

# Kuwait forces 14 army officers to retire

KUWAIT CITY, July 30: Fourteen Kuwaiti military officers will be forced to retire in the wake of Iraq's speedy invasion of the Emirate one year ago, a government official was quoted Monday assaying, reports AP.

Dhari al-Othman, minister of state for Cabinet affairs, told the Arabic daily Al-Watan that the dismissals were approved Sunday at a meeting of the Council of Ministers, made up of all 21 Cabinet members.

"This step aims at developing the capabilities of the defense forces and reorganizing the military institution," al-Othman said.

He did not release any names, but said the discharged officers included majors, majors general and colonels.

The move came after a number of high-ranking Kuwaiti officers circulated petitions threatening to quit if postwar restructuring of the military did not include leadership changes.

Kuwait's 20,300-man armed forces failed to put up much resistance when Iraqi forces overran the Emirate on Aug 2.

The Iraqi forces far outnumbered the Kuwaitis, but disgruntled officers said that with better leadership they could perhaps have resisted long enough to make Iraq hesitate and buy time for an international response.

Kuwait was occupied for seven months before being taken by allied forces.

# BRIEFLY

## Close aide to replace Thatcher:

Conservative Party activists in Finchley, the constituency of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, on Monday chose one of her advisers to succeed her in the House of Commons, reports AP from London.

Lawyer Edward Hartley Booth, 45, was chosen by a narrow majority over two other finalists.

The three were picked from among 222 applicants for the party nomination in the mainly middle-class district that first elected Mrs. Thatcher to the House of Commons in 1959.

Mrs. Thatcher was ousted in a Conservative Party revolt last November and announced last month she will leave Commons in the next election, which must be held within 12 months.

## Iraq accuses foreign media:

Iraq accused foreign media Monday of spreading false reports to distort its nuclear capabilities and singled out recent stories about purchases of radioactive material from Britain, AP from Baghdad says.

The Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying it was clear that the reports were intended to undermine Iraq's reputation "with the intent of continuing the economic sanctions on the Iraqi people."

## 5 Afghans to die in Pakistan

LAHORE (Pakistan), July 30: A Pakistani court on Monday sentenced five Afghans to death for setting bombs that killed seven people and injured 41 in the Punjab Province capital Lahore four years ago, reports Reuter.

Two of the Afghans are under arrest in Pakistan and three others were convicted in their absence, court officials said.

They were charged with setting of bombs at the Lahore railway station and a nearby taxi stand in July 1987.

Pakistan blames the Soviet-backed government in neighbouring Afghanistan for a series of bomb explosions in recent years. Kabul denies the charge.

## Polish Industry Minister resigns:

The Prime Minister on Monday accepted the resignation of Industry Minister Andrzej Zawislak whose department faces a major overhaul as the country moves toward a market-oriented capitalist economy, AP reports from Warsaw.

The Industry Ministry and the Ministry of Domestic Trade — remnants of the old Communist command-style economy — are to be scrapped in favour of a combined Ministry of Trade and Industry.

Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki appointed a 44-year-old privatization consultant, Henryka Bochniarz, to finalize the restructuring and creation of the new ministry.

If she eventually heads the combined ministry, Bochniarz would become the first female minister in Bielecki's 7-month-old government.

## Mexican support to ANC lauded:

Nelson Mandela thanked Mexico for its support of the African National Congress and the fight against apartheid Monday when he arrived in Mexico City for a three-day visit, reports AP from Mexico City.

Mandela will meet with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Foreign Minister Fernando Solana and the head of the National Human Rights Commission during his stay.

Throughout his Latin American tour, Mandela has been urging governments not to drop sanctions against South Africa. The dismantling of apartheid laws, he has said, is not the same thing as dismantling apartheid.

Mandela, who already has visited Jamaica, Cuba and Venezuela, will end his tour in Brazil after leaving Mexico on Wednesday.

## Quake shakes Peruvian coast:

A strong earthquake shook several towns along the southern coast Monday, the National Geophysical Institute said, reports AP from Lima.

Lima's main radio station Radioprogramas said it rattled windows in the desert town of Nazca, 240 miles (400 kilometers) southeast of Lima, and scared residents into running out into the streets. But no damages were reported.

