Wednesday, January 30, 2008

TWENTY-FOUR PAGES





Anti-corruption



Choppers used as Kenya violence spreads



Doctors learn lesson from Soeharto saga

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Italian president wraps up crisis talks

wraps up criss talks talian President Gorgio Napolitano wrapped up Tuesday's consultations with the country's political leaders aimed at ending the uncertainty following Romano Prodi's resignation as prime minister. Center-right leader and former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi, who is desporate to take advantage of his Forza Italia advantage of his Forza Italia Prodict of the talk of talk of the talk of talk of talk of the talk of t election. "We think that there is no other way to go than back to the ballot box to give the country an operational government as quickly as possible," he said after meeting with the president. — AFP

Tigers say 18 killed in bus bombing

Tamil Tiger rebels said Sri Lankan troops Tuesday ambushed a school bus and ambushed a school bus and killed 18 people, including 11 children, as the military reported killing 67 militants in two days of heavy fighting. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said a "deep penetrating unit" of the military carried out the bomb attack against the school bus in the district of Mannar in the district of Mannar where heavy fighting has been raging for weeks. "All the passengers in the bus were either school children or teachers returning from a sporting event," the LTTE said in a statement. — AFP

audi Arabia culls thousands of hirds

Saudi authorities have culled nearly 160,000 birds culled nearly 160,000 birds after a new case of the deadly strain of bird flu was found on a farm outside Riyadh, state media said Tuesday. The Saudi Press Agency said 158,000 birds were externinated at al-Kharj, 150 km south of the capital after the 158,000 birds were extermi-nated at al-Kharj, 150 km south of the capital, after the H5N1 strain of bird flu was found there. — Reuters

TEXT YOUR SAY

Villain or hero

Former president and architect the New Order regime, Soeharto, died of multiple organ fallor ure Sunday. Do you think Soeharto was a villain, a hero or both? Send your thoughts via SMS to +62 811 187 2772. Please

Rights body to probe Soeharto cases

A mid mounting calls for the government to grant Soeharto a hero status, the National Commission on Human Rights said Tuesday it would continue investigations into past atroci-ties implicating the late foresident. commission's chairman

mer president. The commission's chairman Ifdhal Kasim said even though Sceharto had died and the Sceharto had died and the had been halted, it did not mean human rights abuses that occurred during Sceharto's term were closed. Western the content of the content

He said the investigation would be conducted case-by-case and would be prioritiz-ed on five major cases, includ-ing the arrest of political

ing the arrest of political activists in Buru island between 1969 and 1979 and the mysterious shootings – known as the Petrus case – in 1981 to 1985. Other cases include the July 27, 1996 incident in Jakratian involving supporters of the Indonesian Democratic Patry of Struggle (PDI-P), the Tan-

of Struggle (PDI-P), the Tanjung Priok case in 1984 and the case of Military Operation Areas (DOM) in Aceh and Papua from the 1970s to 1990s. The Buru island incident involved at least 10,000 political prisoners, while the Petrus incident victimized some 5,000 people, who were allegedly criminals.

people, who were allegedly criminals. Petrus occurred in pro-vinces across Java and some areas in Sumatra and Kalimantan.

The Tanjung Priok clash left 24 people dead and many oth-ers injured.

During the DOM incident, hundreds of thousands of peo-ple were kidnapped and abused.

Ifdhal said the commission

Iffall said the commission would continue investigations based on reports by previous commissioners.

Iffall said the commission would continue investigations based on reports by previous commissioners.

Independing the continue of the co

the status was considered to the status of the status was the status was the dedication. He said the faction would forward its proposal to Golkar chairman Jusuf Kalla, who is also Vice President, for feed-back from the government and Mallarangeng told The Jakerta Post the government and yet do discuss the proposal for the title of hero. Andi said the government did not see the issue as a priority "The government priority" The government priority "The government priority and the sound that has been the people's right," he said.

"But we do not forbid any-one to propose anything, this is

he United States declassified documents Monday detailing how Washington propped up ex-Indonesian leader Soeharto, who

ex-Indonesian leader Soebarto, who died at the wedsend, at the expense of democracy and human rights. The documents, declassified following requests under a freedom of information law, showed the Us. administration did not use its leverage to bring Soeharto to account during his 32-year reign until his last months in office.

"One thing that is clear from the tens of thousands of pages of which



WHEELS AND WATER: Two men attempt to save a motorcycle from being washed away by floodwaters on JL. Setiabuted in a hilly area of Bandung, West Java, Tuesday, Heavy rains and storms also caused trees to fall in several parts of the city on Tiuesday.

BI governor claims innocence in graft case involving lawmakers sion," Burhanuddin said. "We decided to hire the lawyers to optimize our work because our financial report at that time got a disclaimer, which affected our performance," he said, commenting on the use of Rp 68.5 billion Bl funds. Burhanuddin, who will end his term as

Bank Indonesia (BI) governor Burhanuddin Abdullah on Tuesday denied allegations he was involved in an alleged graft case involving House of Representatives

case involving House of Representatives harmakers. In the additional part of the allogation ... I will hire a lawyer to settle this case." Burhanddin told reporters from his office.

"Time will tell that I am innocent." The Corruption Eradication Commiss. The Corruption Eradication Commiss Burhanddin, along with Bl legal affairs director Oey Hoey Tiong and former head of Bi's communication bureau Rusil Simanjuntak, were suspects in the case surrounding the misspopropriation of BI USS3.38 million).

