspection.</li> <li>• Conduct loading supervision of goods/merchandises for export.</li> </ul>
<b>Required Profile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masters in any discipline.</li> <li>• 1/2 years experience in the relevant field is preferable.</li> </ul>
Assistant Executive (lab Analyst)	
<b>Job Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perform daily routine test, sample preparation, extraction and maintain the quality as per QC guideline.</li> <li>• Ensure that all the tests assigned are performed according to the relevant Standard Operating Procedure and / or relevant working instruction.</li> </ul>
<b>Required Profile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masters in chemistry.</li> </ul>
Executive Sales & Marketing ( Food Lab)	
<b>Job Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In conjunction with overall sales strategy, create sales plans to grow SGS revenue for designated accounts/region.</li> <li>• Identify, research, plan contact potential clients to establish new business in order to achieve targeted revenue growth.</li> <li>• Anticipate, identify and understand client's needs and pains and translate those into sales opportunities.</li> <li>• Prepare quotations, service agreements and tenders within set deadlines.</li> <li>• Resolve customer complaints by addressing problems, facilitating the development of solutions, preparing reports and making recommendations to managers.</li> </ul>
<b>Required Profile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• M.Sc. in Food Tech Or M.S in Microbiology.</li> <li>• Experience in the related field is an asset.</li> <li>• Minimum 3 years of experience in the sales field, with a successful track record.</li> </ul>
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<b>Job Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAN setup, trouble shooting and support on Windows Network environment.</li> <li>• Assist the System Admin to deploy and maintain the IP Network.</li> </ul>
<b>Required Profile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum Graduate.</li> <li>• Must be an MCP Certified.</li> <li>• Basic knowledge on Oracle 9i &amp; 10g Environment.</li> <li>• Minimum 2 years practical experience in relevant field &amp; environment.</li> </ul>
Asst. IT Developer/Programmer	
<b>Job Characteristics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create and maintain all databases as per required by the management.</li> <li>• Administer all database objects, including tables, clusters, indexes, views, sequences, packages and procedures.</li> <li>• Create and maintain Oracle backup and recovery.</li> </ul>
<b>Required Profile</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum Graduate</li> <li>• Must be an OCP certified</li> <li>• Knowledge on Oracle Database 9i &amp; 10g environment, deployment &amp; maintenance</li> <li>• Practical knowledge on Oracle RDBMS and its tools.</li> <li>• Knowledge on Microsoft SQL Server is strong plus.</li> <li>• Vast knowledge in Crystal Report.</li> <li>• Minimum 2 years practical experience in developing solutions in C#, ASP.NET, VB.NET using Microsoft Visual Studio.NET, SQL, Crystal Report is must.</li> </ul>
All the above positions require excellent communication, interpersonal skills and good knowledge in MS office.	
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