A spokesman for the institute said the epicenter of the quake, which hit at 8.53 a.m. local (1353 GMT), was in the Pacific Ocean 300 miles (500 kilometers) southwest of the capital.

The quake measured 5.2 on the open-ended Richter scale, he said.

Monday's earth tremor was the strongest since July 23, when a tumbler registering 5.0 on the Richter scale killed 17 people in the southeastern Andes.

Peru is situated on a fault line and is prone to earthquakes.

## Extremists to quit Algerian meet:

The ruling council of the main Muslim fundamentalist movement decided Monday to boycott a meeting at which political parties are to plan for Algeria's first multiparty parliamentary elections, reports AP from Algiers.

The high council of the Islamic Salvation Front said it would not participate in the government-organized conference because authorities had not complied with a demand to free the front's jailed leaders and lift the state of emergency.

The two-day conference is scheduled to start Tuesday.

The Salvation Front organized strikes and street protests in May to demand early presidential elections and electoral reforms. Clashes between protesters and security forces broke out June 4, prompting President Chadli Bendjedid to declare a state of emergency and postpone legislative elections from June 27 until an unspecified date later this year.

## Kenyan govt inciting violence:

A human rights group on Tuesday accused Kenya's government of consolidating power through violence, judicial corruption and suppression of individual freedoms, reports AP from Nairobi.

Africa Watch, a New York-based human rights organization, reported a "marked deterioration" in civil liberties last year as the government tried to crush growing popular demand for political reform.

The group's 329-page report issued Tuesday largely paralleled a briefer, less detailed report submitted by the U.S. State Department to Congress in February.

"The process of consolidating power in the office of the president has been progressive in Kenya... political opposition is not tolerated; no political rivals have been permitted to emerge; political pluralism is anathema to the government," Africa Watch said.

"Those who have challenged one-party, one-man rule have been accused to 'treason' or labeled 'subversive, and face detention, prosecution, publication bans and violent harassment,'" it said.

## 17 opposition members arrested in Burma

BANGKOK, July 30: Burmese authorities have arrested 17 more members of the main opposition political party and charged them with having links with a parallel government at ethnic insurgents' headquarters, Radio Rangoon said Monday.

The official radio said in a dispatch monitored here that the 17 members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) party were separately arrested last month by Burma's Defence Services Intelligence authorities.

One was identified as Hla Nyheh, a former administrative officer of the NLD youth. Two others were Than Aye and Khin Mya, who had secretly returned together from the headquarters of the Karen National Union (KNU) guerrillas set up in Manerplaw where they had joined the parallel government earlier this year.

## Don't use internal stirs to write me off: Gorbachev

MOSCOW, July 30: President Mikhail Gorbachev says no one should use widespread dissatisfaction in the Soviet Union as an excuse to write him off. He says his painful perestroika programme has helped reveal systemic problems that require fixing, reports AP.

"We're still making progress, forward progress," Gorbachev told the American TV network ABC on Monday, the eve of his summit talks with US President Bush.

"And it is for that I live. If anybody is writing off Gorbachev, that's a superficial judgment. It's no matter of Gorbachev. But the point is, everything we've begun here and everything we're continuing to do and everything we firmly adopted as a policy is the path of profound reform."

He was asked about the sentiments of many Soviets that they are worse off now than before Gorbachev took the helm more than a decade ago.

"Everything that's happening is connected with my own work. People understand that we were in the crisis situation, not because of perestroika," he said in reference to the economic restructuring he began.

"It's not Perestroika which engendered the crisis. It just revealed the extent and depth of them. We have to go through this and we have to stand it."

He avoided criticizing Bush for going further in demanding Soviet reforms than some other Western leaders.

"He likes to be thorough. Maybe he takes longer to take decisions than other people. But I don't think that's a fault," Gorbachev said.

"The important thing is that he's a man who's capable of taking decisions — and important ones," Gorbachev said.

The West is weighing how

## 2 trains renamed after Bhutto

ISLAMABAD, July 30: Pakistani authorities said on Monday they had renamed two express trains named after executed former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and his late son Shahnawaz, reports Reuter.

