

**NEWS IN**  
*brief*

**India stops telegram service**

AFP, New Delhi

Thousands of Indians crammed into telegram offices yesterday to send souvenir messages to friends and family in a last-minute rush before the service shuts down after 162 years. Yesterday was the last day that messages will be accepted by the service, the world's last major commercial telegram operation, and the Central Telegraph Office in New Delhi said it was geared up to tackle the expected rush.

**55,000 Congolese flee to Uganda**

AFP, Bundibugyo

More than 55,000 refugees from eastern Democratic Republic of Congo have arrived in Uganda after fleeing a rebel attack, Red Cross officials said yesterday, a dramatic rise from earlier estimates. Refugees have streamed across the border into western Uganda's Bundibugyo district since the attack on Thursday.

**Typhoon forces mass evacuation in China**

AFP, Beijing

Eastern China was bracing for torrential downpours yesterday from Typhoon Soulik which forced the evacuation of half a million people after killing two in Taiwan.

More than half a million people were evacuated from Fujian and neighbouring Zhejiang as the typhoon approached, with 5,500 soldiers deployed to carry out relief work if needed.

**Iraq attacks kill 7**

AFP, Mosul

Violence in Iraq, including attacks on two members of a district council in the north, killed seven people yesterday, officers and doctors said. The attacks are just the latest in a surge in violence that has killed more than 340 people this month and over 2,600 so far this year, according to AFP figures based on security and medical sources.

**200 hurt in South Sudan clashes**

AFP, Juba

At least 200 people have been wounded in a week of bitter fighting in South Sudan's Jonglei state, the top United Nations humanitarian official in the country said yesterday. Tit-for-tat cattle raids and reprisal killings are common in this grossly underdeveloped state, awash with guns left over from almost two decades of civil war.



**BASTILLE DAY PARADE**

**Nine alphajets from the French Air Force Patrouille de France, releasing trails of red, white and blue smoke—colors of French national flag, fly over the Pyramid du Louvre during the Bastille Day parade in Paris yesterday. France held traditional military parade with fighter jets flying overhead and troops marching to mark the start of the French Revolution, which began with the storming of the Bastille prison on July 14, 1789.**

PHOTO: AFP

**'Snowden has more docs that could harm US'**

CNN ONLINE

American intelligence leaker Edward Snowden has more damaging information that could be a "nightmare" for the US government, a journalist who first published his documents said.

Glenn Greenwald of the Guardian told an Argentine newspaper, La Nacion, that releasing more information to hurt the United States is not Snowden's goal.

However, he said, Snowden has a "large number" of documents about software people use "without consciously agreeing to surrender their rights to privacy."

Snowden has given copies of the papers to several people, Greenwald told the paper, according to an English translation.

"The US government should be on their knees every day praying that nothing happens to Snowden, because if something happens, all information will be revealed and that would be their worst nightmare," he said. Others have suggested this before.

Kristinn Hrafnsson, a WikiLeaks spokesman, said last month that other secrets may

be revealed.

"There is more to come," he said. Following his revelation, he fled to Hong Kong, then headed to Russia, where he is in political limbo in the transit area of a Moscow airport. He has requested asylum from Russia while he awaits safe passage to Latin America, according to WikiLeaks.

Snowden faces espionage charges in the United States. He met with human rights activists and lawyers Friday at the airport. It was his first public appearance since he left Hong Kong on June 23.

In his remarks, Snowden sought to defend his actions in leaking documents to the media that exposed US mass surveillance programs.

"That moral decision to tell the public about spying that affects all of us has been costly, but it was the right thing to do and I have no regrets."

The United States has reached out to the Russians regarding Snowden's meeting with human rights groups, two senior State Department officials told CNN.

**US drone strike kills 9 in Pakistan**

AFP, Miranshah

A US drone strike in Pakistan's troubled north-western tribal belt late Saturday, killed two militants on a motorcycle and damaged nearby houses, officials said.

The attack took place in the Mir Ali area, some 35 kilometres east of Miranshah, the main town of North Waziristan tribal district, a stronghold of Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked militants along the Afghan border.

Security officials said both the militants were believed to be from Turkmenistan.

Attacks by unmanned American aircraft are deeply unpopular in Pakistan, but Washington views them as a vital tool in the fight against Taliban.

**I am the girl who struggled for her rights, says Malala**

*Refuses to be remembered as the Taliban girl*

AFP, United Nations

Pakistan teenager Malala Yousafzai on Saturday said that she does not want to be known as the girl the Taliban tried to kill but as "the girl who struggled for her rights."

A day after making a widely hailed speech at the United Nations, the 16-year-old said she would devote her life for the education of girls.

The UN appearance was Malala's first public speaking engagement since a Taliban gunman shot her in the head last October in a bid to end her campaign to get girls into schools.

"The attack on October 9, 2012 was just a part of my life," Malala said at a reception at the Pakistani UN mission in New York.

"I want to work hard, I want to sacrifice my whole life for the education of girls."

"And to be true, I want to say that I don't want to be the girl who was shot by the Taliban, I want to be the girl who struggled for her



rights."

The teenager, considered a strong candidate for the Nobel Peace Prize, said she was determined to keep her struggle "for a right to live in peace, for a right to go to school."

But she reaffirmed her message that the Taliban and other extremists "do not understand the importance of education."

Malala is expected to return to New York for a summit on education on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly of world leaders in late September.

"Malala's speech was just the start of a momentous push for change in the run up to 2015, to deal with the education emergency," said Gordon Brown, the former British prime minister and now UN special envoy on global education.

Getting all children into primary school by 2015 was one of the Millennium Development Goals agreed at a world summit in 2000.



