



Candles surround a portrait of US Rep Gabrielle Giffords, who is in a critical condition after being shot on Saturday in Tucson, Arizona. Giffords was shot in the head at a public event entitled "Congress on Your Corner" when a gunman opened fire outside a Safeway grocery store in Tucson. One suspect is in custody.

Surgeons optimistic on recovery of shot US lawmaker

AFP, Tucson

Surgeons were "cautiously optimistic" yesterday about the recovery chances of US congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, who was shot in the head at an Arizona political event by a would-be assassin.

Part of her skull had been removed to allow her brain to relax, but Giffords, 40, had shown she was "able to communicate" by following simple commands, doctors at the University of Arizona Medical Center said.

Chief of neurosurgery Michael Lemole, who operated on Giffords, said that although the commands she followed are seen as simple, they actually show "a very high level of functioning in the brain."

Although Giffords remained in a criti-

cal condition, Lemole said recovery hopes were high because the bullet did not cross from one side of her brain to the other, instead passing the length of the left side.

"When we talk about gunshot wounds to the head, the things that are most concerning to us are if the bullet crosses from one hemisphere to the other -- one side to the other," he said.

"I'm happy to say those were not the case in this instance. And because of that, Congresswoman Giffords is able to communicate with us this morning through following simple commands. We're very encouraged by that."

Doctors were clear, however, that Giffords's condition was still critical.

"Brain swelling at any time can take a

Indian police kill nine suspected Maoists

AFP, Bhubaneswar

Indian security forces yesterday shot dead nine suspected Maoist guerrillas and seized explosives from a forest camp in the eastern state of Orissa, police said.

The left-wing fighters were gunned down in a dawn encounter in Rayagada district, a rebel hotbed 500 kilometres (310 miles) south of Bhubaneswar city.

"We have killed nine Maoists, destroyed their camp and seized explosive materials," S. Priyadarshi, a senior state police officer, told AFP.

S Korea to relaunch tourism with North

AFP, Seoul

South Korea said yesterday it would reopen tourist areas near the border with North Korea as tension sparked by the North's deadly shelling of a frontier island in November shows signs of easing.

The defence ministry said all tourist spots and observation posts used by tourists at Imjingak, along the western border with North Korea, would be open to the public as of today morning.

The area, about 54 kilometres (33 miles) northwest of Seoul and popular among tourists, was closed on November 23 when Pyongyang shelled Yeonpyeong island, killing four South Koreans including two civilians and sending regional tensions soaring.

Pyongyang has recently lowered its military alert status, prompting Seoul and US forces to reduce their own alert status to a normal level, Yonhap news agency reported.

Special observations points used by tourists to peer into Northern territory were reopened last month, but Dora Observatory, which has the most extensive view, along with several other spots, remained closed due to its exposure to potential attacks.

Sri Lanka floods kill seven, leave 750,000 homeless

AFP, Colombo

At least seven people, including two children, were killed in mudslides in Sri Lanka where more than 750,000 people have been driven out of their homes by floods, officials said yesterday.

A six-year-old boy and a nine-year-old girl were killed in separate incidents in the district of Badulla yesterday, while five others also died in mudslides over the weekend.

Heavy rains have caused flooding in the island's centre and east where more than 750,000 people have moved to temporary shelters after their homes were flooded, said N B Weragama, operations director at the Disaster Management Centre.

He said that 1,500 troops had joined rescue efforts to evacuate marooned villagers.

Sri Lanka depends on monsoon rains for irrigation and power generation, but the seasonal downpours frequently cause deaths and damage to property in low-lying areas.

The island's two main monsoon seasons run from May to September and December to February.

Fresh unrest over unemployment hits Tunisia

BBC ONLINE

At least one person has been killed in fresh unrest over unemployment in Tunisia, eyewitnesses say.

One hospital source told Reuters news agency that one person had been shot dead during a demonstration in the western town of Thala.

AFP news agency, quoting witnesses as saying police had fired on protesters, put the death toll at four.

There has been no comment from Tunisian officials. The protests erupted last month over a lack of freedom and jobs.

A hospital source Thala, about located about 200 km (125 miles) southwest of the capital Tunis, that several people had been admitted to the hospital after the latest clashes. "At least one was killed," he said.

Saudi lists 47 Qaeda suspects abroad

AFP, Riyadh

Saudi authorities announced yesterday a list of 47 people wanted for suspected links to Al-Qaeda who are all abroad, the interior ministry said in a statement carried by state news agency SPA.

"Authorities have identified 47 wanted Saudis who are abroad and who adopt the deviant ideology," the ministry said, using the kingdom's term for the Al-Qaeda terror network.

South Sudan, in song, dance, begins independence vote

AP, Juba, Sudan

Women broke out in song and men wrapped themselves in flags as voters in Southern Sudan began casting ballots today in a weeklong independence referendum likely to create the world's newest nation about five years after the end of a brutal civil war.

The mainly Christian south is widely expected to secede from the mainly Muslim north, splitting Africa's largest country in two.

The president of Sudan, who has been indicted for alleged genocide and war crimes in Darfur, has promised to let go of the oil-rich south after his government tried for years to derail the vote now taking place under massive international scrutiny.

His unlikely acceptance of the seem-

ingly inevitable loss comes as the two regions face an interwoven economic future: Most of Sudan's oil is in the south, while the pipelines to the sea run through the north.

Yesterday, there was only jubilation though among those who had lived through years of fighting.

"This is the historic moment the people of Southern Sudan have been waiting for," said Southern Sudan President Salva Kiir as he cast his vote in front of a cheering crowd of hundreds lined up in front of the polling station.

