

More tanks moving in from Croatia

# Federal planes attack Slovenian Radio, TV stations in Ljubljana

BELOGRADE, July 3: Fresh fighting gripped Yugoslavia Tuesday as President Stipe Mesic vowed a coup d'etat would not come about "as long as I am here" following a warning by a hardline General that the army was going to "force the adversary (in Slovenia) to respect" the cease-fire," reports AFP.

During the day, Yugoslav air force planes attacked Slovenian Radio and Television relay stations around the capital Ljubljana and strafed a roadblock that was pinning down an armoured column near the village of Krackovski Goz, some 40 kilometres (25 miles) from a nuclear power plant.

Slovene forces used anti-tank rockets killing eight federal troops and wounding 13 others, Slovenian Television reported. Slovenian Defence Minister Janez Jansa said more tanks were moving in from neighboring Croatia, which also declared independence last Tuesday.

Mesic spoke in Ljubljana after Slovenian President Milan Kucan moved to defuse the crisis by announcing that his breakaway republic was unilaterally calling off hostilities with the Yugoslav army.

Matters came to head Tuesday when the army hit out at the federal government saying that it was hindering its

operations in Slovenia by "calling for talks" while the Slovenians were "attacking by all possible means".

General Blagoje Adzic, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, spoke of "treason" in army ranks and said that "whole units" of the army had surrendered to the Slovenian defence forces.

"We have no more illusions. A war for the defence of the country was imposed on us and we were obliged to accept it. We will do all we can to make sure it is short," the General said.

Shortly afterwards, however, the Slovenian leadership accepted cease-fire proposals during a meeting in Ljubljana with Mesic, and Kucan told a

## New BBC DG named

LONDON, July 3: The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) said on Tuesday it was appointing John Birt, a former commercial television executive, as its next Director General, reports Reuter.

Birt, 46, will take over the top executive post from current Director General Michael Cheekland, whose contract has been extended by a year to March 1993, the BBC said in a statement.

news conference that Slovenian defence forces would return to their barracks.

Asked about the possibility of a coup d'etat by general Adzic, Mesic, a Croat who took over Yugoslavia's rotating presidency on Sunday, replied: "not as long as I am here."

The President, who is Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces, stressed: "I control the army."

Vasil Tupurkovski, the Macedonian representative to the federal presidency who accompanied Mesic to Ljubljana, said he believed that the

cease-fire proposal would be accepted by the army.

Clashes between the army and Slovenian defence forces have left more than 70 dead since Thursday, according to Slovenian figures.

As civil war once again seemed imminent, fighting spread Tuesday to the neighbouring republic of Croatia, which also declared its independence last Tuesday.

At least one person was killed in clashes between the federal army and protesters in the Croatian capital Zagreb as burnt-out federal tanks and trucks blocked the road Zagreb to Ljubljana.

Clashes erupted in Zagreb when hundreds of Croatian civilians blocked the liberty bridge over the Sava river to prevent a convoy from crossing. Witnesses said shots were

fired at the convoy and the army returned the fire, killing one civilian.

Less than 40 kilometres (25 miles) away, the road to Ljubljana was a scene of desolation, with nervous federal soldiers crouched around the burnt-out vehicles pointing their weapons at journalists and yelling at them to leave.

Zagreb airport was closed to civilian flights for five hours to enable military planes to carry out strafing missions over Slovenian positions. Unconfirmed reports also spoke of bombings.

At Gorjna Radgona on the Austrian border, federal tanks wrecked several houses and a church.



WASHINGTON: Visiting South Korean President Roh Tae-Woh (second from left) and his wife Kim Ok-Sook (R) are escorted by US President George Bush (L) and US First Lady Barbara Bush (second from right) to the entrance of the White House July 2 following the welcome ceremony on the South Lawn. —AFP/UNB-Photo

## Pak govt accused of massive vote-rigging

# Jammu PM annuls polls

ISLAMABAD, July 3: The Prime Minister of Pakistan-ruled Kashmir annulled last weekend's regional election on Tuesday, accusing the Pakistani government of massive vote-rigging to defeat his party, reports Reuter.

