

SUNDAY STAR

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SPELLING OUT THE FUTURE

Big thoughts for 2008 **IDEAS — ID1**

GLOBAL VILLAGE

A map of the GTA
— by language

IDEAS — ID6



INSIDE THE BOX

Rangers pounce
on Leaf penalties

SPORTS — S1



Ten to watch this year



Meet the 10 people, bands and teams who are poised for a breakout year in everything from the arts to politics. Page A11

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AARON HARRIS/TORONTO STAR

Among those to watch (standing, right to left): Jennifer Marman, Daniel Borins, Kirk Pickersgill, Stephen Wong, Sybil Wa, Alexandra Orlando, Margaret Best, Myrna Simpson, Andre Simpson and (seated) Trish Lindström and Luke Lalonde.

PAKISTAN

'Country in grip of chaos and anarchy'

Hopes for Jan. 8 vote dim as electoral offices torched, opposition renews call for boycott

BILL SCHILLER
ASIA BUREAU

ISLAMABAD—Pakistan slumped deeper into chaos and recrimination yesterday as the death toll climbed and the prospects for a decisive Jan. 8 election in this blood-soaked country appeared to grow ever more remote.

Officials said at least 44 people have now died in riots, looting and shooting following the Thursday night assassination of charismatic opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

Yesterday, the country's electoral commission said it would hold an emergency meeting tomorrow to assess the situation and determine whether the Jan. 8 vote could go ahead.

But driving a deep nail into the prospects for a poll, opposition leader Nawaz Sharif said his Muslim League-Nawaz party would boycott the election — and try to persuade Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) to do the same.

And in what may be the most graphic illustration of Pakistan election hopes going up in smoke, rioting Bhutto supporters torched nine electoral commission offices in her home province of Sindh.

Voter rolls and ballot boxes were reduced to ashes.

These have been days of disarray and darkness for Pakistan, a country routinely marked by turbulence and turmoil since it first became independent in 1947.

"The country is in the grip of chaos and anarchy," respected analyst and author Zahid Hussain said in a telephone interview last night.

"It is simply not clear at this point how things will turn out."

Bhutto's tragic death has left the country in mourning, and her party — once a vehicle of hope for democratic change in Pakistan — completely adrift. Who will lead it, and whether it will still contest the elections, could become clear today, when her last will and testament is read out by her 19-year-old son Bi-

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BEST IN BOOKS

A year-end look at