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## Summit tension



KRT CAMPUS

Palestinian demonstrators carry a mock mortar launcher during a demonstration supporting Palestinian and Iraqi issues in the Arab summit in Beirut, in the West Bank of Nablus on Tuesday.

## India passes terrorism bill

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Lawmakers in India approved an anti-terrorism bill Tuesday after a day of heated debate in a highly unusual session of Parliament, only the third since the country's independence.

The government said the legislation is crucial to the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States and a Dec. 13 attack on the Indian Parliament.

"We cannot score a decisive victory against terrorism unless a special law of this kind is enacted," said interior minister Lal Krishna Advani as he presented the bill.

Opponents denounced the bill as a draconian curtailment of civil rights and voiced fears the nationalist-led government would use the law selectively against Muslims and political rivals.

The Prevention of Terrorism bill allows police to detain suspects for questioning for three months without bringing charges against them and an additional three months with approval from a special court. The bill also allows anyone suspected of giving money, shelter, transportation or other support to terrorists to be tried on terrorism charges.

It provides punishments ranging from a minimum of five years in prison to death.

The government says the law will be effective against Islamic separatists in Jammu-Kashmir, the only Muslim majority state. India blames the militant groups for the attack on Parliament and says they were backed by Pakistan. The tension has led to a perilous standoff between the two nuclear rivals.

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Isaiah 53:5 (New International Version)

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John 3:16 states "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." We are a group of professors, instructors, lecturers, and administrators united by their common experience that Jesus Christ provides intellectually and spiritually satisfying answers to life's most important questions. We are available to students, faculty, and staff who might like to discuss such questions with us. For more information about the FACULTY FRIENDS ad, please contact Murphy Smith 5-3108, Steve Crouse 5-3997, or Lee Lowery 5-4395. The Faculty Friends website is <http://facultyfriends.tamu.edu>

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## Afghanistan quake registers 5.9, kills 180

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — An earthquake devastated mountain villages in Northern Afghanistan, where officials on Tuesday estimated at least 1,800 people died and thousands more were injured in a region already hard-hit by hunger, drought and war.

At the scene, the military commander from the Baglan region said the Monday night quake collapsed 20,000 mud-brick houses. Gen. Haider Kahn estimated between 600 and 1,000 people remained trapped and said the death toll could hit 2,000.

Yusuf Nuristani, a government spokesperson, told reporters in Kabul that the death toll had reached 1,800 by Tuesday afternoon with 2,000 injured. Kabul television later reported 5,000 hurt. In Geneva, U.N. spokesperson Elisabeth Byrs said Afghan authorities had initially reported the death toll could reach 4,800.

Aid agencies said thousands — perhaps tens of thousands — were homeless, as aftershocks continued to jolt the majestic Hindu Kush mountains that tower above Kabul and separate the capital from the extreme North of the country.

There were fears of landslides as the earth continued to heave after the Monday night quake, which was centered about 105 miles north of Kabul.

No Americans or foreigners were known to be among the missing or dead. Brig. Gen. John Rosa Jr. told a Pentagon briefing that no coalition forces were hurt by the quake.

The old part of Nahrin town was leveled and some 40 other villages on Nahrin plain were affected, prompting aid groups to gear up to provide shelter for 6,000 to 7,000 families in that area alone, U.N. spokesperson

### Afghan quake

The U.S. Geological Survey reported a 5.9-magnitude earthquake shook Afghanistan Tuesday, killing at least 1,800 people and injuring 2,000 others.



SOURCES: Associated Press; ESRI; USGS

Manoel de Alemeida e Silva

"These people were hit by years of war, three to four years of drought and now comes an earthquake," said Manoel Borne, an aid worker with an independent agency ACTA who arrived in the stricken area as night fell Tuesday.

"It just keeps piling up. The just take it as it comes. It's a matter of holding on to the next day."

Immediate concerns included getting water, food and shelter to the area, where 80 percent of the families had been targeted before the quake to receive wheat from the World Food Program.

Borne said she expected

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### British tourist industry welcomes American visitors after September 11 terrorist attacks

LONDON — The daffodils are in bloom, the River Thames glistens in the early spring sun and American tourists are flocking back to the usual haunts at the Tower of London and Buckingham Palace.

Six months after Sept. 11's airborne terrorist attacks, the American tourists are the most welcome sign of spring that Britain's burgeoning tourism industry could hope for after a drastic drop in trans-Atlantic visitors.

Busily clicking away with their cameras and spending their welcome dollars, Americans are clearly glad to be here. Some admit to being a little nervous about flying, but not enough to keep them at home.

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