Iran, Iraq to shut down Camp Ashraf

AFP, Tehran

Iran and Iraq have formed a joint committee with the Red Cross to shut down Camp Ashraf in Iraq which houses thousands of outlawed Iranian opponents, Iraqi President Jalal Talabani said yesterday.

"The camp will be shut down by the end of this year," Talabani said on the sidelines of a counter-

terrorism summit in Tehran. The People's Mujahedeen established Camp Ashraf in the 1980s -when now-executed Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's regime was at war with Iran as a base from which to launch military action against the Islamic republic.

ICC to rule on Gaddafi arrest warrant tomorrow AFP, Tripoli Libyan state television said a Nato air strike on

Nato strike kills 15

civilians in Libya

"civilian sites" in the eastern town of Brega killed 15 people and wounded more than 20, a claim promptly denied by the alliance.

"The colonialist crusader Atlantic coalition bombed civilian sites, among them a bakery and a restaurant in Brega, creating 15 martyrs and more than 20 wounded, among them regular clients of those places," the TV said.

State news agency Jana said the raid took place yesterday, and spoke of five other "citizens" killed in raids the day before.

In its daily operations report, the alliance said that on Friday it had targeted 35 objectives, including military vehicles and installations, in the Brega region.

Nato rejected the claim, saying in

Brussels that its forces had hit "legitimate military targets."

Meanwhile, judges at the International Criminal Court will decide tomorrow whether to issue an arrest warrant for Libyan leader Gaddafi for crimes against humanity.

A panel of three judges will at 1:00pm give their response to a request by the court's prosecutor, Luis Moreno-Ocampo, to have Gaddafi, 69, his 39-year-old son Seif al-Islam and another close associate arrested.

information or simply turn it down. It will be the second time the prosecutor

They can grant the request, request more

has had a head of state in his sights: In March 2009, judges granted his request for a warrant for Sudan's Omar al-Bashir, but it has yet to be executed.

Rich countries grabbing poors' land

Kofi Annan calls for united action on food security

AFP, Rome

Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called yesterday for increased international cooperation to tackle global food security and criticised rich countries for grabbing land from the poor.

"Along with tackling the linked problem of climate change, delivering global food and nutrition security is the challenge of our time," Annan said during a conference held by the UN's food agency in Rome, according to a statement.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner hit out at the phenomenon of "land grabbing", by which countries buy or lease land in other nations to boost their own food security.

"It is very disturbing that a recent report found that agricultural land that adds up to the size of France was



bought in Africa in 2009 alone by hedge funds and other speculators," he said.

Annan's comments came on the sidelines of a conference to elect a new FAO head. Brazilian and Spanish candidates are leading the field to take over from Senegal's Jacques Diouf, who is stepping down at the end of the year.

Annan, the chairman of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, said that over the last few

years there has been "an ominous retreat from the idea of common

purpose based on shared values." "If countries cannot come together successfully to deliver food security -this most basic of human needs -- our

hopes for wider international cooper-

ation look doomed," he added. "We have seen a worrying rise in protectionism, unilateral export bans, land grabs and exclusive deals that meet the food needs of the rich

but not the poor," Annan said. A joint FAO and OECD report on Friday forecast that food prices will be high and volatile for the next decade, driven by rising incomes in emerging nations and demand for biofuel.

Global hunger rates have decreased slightly in recent years but 925 million people still suffer from hunger and high food prices threaten millions more.

Kate, the **Duchess of** Cambridge speaks with soldiers in **Victoria** Barracks in Windsor, west of London yesterday during a medal parade for the 1st **Battalion Irish** Guards



ANTI-MINING PROTEST

Peruvian forces kill 5

Regiment.

PHOTO: AFP

AFP, Juliaca

At least five people were killed and 32 wounded when riot police battled antimining demonstrators to prevent them taking over an airport in southeastern Peru, hospital officials said early yesterday.

The victims were part of a group of some 1,000 mostly local Aymara Indian farmers that tried to storm the Inca Manco Capac international airport in Juliaca. They are demanding an end to mining activity and oil drilling in Puno, one of the Peru's poorest areas.

Iran joins Pak-Afghan pledge to combat terrorism

Says 9/11 a 'pretext' for military invasion, a 'big lie'

AFP, Tehran

The presidents of Afghanistan, Iran and Pakistan agreed yesterday to join forces in combating militancy as they attended a counterterrorism summit in Tehran under the cloud of an Afghan hospital bombing that killed 60 people.

"All sides stressed their commitment to efforts aimed at eliminating extremism, militancy, terrorism, as well as rejecting foreign interference, which is in blatant opposition to the spirit of Islam, the peaceful cultural traditions of the region and its peoples' interests," the statement said.

"All sides agreed to continue meeting at foreign, interior, security and economy ministers' level to prepare a roadmap for the national outcry.

next summit due to be held in Islamabad before the end of 2011," added the statement carried by Iran's official IRNA news agency.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his Iranian and Pakistani counterparts Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Asif Ali Zardari held threeway talks on Friday ahead of a six-nation counterterrorism conference yesterday. In his speech to the opening session,

Ahmadinejad again accused Iran's archfoe, the United States, of using the September 11, 2001 attacks as a "pretext" for sending troops to the region.

He has dubbed 9/11 a "big lie" and a "suspect affair" similar to the Nazi Holocaust, which he dismissed as a "myth" shortly after coming to power in 2005, triggering an inter-

Hundreds flee to Lebanon Friday's death toll rises to 20

SYRIA UNREST

AP, Beirut

Hundreds of Syrians, some with gunshot wounds, have crossed into neighbouring Lebanon in search of a refuge from the growing violence in their homeland, a Lebanese security official said yesterday.

Most arriving at the border came after Syrian security forces opened fire on protesters on Friday. Syrian activists said 20 people were killed, including two children aged 12 and 13.

The Local Coordination Committees, a group tracking the Syria protests, said most of the deaths occurred in the Barzeh neighbourhood of the capital, Damascus, and in the suburb of al-Kaswa. Others died when security forces opened fire in the central city of Homs, sending residents fleeing to the Lebanese border 30 kilometres away.

The Syrian opposition says some 1,400 people have been killed since the protest began.

A prominent Syrian opposition figure, meanwhile, said some 200 regime critics and intellectuals will meet in Damascus tomorrow(Monday) to discuss strategies for a peaceful transition to democracy.

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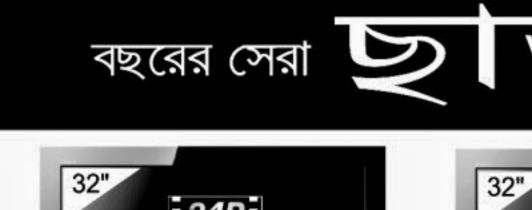
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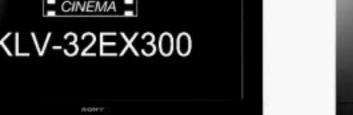


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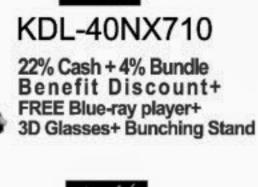




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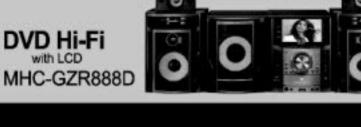






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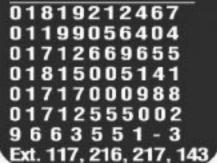
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