The Zulfikar Express and Shahnawaz Express trains running in Bhutto's home province of Sind would be called Tezrao and Qalander Express respectively from next month, the government's railway department said.

The two trains were given their present names during the 20-month government of Bhutto's daughter, Benazir Bhutto, who was sacked as Prime Minister by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan last August on disputed charges of abuse of power.

Benazir is now the opposition leader. Her father was toppled as Premier in a 1977 military coup and later executed after a controversial conviction for conspiracy to murder. Her younger brother Shahnawaz died mysteriously in exile in France in 1985.

## Israel building largest Jewish settlement

JERUSALEM, July 30: Israel's hardline Housing Minister Ariel Sharon said on Monday that work had begun on what he hoped would be the largest Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank, reports Reuter.

Israeli television said Sharon told a meeting of Israeli contractors that site work began on Monday for a new settlement to be called Avneh Hafetz near the Palestinian town of Tulkarm in the West Bank.

It said Sharon told the contractors he hoped the settlement would become the largest in Israeli-occupied Arab lands.

The announcement came as the Middle East peace talks entered a crucial stage, with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh warning on the eve of a US-Soviet summit that to delay peace talks might create new obstacles.

It also coincided with Israeli-Egyptian talks in Cairo to find a formula for Palestinian participation in a peace conference.

The United States — waiting for an Israeli response to

its proposals for Middle East peace talks already accepted by the major Arab states involved — has said Jewish settlement in Arab lands is among the biggest obstacles to the peace process.



MOSCOW: Russian President Boris Yeltsin (R) moves in to shake the hand of his Lithuanian counterpart Vytautas Landsbergis (L) while exchanging documents at the Russian Parliament July 29. Russia formally recognized Lithuanian independence with the treaty signing. — AFP photo

# Bush props up Gorbachev to overshadow Boris Yeltsin

MOSCOW, July 30: President Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev, leaving behind Cold War rivalry, open summit talks Tuesday focused on the economic and political disintegration of the Soviet Union rather than the threat of the nuclear arms race, reports AP.

"Nobody views it as an enemy kind of thing," Bush said of the new path in US-Soviet relations.

In a political boost for Gorbachev, Bush minimised his dealings with Boris Yeltsin, the popular, reform-minded president of the Russian republic and rival of Gorbachev. Bush meets with Yeltsin during and after talks with Gorbachev on Tuesday.

"I don't want to suggest that we've got a three-sided triangle... where I deal with Yeltsin on the same basis as I deal with Gorbachev," Bush said in a pre-summit interview with Soviet journalists that was released Monday.

Yet in a conciliatory gesture of power sharing, Gorbachev invited Yeltsin and the president of another republic, Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan, to join in part

Tuesday's summit, first at a preliminary meeting and later at a luncheon.

During two days of talks in the walled fortress of the Kremlin, Bush and Gorbachev will explore ways the superpowers can work together on the world stage as they did in the confrontation against Iraq.

The two sides were making a major push to sponsor a Middle East peace conference of Israel and its Arab neighbours. Bush and Gorbachev also will discuss differences on a range of issues, such as Soviet aid to Cuba, the Kremlin's large military budget, the in-

# Russia recognises Lithuanian freedom

MOSCOW, July 30: Russian formally recognised Lithuanian independence yesterday in a treaty signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his Lithuanian counterpart Vytautas Landsbergis, reports AP.

The Federation of Russian is the first Soviet republic to recognise the declaration on Lithuanian independence adopted in March last year by the Baltic state's parliament.

The treaty, signed at the Russian parliament building here, notably provides for mutual recognition by both re-

publics of their sovereignty "in line with their status as a state established by their fundamental acts, adopted by the Russian Federation on June 12, 1990 and the Lithuanian Republic on March 11, 1990."

The Russian Parliament last June adopted a declaration on sovereignty for the Russian Federation, which is the largest Soviet Republic, while Lithuania's declaration in March last year was aimed at restoring the independent status that was lost in 1940 when Stalin annexed the Baltic state.