But figurehead state president Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan described Prime Minister Mumtaz Hussain Rathore's action as childish and said the electoral process would be completed.

Results declared so far from Saturday's poll gave 28 seats to the President's All-Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference Party and only two to Rathore's state branch of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

An alliance of small groups won three seats and one went to a PPP-backed independent

candidate. Six results are yet to be declared.

Rathore told a news conference he had disbanded the election commission and appointed a judicial commission to investigate what he described as "federally-controlled rigging".

Officials controlling the administration of Azad (Free) Kashmir had rigged the vote on orders from Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, he said.

In open defiance of Islamabad, he ordered the two officials controlling Azad Kashmir's civil service and police to return to Pakistan and named two state officials in their place.

The conduct of the two Pakistanis during the elections was "disappointing, suspicious negative and one sided," he

said. Rathore a lawyer said he had acted as Azad Kashmir's chief executive after advice from legal experts that he was competent to do so.

But a former Chief Justice of Azad Kashmir High Court, Mohammad Yousuf Asraf, questioned this, he said that if Rathore had such powers then every Prime Minister will do the same if he loses elections.

The Pakistani authorities have in the past dismissed Azad Kashmir leaders who challenged them, but similar action against Rathore could embarrass Islamabad in view of tensions with India over a Muslim revolt in the Indian-ruled part of Kashmir.

Azad Kashmir enjoys considerable autonomy with a separate constitution which however, gives overriding powers to Pakistan to meet any situation threatening the territory with war or internal disturbances.

Pakistan and India have fought two of their three wars since independence from Britain in 1947 over Kashmir two thirds of which is ruled by India and the rest by Pakistan.

Rathore who took office in June last year for a five-year term dissolved the legislative Assembly in April and ordered fresh election to strengthen his shaky coalition.

He said he could not stop the vote-rigging because he had already transferred all executive powers to the state Chief Election Commissioner for the election period.

He said he would order new elections after the three-judge judicial commission reported on the conduct of the polls.

## India prepares for crackdown in Assam

NEW DELHI, July 3: The Indian government geared up Tuesday for a major crackdown in the Himalayan foothills state of Assam, after separatist guerrillas seized 19 Indians and a Soviet Engineer in an abduction spree, reports AFP.

An official spokesman said here that an unspecified number of paramilitary forces were being flown to Assam, in the country's northeast, for "a large-scale operation".

He did not elaborate. The spokesman said New Delhi had also directed Assam Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia to the "stern and firm action" against the kidnappers, who are said to be from the outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA).

The announcement came as the Assamese rebels released a senior Indian oil company executive overnight Monday. But they were still holding 18 other Indians and Soviet mining engineer Sergei Orichanko.

## 197 bandits killed in Sind in 6 months

KARACHI, July 3: A total of 197 Bandits were killed in 300 encounters with security forces in four cities of Pakistan's southern Sind province in the past six months, a police official said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Sind Inspector General of Police G Moinuddin told the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) that 46 police personnel also lost their lives in Karachi, Hyderabad, Sukkur and Larkana.

As of June 30 four Bandits had been killed in Karachi 114 in Hyderabad, 44 in Sukkur and 35 in Larkana, he said.

A total of 428 outlaws were arrested and 436 automatic and 2,121 non automatic weapons recovered, he added.

## It's a clear violation of human rights: Benazir Swoop on Al-Zulfikar activists: Many held

KARACHI, July 3: Police here Wednesday arrested members of an alleged terrorist group said to have links with the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of former Premier Benazir Bhutto, official sources said, reports AFP.

The operation came after Monday's government decision to rearrest all convicts from the Al-Zulfikar Organisation (AZO) who were released during the 20-month tenure of Ms Bhutto which ended in August 1990.

Police did not specify how many AZO activists were rounded up, but officials said a list of about 2,000 suspects had been prepared by authorities in southern Sind province.

The government blamed AZO activists for the recent killing of a judge here and two massacres in the northern Punjab province.

