

Anti-corruption conference

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Choppers used as Kenya violence spreads

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Doctors learn lesson from Soeharto saga

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Italian president wraps up crisis talks

Italian President Giorgio 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...

Tigers say 18 killed in bus bombing

Tamil Tiger rebels said Sri Lanka's military Tuesday ambushed a school bus and killed 18 people, including 11 children, as the military reported killing 67 militants in two days of heavy fighting...

Saudi Arabia curbs thousands of cults

Saudi authorities have culled nearly 150,000 cults found on a farm outside Riyadh, state media said Tuesday. The Saudi Press Agency said 158,000 cults were exterminated at al-Kharj, 150 km south of the capital...

TEXT YOUR SAY Villain or hero Former president and architect of the New Order regime, Soeharto's multiple roles are laid out Sunday. Do you think Soeharto was a villain, a hero or both? Send your thoughts via SMS to +62 811 887 2772. Please include your name and city. — Editor

Rights body to probe Soeharto cases

Desy Nurhayati The Jakarta Post/Jakarta

Amid 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 atrocities implicating the late former president...

The Tanjung Priok clash left 24 people dead and many others injured. During the DOM incident, hundreds of thousands of people were kidnapped and abused. Iffah said the commission would continue investigations based on reports by previous commissioners...



WHEELS AND WATER: Two men attempt to save a motorcycle from being washed away by floodwaters on Jl. Setiabudi 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 Tuesday.

BI governor claims innocence in graft case involving lawmakers

The Jakarta Post Jakarta

Bank Indonesia (BI) governor Burhanuddin Abdullah on Tuesday denied allegations he was involved in an alleged graft case involving House of Representatives lawmakers. "I am both shocked and saddened by the allegation... I will hire a lawyer to settle this case," Burhanuddin told reporters from his office...



REBUTAL: Bank Indonesia Governor Burhanuddin Abdullah addresses a press conference at his office.

However, Max, who was part of the House's commission overseeing financial affairs in 2004, denied House members received Rp 31.5 billion from BI. No House members have been questioned in connection with the funds transfer case. Commenting on the case, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said, "I believe BI has its own mechanism to settle the problem..."

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

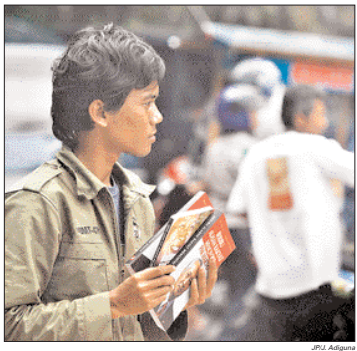
P. Parameswaran Agence France-Presse/Washington

The United States declassified documents Monday detailing Washington's support for ex-Indonesian leader Soeharto, who died at the weekend, at the expense of democracy and human rights. The documents, declassified following requests under a freedom of information law, showed the U.S. administration did not use its leverage to bring Soeharto to account during his 32-year reign until his last months in office...

Archive's Indonesia and East Timor documentation project, said the only time Washington "decisively intervened" in Indonesia was in 1998, when it was reacting from a financial meltdown amidst unprecedented riots. Bill Clinton, the Democratic U.S. president at that time, phoned Soeharto about half a dozen times, pressing the Indonesian leader to adopt a stringent adjustment program demanded by the International Monetary Fund, according to the documents. Soeharto adhered to the demands of the U.S. declassified documents. "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 pro-democracy movement in Indonesia," Simpson said.

years of his violent rule, including the 1999 annexation of West Papua, the 1975 invasion of East Timor and the so-called "mysterious killings" 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 communism. Soeharto made his first visit as head of state to the U.S. in May 1979 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." "There are no issues between the U.S. and Indonesia," Kissinger wrote to Nixon approvingly, "and relations are excellent."

There also was no mention of human rights in Indonesia in the briefing papers of Soeharto's meeting with President Reagan in October 1982. 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 communism. Soeharto made his first visit as head of state to the U.S. in May 1979 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." "There are no issues between the U.S. and Indonesia," Kissinger wrote to Nixon approvingly, "and relations are excellent."



IN DEMAND: A man sells biographies of former president Soeharto from the parking lot at the Astana Giribangan 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 hospital earlier this month.