Allies see plot in Pak

governor's killing

NEW Sprief

Israeli, Egyptian leaders to discuss peacemaking

AP, Jerusalem

Israel's prime minister says he will discuss Mideast peacemaking with Egypt's leader, as well as the common threat posed by Iranian-backed militant groups.

Benjamin Netanyahu says Gaza-based Hamas militants and Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas want to "disturb the quiet" but "we will not let them."

Both groups have warred with Israel. Egypt is worried by their Islamic militancy and Iranian ties.

Netanyahu said in a statement that he and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak would also discuss stalemated Israeli-Palestinian peace talks

22 killed in India bus crash

AFP, Dehradun

At least 22 people including six children were killed when their bus plunged into a gorge in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand, a police officer told AFP yesterday.

Nineteen others were injured in the late Wednesday accident, which occurred when the bus was returning with holiday makers from the popular hill town resort of Mussoorie.

The bus was carrying 42 passengers when it skidded off a mountain road and crashed some 15 kilometres (nine miles) from the state capital Dehradun.

Youths riot in Algeria over high prices

AP, Algiers

Rioting youths have set buildings ablaze and hurled stones at police in Algeria amid anger at recent price rises and chronic unemployment.

Security officers filled the tense working class Algiers neighbourhood of Bab el-Oued yesterday after riots Wednesday night.

The violence came after hikes in prices for milk, sugar and flour in recent days, and amid simmering frustration that Algeria's gas and oil resources

Israel won't be Turkey's 'punching bag': Lieberman

AFP, Jerusalem

Turkey is to blame for the crisis in relations between Israel and Ankara, and the Jewish state will not become a Turkish "punching bag," Israel's foreign minister said yesterday.

In a commentary published in the Englishlanguage Jerusalem Post, Avigdor Lieberman accused Ankara of anti-Israel incitement, and warned the situation in Turkey reminded him of Iran just before the Islamic revolution.



PHOTO: AFP

Indian commuters journey past a burning government bus which had been set alight by students of Osmania University in Hyderabad yesterday, during a protest demanding separate state of Telangana in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh.

Gbagbo ordered Ivory Coast violence Claims Ouattara

The US plans to send 1,400 REUTERS, Paris

> Ivory Coast's presidential claimant Alassane Ouattara said yesterday he had proof his rival, Laurent Gbagbo, had instigated post-election violence and ordered foreign agents to carry out killings.

"Laurent Gbagbo has blood on his hands. He has ordered assassinations of citizens by foreign agents," Ouattara told Europe 1 radio. "Of course, we have proof of this."

"I have already written to the Secretary General of the United Nations to ask that the International Criminal Court send a team of investigators to Ivory Coast, and I am told that this will be done in coming days."

Iran detains US woman

killer in garlands.

AP, Tehran

AFP, Islamabad

Allies of Pakistan's assassinated liberal

alluded to his killing as part of a wider plot,

slamming security failures that saw his

assassination in three years has bitterly

divided the country, horrifying moderates

but winning praise from religious scholars

and lawyers who festooned the presumed

responsible for protecting Taseer con-

fessed to killing him in broad daylight out-

side an Islamabad cafe to silence his efforts

A member of an elite commando

Pakistan's most high-profile political

bodyguard charged with murder.

Iranian authorities have detained a 55-year-old US woman on spying charges, a state-owned newspaper reported yesterday.

The daily IRAN said the woman had spying equipment hidden on her body when customs authorities detained her in the border town of Nordouz, 370 miles (600 kilometers) northwest of the capital Tehran.

Prophet Mohammed punishable by death. But Taseer's political allies suggest

to reform laws that make defaming the

politician Salman Taseer yesterday Malik Mumtaz Hussain Qadri, pictured grinning after allegedly pumping nearly 30 bullets into Taseer's body, acted as part of a wider conspiracy and accused police of a cover-up.

"The martyrdom of Mr Salman Taseer is a conspiracy against Pakistan and Pakistani institutions," said Imtiaz Safdar Warraich, a junior cabinet minister in the main ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP), to which Taseer belonged.

"The people behind this assassination should be exposed immediately... There was a serious security lapse," he said.

CRISIS IN KOREA

US envoy seeks Chinese help

AP, Beijing

A top US envoy sought China's help yesterday in easing the threat of war on the Korean peninsula, hoping to gain insights about a senior Chinese official's recent meeting with North Korea's absolute leader, Kim Jong Il.

Stephen Bosworth met with Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Zhijun and other officials. He was to travel to Japan later yesterday.

"Ambassador Bosworth and Chinese counterparts had useful consultations on how to coordinate moving forward in dealing with North Korea," a US Embassy statement said.

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Palestinians look for early vote on **UN** resolution

AFP, United Nations

US to send

REUTERS, Washington

1,400 troops

to Afghanistan

additional Marines to

Afghanistan to boost its

combat forces ahead of the

spring fighting season, the

Wall Street Journal

already has about 100,000

troops in the country, and

Obama is under pressure

to show results so he can

begin a promised with-

drawal this year.

The United States

reported on yesterday.

A Palestinian resolution condemning Israel's settlement building could be voted on at the UN Security Council as early as next week, the Palestinian representative to the UN said Wednesday. However Palestinians are not yet sure whether the

United States will veto the resolution as part of its traditional support of Israel, the representative Riyad Mansour told AFP. Mansour said he started meetings with Security Council

ambassadors on Wednesday on the draft resolution drawn up with the backing of Arab states. Mansour and other Arab envoys met with Bosnian ambassador Ivan Barbalic, who is president of the Security Council for January.

"Now we are having talks about the drafting language," he said.



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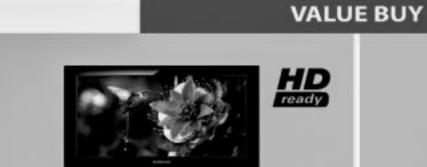
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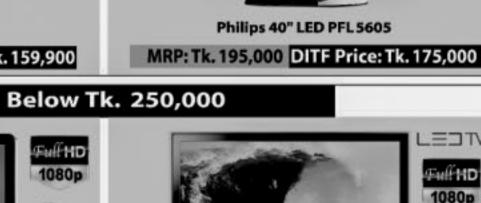
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