**1. Supporters of Trayvon Martin protest outside Seminole County Criminal Justice Center after the verdict announced**  
**George Zimmerman, the accused killer, not guilty in Sanford, Florida on Saturday. 2. George Zimmerman after the verdict 3. A placard showing Trayvon Martin.**

PHOTO: AFP

**TRAYVON MARTIN KILLING Judges acquits accused killer**

AFP, San Francisco

George Zimmerman, the Florida neighbourhood watchman who shot dead an unarmed black 17-year-old male last year, has been found not guilty.

Lawyers for Zimmerman, 29, argued he acted in self-defence and with justifiable use of deadly force in the death of Trayvon Martin.

The jury retired on Friday to consider its verdict on charges of either second-degree murder or manslaughter. The case sparked a fierce debate about racial profiling in the US.

Spontaneous protest marches were staged overnight in US cities including San Francisco, Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington and Atlanta, US media reported.

Police and community leaders appealed for calm in Sanford, the Florida town where the shooting took place. Zimmerman showed little reaction as the verdict was read out.

Florida police did not arrest Zimmerman for six weeks after the shooting, provoking mass rallies in Florida and throughout the US.

Police justified their decision not to detain him by citing the state's controversial "stand your ground" law, which allows a citizen to use lethal force if he or she feels in imminent danger. Police initially said the law prevented them from bringing charges.

Benjamin Crump, the Martin family lawyer, said: "Trayvon Martin will forever remain in the annals of history... as a symbol for the fight for equal justice for all."

US President Barack Obama commented on the case last March following calls for the arrest of Zimmerman. He said "If I had a son, he would look like Trayvon," President Obama told reporters at the White House.

**US plans to build park on Moon!**

PTI, Washington

US lawmakers are pushing a plan to establish a new national park that would be quite literally be out of this world - on the Moon.

A new bill introduced into the US Congress would create the Apollo Lunar Landing Sites National Historical Park on the Moon.

Called the Apollo Lunar Landing Legacy Act, the bill was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the House Committee on Natural Resources, SPACE.com reported.

Emphasising that the Apollo lunar programme was one of the greatest achievements in the US history, the bill notes that, as commercial enterprises and foreign nations acquire the ability to land on the Moon, "it is necessary to protect the Apollo lunar landing sites for posterity."

Establishing such a park will expand and enhance the protection and preservation of the Apollo lunar landing sites, the bill states, "and provide for greater recognition and public understanding of this singular achievement in American history."

**UPSET IN BHUTAN POLLS Economy, happiness issues played vital role: Analysts**

AFP, New Delhi

Bhutan's opposition party has swept to power in the Himalayan kingdom's second-ever election due to voter concerns about the economy and the country's famed "Gross National Happiness" index, analysts said yesterday.

Despite expectations of a neck-and-neck contest, the People's Democratic Party (PDP) won a decisive 32 seats in the lower house of parliament, drubbing the incumbent Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT) party which took just 15 seats.

The remote and rugged "Land of the Thunder Dragon" became a democracy just five years ago when the Buddhist line of "dragon kings" ceded absolute power, introducing democracy to the country of fewer than 750,000 people.

The elite-backed DPT stormed to victory in the first election in 2008 and won a primary ballot between four parties in May, taking home 45 percent of the vote against the PDP's 33 percent.

But observers say the PDP made rapid late gains on growing financial woes, which were compounded by India's recent decision to cut fuel subsidies to its northeastern neigh-

bour and longtime ally.

"The basic message coming through is that people voted for change," said an editorial by the national Kuensel newspaper after results from the polling stations, which saw a 66 percent turnout.

Bhutan is hugely reliant on India for investment and imports and the kingdom ran out of Indian rupee supplies last year on soaring demand, leading to restrictions on high-end imported goods and on bank loans.

"This victory was not surprising as the economy was going through a difficult time," said M.B. Subba, editor of the Bhutan Today newspaper, who said private sector has been weakened by strict credit limits.

Bhutan is the only country in the world to measure Gross National Happiness (GNH), a development model that focuses on mental well-being and protecting Buddhist culture and the environment, as well as economic growth.

But voters were unhappy that former Prime Minister Jigmi Y. Thinley at times seemed more interested in promoting GNH outside the country while there were problems at home, said Tenzing Lamsang at The Bhutanese newspaper.

**ODDLY enough**

**Falling cow kills man in Brazil**

BBC ONLINE

A cow has fallen through the roof of a house in south-eastern Brazil killing a man and narrowly missing his wife.

The one-tonne cow was grazing on a hill behind the small house, in the town of Caratinga, when it stepped onto the asbestos roof, which collapsed under its weight.

Local media says this is the third such incident in the region in the past three years. Caratinga is in a hilly area of Minas Gerais, a Brazilian state traditionally known as a cattle raising and dairy producing region.

**Drug scam hits UK parliament**

MAIL ONLINE

Evidence of cocaine use has been found inside nine toilets at the Houses of Parliament, including some just yards from MPs' offices.

Users would have to smuggle the drug past extensive security checks and 500 police officers and guards.

On two occasions cannabis has been confiscated at Westminster's entry checkpoints since the start of 2008, according to a Freedom of Information request.

In 2005 a German television station found traces of cocaine in 41 of 46 lavatories tested at the European Parliament in Brussels.



PRESIDENTIAL POLLS

**Zardari won't contest**

DAWN ONLINE

President Asif Ali Zardari told his associates he will not contest the next presidential elections.

President Zardari is expected to leave Pakistan to stay abroad for an indefinite period after his retirement on September 8.

Sources close to the president told Dawn.com that his friends advised him to stay away given serious threats to his life.

Under Article 41(3), the Electoral College for the president comprises the National Assembly and the four provincial assemblies. The PML-N enjoys an absolute majority in the electoral college.