Ms Bhutto, in a statement issued late Tuesday, said the

government's decision to rearrest "political dissidents and human rights activists earlier convicted by martial law courts" is a "clear violation of human rights and blatant state terrorism to mute the democratic forces."

Denouncing the "inefficiency and incompetence of the government in maintaining law and order," she said the activists were released after "proper and legal scrutiny and review of their cases by various government agencies."

The AZO, which surfaced during the 11-year military rule of general Mohammed Ziaul-Haq, is seen by critics as the terrorist wing of the PPP.

In a message to President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Ms Bhutto, the Opposition Leader, alleged that the government may rattle her House here to "implicate" her in unlawful activities.

## Gayoom's call to wipe out terrorism from S Asia

MALE, July 3: Maldivian President Abdul Gayoom asked South Asian countries today to launch a vigorous campaign to wipe out terrorism from the region, reports AFP.

"Rajiv Gandhi's brutal assassination brings home to us the stark reality of international terrorism, the threats of which lurk in every corner of the globe," he told a meeting here of the region's foreign ministers.

The ministers are gathered in the Maldives for the ninth session of the Council of Ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), a seven nation grouping.

SAARC countries comprise Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, accounting for one fifth of the world's population. They are among the world's poorest countries with endemic problems.

Gayoom said such crimes as the assassination of Gandhi and other terrorist activities which claim thousands of innocent lives and destabilise many countries, could only be stopped through united international efforts.

Dubey told a meeting of SAARC foreign secretaries Monday that there had been a delay "purely for technical reasons" in New Delhi for enacting the legislation.

He said member countries should act immediately to allow enforcement of the SAARC convention on suppression of terrorism, aimed at curbing cross-border rebel activities.

"We can then launch a vigorous campaign to wipe out this menace from our region once and for all," Gayoom said. Though the convention came into effect in August of 1988, India and Pakistan, the two largest nations of the region, have yet to adopt legislation for its enforcement.

New Delhi accuses Pakistan of supporting cross-border terrorism by aiding the revolts in its northern states of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab, a charge denied by Islamabad.

Indian Foreign Secretary Mukund Dubey and his Pakistani counterpart, Sharyar Khan, have both said that their governments are in the process of passing the necessary legislation for the enforcement of the convention.

## Sweden for Afghan talks without preconditions

KABUL, July 3: A Swiss official who was offered his governments mediation to end the 13 year Afghan civil war said on Tuesday peace talks between the warring parties would have to take place without preconditions, reports Reuter.

Minister of State for External Affairs Klaus Jacoby told a news conference there could be no solution to the conflict without the involvement of Afghan President Najibullah.

And equally there can be no solution only with the President, he said before leaving for Pakistan at the end of a three day visit to Kabul.

He later met Najibullah who said Kabul would welcome any effort to end the war, official Kabul radio said.

The broadcast, monitored in the Pakistan capital Islamabad, quoted Najibullah as telling Jacoby that the Swiss government was playing a good role for a political solution of the Afghan question.

Jacoby, who offered Swiss mediation on Monday, said at the news conference he thought any talks with preconditions would be a non-starter. Most of western-backed Mujahideen guerrilla parties fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government refuse to talk to Najibullah.

Jacoby said Switzerland had no new plan and any solution with Afghans themselves the Swiss role would simply be to faculty and hasten inter-Afghan talks.

## BRIEFLY

**5 killed in Indian explosion:** Five passengers were killed and 13 others injured Tuesday when an explosion tore out a portion of a bus travelling from New Delhi to the troubled northern Indian state of Kashmir, officials said in New Delhi, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, another blast Tuesday ripped out train tracks in Punjab, crippling passenger and freight services in the northern frontier state, government-run television said.

The blast in the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus occurred at 5:30 p.m. (1200 GMT) as it was passing through dunkal, a town on the border between Punjab and Himachal Pradesh States.

**Baker meets Palestinians:** Fanning flickering hopes for Mideast negotiations, Secretary of State James A. Baker III met Tuesday with two Palestinian Arabs and praised Saudi Arabia for its willingness to talk to Israel about regional problems, reports AP from Washington.