Many voters lined up in the middle of the night, and some slept at the site of Garang's grave, where Kiir voted. Among the voters was Mawien Mabut, a 36-year-old soldier who was grinning widely as he lined up to cast his ballot.

Dhaka goes to UN

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of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) next month," said Foreign Minister Dipu Moni.

The deadline for submission of the claim to UN is July 26. Bangladesh is going to submit its report four months ahead of the deadline.

Talking to reporters after emerging from an inter-ministerial meeting, the foreign minister said resolving maritime dispute is a lengthy process and it may take eight to 10 years time for final settlement.

Replying to a question, she said the foreign ministry will send a proposal along with a survey report and data to the ministries concerned for their opinion, and on completion of scrutiny it will be placed to the cabinet meeting for approval.

The cabinet is expected to give final approval to the proposal in the first week of next month, the foreign minister said.

Official sources said Bangladesh has already completed its survey on Bay of Bengal to establish its claim and now giving final touch to the report prepared for submission.

Ahead of finalising the report, an inter-ministerial meeting was held yesterday at the Foreign Ministry with

Dipu Moni in the chair.

The meeting was attended by Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, Home Minister Sahara Khatun and Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan.

Earlier, a team comprising foreign and local experts examined the draft. UN Commission Member on CLCS Dr Harald Brekke, who has been providing various technical advice to Bangladeshi expert's panel, also joined examining the report on January 5.

On the other hand, Bangladesh lodged cases with International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) regarding maritime disputes with India and Myanmar.

Side by side, Bangladesh also needs to submit a report to UN under Article 76 of United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), 1982 to establish the claim beyond 200 nautical miles.

According to UNCLOS, any coastal country is firstly entitled to 12 nautical miles from its baseline as territorial sea, the next 24 nautical miles as contiguous zone and the following 200 nautical miles as its exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

NEWS IN brief

Israel destroying chance for peace: Palestinians

AFP, Ramallah, Palestinian Territories

Palestinian officials slammed Israel's demolition of an east Jerusalem hotel yesterday to make way for settler housing, accusing the Jewish state of destroying any chance of peace.

The Palestinians reacted furiously to the demolition of part of the Hotel Shepherd, which sits on a piece of land in occupied east Jerusalem where developers plan to build a complex of 20 luxury apartments for Jewish settlers.

Two French hostages in Niger killed in rescue attempt

BBC ONLINE

France has confirmed that two of its citizens who were kidnapped from a restaurant in Niamey, the capital of Niger, on Friday have been killed.

French Defence Minister Alain Juppe said they died during an attempted rescue operation by Niger's national guard near the border with Mali.

President Nicolas Sarkozy condemned the killings as "cowardly and barbaric".

No group has said it was behind the abduction, but al-Qaeda's North African offshoot has seized Westerners before.

Clashes kill 11 amid fresh tensions in central Nigeria

AFP, Jos, Nigeria

Clashes killed at least 11 people in central Nigeria on Saturday amid fresh tensions linked to a political meeting and an attack on buses carrying Muslim passengers, a military commander said.

The violence occurred in the city of Jos, where a series of Christmas Eve bomb blasts and resulting attacks left at least 80 dead.

Jos and the surrounding region have long been hotspots of ethnic and religious friction in Nigeria, and tensions have increased ahead of April elections.

Foreign woman held on Iran border released

REUTERS, Tehran

Iranian border guards have released a woman they were holding who, according to some reports, was suspected of being a US spy, state broadcaster IRIB reported yesterday.

"This 34-year-old woman who intended to enter Iran at the Norduz terminal on January 5 left Iran's borders after her situation became clear and legal procedures were followed," IRIB quoted an unnamed "high ranking security official" as saying.

Two Abu Sayyaf gunmen killed in Philippines

AFP, Zamboanga, Philippines

Philippine troops clashed with a group of Al-Qaeda-linked militants on the southern island of Basilan yesterday, killing two of them and arresting a third.

Army Scout Rangers were patrolling a remote jungle village in Basilan's Tipo-Tipo town when they encountered the Abu Sayyaf militants, touching off a 45-minute gunbattle, the military



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TENDER NOTICE

North South University is inviting sealed offer from the bona fide /manufacturer/ reputed tailors/ suppliers for supplying the items as mentioned below:

SL. No.	Description of items
Lot-01	Uniform
Lot-02	Shoes & Socks
Lot-03	Rain Coat, Cap etc.

Interested bidders may collect schedules of tender from the Finance & Accounts Department of the NSU from 10:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Sunday through Thursday on all working days till January 17, 2011 by paying non refundable taka 500.00(Five Hundred) only in cash for each schedule.

The bidders must submit **earnest money @ 2.5%** of quoted price in the form of pay order issued from any scheduled bank drawn in favor of North South University along with their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted on January 18, 2011 within 12.30 p.m. at the office of the undersigned. Bidders can bid for all or any of the Lot. The offers will be opened at 12:45p.m. on the same day. Representatives of the participating bidders may remain present at the time of opening the bids. NSU authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without showing any reason.

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TENDER NOTICE

North South University is inviting sealed offer from the bona fide / reputed organization / distributors/business partners/agents for supplying the Items as mentioned below :

SL. No.	Description of items	Quantity
Lot - 01	Multi Media Video Projector and accessories	06 nos.
Lot - 02	Computer for Multi Media Video Projector.	06 nos.
Lot - 03	Clone Computer	20 nos.
Lot - 04	IP Telephone set	50 nos.

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