Three BI officials allegedly transferred

USS3.38 million)

Three BI officials allegedly transferred money to various members of a House commission overseeing financial affairs during the amendment of the law around The KPK alleged the three BI officials obtained Bp 100 billion from the Indionation and transferred Bp 31.5 billion to the money of the second by the BI officials of the BI officials obtained by 100 billion from the Indionation and transferred Bp 31.5 billion to the BI officials of the BI of

House memoers as a price to sale of a mendment process.

Funds worth Rp 68.5 billion were used to hire some lawyers to settle BI liquidity support (BLBI) cases,

REBUTTAL: Bank Indonesia Gover-nor Burhanuddin Abdullah addresses a press conference at his office.

involving former BI governor and deputy governors and deputy governor and deputy governors.

The transfer of funds was discovered during an audit by the Supreme Audit Agency (BPK) in 2006.

"Based on BI regulations, all of BI strategic and principle policies are determined during a collegial gubernatorial meeting, not based on one's own deci-

Burhanuddin, who will end his term as BI governor on May 17, was elected BI's governor in May 2003. House member Max Moein said KPK should have named all BI officials who attended the gubernatorial meeting as

attended the gubernatorial meeting as usupects.
"All of the officials, including BI senior depuly governor and depuly governors, depuly governors, of the decision collec-tively," he said.
"We need to see whether there is polit-ical motive behind KPK's decision," he said.
However, Max, who was part of the

ne Horweyr, Max, who was part of the House's commission overseeing financial affairs in 2004, denied House members received Rp 31.5 billion from Bl. No House members have been questioned in connection with the funds transfer case.

In the second of the case, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said, "I believe Bl has its own mechanism to settle the problem." The law surrounding the bank says if Bl's governor is not able to perform, Bl's senior deputy governor will step into the position, (add'Irakn)

U.S. propped up Soeharto 'despite rights abuses'

"One thing that is clear from the tens of thousands of pages of which we had declassified concerning U.S. itse with Secharto from 1966 to the control of the control of the control idents ever exercise their maximum leverage over his regime to press for human rights or democratization," Brad Simpson of the National Secu-rity Archive told AFP. The body, a rone goorge Wash-ington University in Washington, Collects and publishes declassified

collects and publishes declassified documents obtained through the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. Simpson, who directs the

Archive's Indonesia and East Timor documentation project, said the only time Washington "decisively inter-vened" in Indonesia was in 1998, when it was reeling from a financial

when it was reeling from a financial meltdown amid unprecedented riots. Bill Clinton, the Democratic U.S. president at that time, phoned Soe-harto about half a dozen times, pressing the Indonesian leader to adopt a stringent adjustment pro-gram demanded by the Internation-al Monetary Fund, according to the documents.

Soeharto adhered to the demands

Soeharto adhered to the demands of the U.S. and IMF.

"I think it is indicative of the kinds of pressure U.S. could bring to bear when it decides that it is in our interest to do so, but this was done on behalf of international financial institutions, never on behalf of human rights activists and the prodemorcary movement in Indonesia,"
Simpson said.

The declassified documents

Simpson said.

The declassified documents include transcripts of Soeharto's meetings with Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan, as well as Secretary of State

Henry Kissinger.
They also mirrored U.S. perceptions of Soeharto from the earliest

years of his violent rule, including the 1969 annexation of West Papua, the 1975 invasion of East Timor, and the so-called "mysterious killings" of 1983–1984.

of 1983-1984.

The U.S. was a steadfast ally of Soeharto for much of his rule, providing him aid, weapons and diplomatic support as it regarded him as an effective bulwark against

as an effective buwark against
communism.

Socharto made his first visit as
head of state to the U.S. in May 1970
amid rampant corruption and a
major crackdown on political parties at home but at the White House
meeting, Nixon told the Indonesian
leader he was presiding over one of
the "largest democratic countries in
the world."

"These was no insue between the

"There are no issues between the U.S. and Indonesia," Kissinger wrote to Nixon approvingly, "and relations are excellent."

are excellent." In his talks with President Gerald Ford at the White House five years later, Soeharto brought up the question of Portuguese decolonization in East Timor and declared "the only way is to integrate the territory into Indonesia."

Ford gave no response, according to the documents.

There also was no mention of human rights in Indonesia in the briefing papers of Soeharto's meet-ing with President Reagan in October 1982.

October 1982.
Two years later, when Vice President George H. W. Bush visited alkartan on the heels of an alleged massacer of hundreds of civilians in Killings' in Indonesia, the discussions centered largely on U.S. ties with the Soviet Union and China.
The U.S. embassy in Jakarta estimated that the government had summarily executed about 4,000 people. Human rights abuses during Soe-Human rights abuses during Soe-

Human rights abuses during Soe-harto's rule included a 1965-1966 crackdown on suspected commu-

crackdown on suspected commu-nists and sympathizers estimated by historians to have killed at least half a million people. Following Soeharto's death Sun-day, he was hailed by the U.S. embassy in Jakarta as a "historic figure" who "achieved remarkable economic development."

riough there may be some con-troversy over his legacy," Soeharto "left a lasting imprint on Indonesia and the region of Southeast Asia," the embassy statement read.

IN DEMAND: A man sells biographies of former president Soeharto from the parking lot at the Astana Giribangun family mausoleum in Karanganyar, near the royal city of Surakarta, Central Java, Tuesday. Sales of books on the former leader reportedly increased after he was rushed to