



A former Nepalese Maoist combatant bids farewell to his friends as he leaves a Maoist camp in Dudhaili of Sindhuli district in eastern Nepal yesterday.

Ex-child soldiers leave UN camps in Nepal

More than 200 former child soldiers who fought for the Maoists in Nepal's bloody civil war said an emotional goodbye yesterday to the UN-monitored camp where they have lived for over three years.

'Gestapo-like reign of terror' prevailing, says Pak SC

The Pakistan Supreme Court has said "Gestapo-like situation" was prevailing in the country, emphasising that top military officials and other influential people were involved in several cases of human rights violations.

UN envoy warns of Afghan mission failure

Suicide bomb kills 8, acting governor wounded

The outgoing UN special envoy to Afghanistan warned Wednesday that the international mission in the country would fail if the strategy is not changed while eight people were killed in suicide bombing yesterday.

"I am worried about growing impatience in public opinion in donor and troop-contributing countries about the frustration in the Afghan public over what they see as a failure to meet their expectations," he said.

An explosives-filled vest Thursday killed eight people and wounded 24 others in eastern Afghanistan, an official said.

LTTE chief's father dies in custody

The elderly father of Sri Lanka's slain Tamil rebel chief Velupillai Prabhakaran has died in military custody, officials said yesterday.

Laden's son left Iran for Syria

The youngest son of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden left Iran in late December and is now in Damascus, the Saudi-controlled newspaper Asharq Al-Awsat reported on Wednesday.



Afghan university students set fire to a US flag and an effigy of US President Barack Obama during an anti-US demonstration in Jalalabad yesterday.

Lanka opens key road to Jaffna

Sri Lanka yesterday opened the main road to the northern peninsula of Jaffna, heartland of the island's minority Tamils, seven months after Tamil separatists were defeated.

Manmohan visits critically ill Jyoti Basu

ANI, INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Kolkata

Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh visited the AMRI hospital in Salt Lake to see CPM leader and former West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, whose health condition is still reported to be critical.

The medical board treating Basu and now comprising eight specialists was assessing his condition. "He has been fighter all his life. And now also he is fighting."

Pak court refuses acquittal of accused

An Anti-Terrorism Court (ATC) in Rawalpindi, Pakistan has rejected petitions seeking acquittal of six out of seven accused allegedly involved in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in 2008, which killed over 160 people.



Flames engulf the hotel where militants were holed up during a gun battle with Indian security forces in Srinagar yesterday.

Kashmir gunbattle ends as 2 attackers killed

Government forces in Indian-controlled Kashmir shot and killed two suspected rebels yesterday, ending a more than 20-hour-long gunbattle that paralysed the region's main city.

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9/11 trial security to cost \$200m a year: Mayor. Security for the upcoming trial in New York of suspects in the 9/11 attacks will cost more than 200 million dollars a year, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Wednesday.

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