One of the Palestinians, Faisal Hussein, said during a picture-taking session that Israel had disguised soldiers as Palestinians in order to kill Palestinians. "The army is not announcing that," he said.

The other Palestinian, Hanan Michael Ashrawi, said they called on Baker "to pursue matters that had to be pursued relating to the peace process."

**US authors criticize Major:** In a letter released Tuesday, 10 prominent American writers criticized British Prime Minister John Major for ignoring the renewed death threat against author Salman Rushdie, reports AP from New York.

Among those signing the letter were Norman Mailer, Larry McMurty, Arthur Miller and Grace Paley.

The letter said that Major should have publicly condemned Iranian authorities last month after a report came out that a new hit squad had been dispatched — "seemingly with the Iranian government's connivance" — to kill Rushdie.

**72-hour worker's strike in Peru:** About 180,000 state administrative workers began a 72-hour strike Tuesday to push for wage increases, a union leader said, AP from Lima reports.

They join some 350,000 state health workers, doctors, teachers, civil construction workers and tax collection workers, who are also striking for higher pay.

**Truce in Y'slavia ruled out:** The army chief of staff said Tuesday that it was too late for a truce in the conflict with the breakaway republic of Slovenia, which had made two cease-fire proposals earlier in the day, says AP from Belgrade.

"Under the existing circumstances, a truce is no longer possible, which forced the supreme command to start full scale combat activity," Gen. Blagoje Adzic was quoted by the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug as saying.

**Drug ring unearthed:** Police said Tuesday they have uncovered an extensive drug ring that funnelled Colombian cocaine through Romania to Italy and possibly North America, AP from Cluj, Romania says.

The drugs were smuggled into Romania by mail in book jackets and film rolls, said a statement signed by district police chief Col. Victor Marinca.

## 1,000 applications for refuge a week UK takes stringent steps to stop flow of asylum-seekers

LONDON, July 3: The government announced new measures on Tuesday to stop the rising flow of refugees into Britain which faces 1,000 applications for asylum each week, reports Reuter.

Home Secretary Kenneth Baker told parliament only a small proportion of the 30,000 people who applied for asylum in 1990 faced persecution in their homeland — the United Nations criterion for asylum.

The new measures will include tighter checks on documents at ports and airports and increased staff to speed up the processing of applications.

Baker said there was a backlog of about 50,000 cases and each took about an average of 16 months to complete.

The fine on airlines for flying in people without a valid passport or visa would be doubled to 2,000 pounds (3,250 dollars) and police would crack down on corrupt agents bringing people into Britain.

Asylum-seekers who did not apply in the country they first fled to would be returned to that country, Baker said.

While every applicant would get the right to appeal, the legal processes would be speeded up. There would be a summary rejection of those whose applications stood no

chance, including people who arrived from western Europe or the United States.

"We are facing great migratory pressures which are not resulting from political measures... but principally from economic considerations," Baker said.

"I believe this is going to be one of the great problems of the 1990s for the whole of the world," he added. He said last year about 500,000 people applied for asylum in Europe.

Britain had a tradition of giving refuge to the persecuted, Baker said. But he added: "For hundreds of millions of people who live in disordered countries or under to-

talitarian governments the answer to their problem does not and cannot lie in emigration to the West."

Baker said the UN refugee convention, under which Britain automatically considered the application of anyone claiming asylum, "does not confer an unfettered right to travel the world and settle in the country of one's choice."

Prime Minister John Major told a European Community summit in Luxembourg on Friday Britain wanted a "perimeter fence" of tight entry controls erected round the 12-state community to prevent an influx of economic migrants.



THIMPU (Bhutan) — The Thai Crown Prince HRH Maha Vajiralongkorn seen holding bilateral talks with the Bhutanese King Jigme Jighe Wangchuk during the royal visits to the Kingdom from June 23 to June 26 last.

## 12 more killed in Punjab violence

NEW DELHI, July 3: A police officer and four Sikh militants were among 12 people killed in violence linked to a bloody Sikh independence campaign in Punjab, police said today, reports AFP.