MOSCOW: US President George Bush reviews the troops with Soviet Vice-President Gennadi Yanayev upon his arrival at Sheremetyevo airport July 29. President Bush is to attend a two-day summit with President Gorbachev. — AFP photo

# US to extend ban on Imelda returning home

MANILA, July 30: President Corason Aquino's government has urged that the United States extend the ban that keeps Imelda Marcos from leaving the country, Mrs. Marcos lawyer said Tuesday, reports AP.

Mrs. Marcos, the former first lady of the Philippines, had said she planned to return home as soon as a US immigration ban on her and the body of her late husband, former President Ferdinand Marcos, expires Oct 1.

But attorney James Linn told the Associated Press in a telephone interview that he received Monday a copy of a letter from the Justice Department to immigration authorities asking that the ban be extended.

dependence movements of the Baltics and compliance on earlier arms treaties.

Secretary of State James A. Baker III had two appointments Tuesday with Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh, who said "the time is right" for a peace conference. Israel indicated there still were some sticking points, and a senior US official said Bush "most likely" would send Baker back to the Middle East this week.

The centerpiece of the summit will be the signing Wednesday of the first treaty ever requiring the two superpowers to actually reduce their arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons. Yet Bush and Gorbachev stole the thunder of the ceremony by announcing agreement of the treaty two weeks ago.

Bush said they may talk about the future of arms control but "there won't be any bold, new proposal on the part of the United States for a dramatic next step."

It is the fourth Bush-Gorbachev summit in less than two years and their first meeting in Moscow.

# India to get back \$15m gold from Portugal

NEW DELHI: India is to get back Tuesday the gold ornaments taken away by the Portuguese 30 years ago when their colonialist rule in tiny Goa on the western coast of India came to an end, officials here said, reports AP.

The 260 kilograms (616 pounds) of gold estimated to be worth 15 million dollars would be handed over to officials from the Indian government-owned State Bank of India at a function in Lisbon, they said.

The ornaments, belonging to some 5,000 local residents and kept with banks in the then Portuguese Arabian Sea Coast Colony, were taken away to Lisbon when an Indian police action ended the colonialist rule there on December 18, 1961.

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The ornaments, which include a number of hand-crafted gold heirlooms, are to be flown to Bombay before being returned to their original owners in Goa.

# Row over Garbo's will

NEW YORK: Greta Garbo's nephew will not be allowed to challenge the late actress will, a judge ruled Monday, reports AP.

Judge Eve Preminger of Surrogate's court said she doubted Sven Ake Fredriksson, a retired seaman, could prove his contention that Garbo was not mentally competent.

Preminger said, however, that she was convinced that Fredriksson, 65, is the "non-marital" son of Garbo's brother, Sven Alfred Gustafson.

"The decision shows us nobody was more decisive or independent right up to the time of her death," said Theodore Kurz, the lawyer who prepared the will.

Garbo, who died in Manhattan on April 15, 1990, left virtually her entire \$20 million estate to Gustafson's daughter, Gray Reisfeld of New Jersey. Except for Reisfeld, Garbo specifically disinherited "all who are, or claim to be, related to me in any way."

Fredriksson's challenge relied on newspaper stories that in her final years, the legendary reclusive was an alcoholic who had clogged arteries and failed kidneys and was bedridden by medication. He suggested this was why Garbo left nothing to her 82-year-old housekeeper, Claire Roger.

Preminger said news items about Garbo's odd behavior including avoiding people, an alleged drinking problem and failure to make bequests that she had promised to an employee — do not warrant an inference of incapacity.

Reisfeld and Fredriksson were Gustafson's only known children. Kurz said, Gustafson immigrated to New Mexico, where he died in January 1967.

# Off the Record

## Gorbachev, Bush to use pens made of missiles

MOSCOW: President Mikhail Gorbachev and George Bush will use pens made from scrapped missiles to sign the START treaty slashing strategic arms arsenals, reports Reuter.

The Interfax news agency said on Monday the pens for the Kremlin ceremony had been made out of metal from medium-range nuclear missiles scrapped by an earlier arms accord.

Those weapons were destroyed under the terms of the 1987 INF treaty, the first to eliminate an entire class of missiles.

The START treaty, to be signed on Wednesday after 10 years of talks, will reduce by about 30 per cent missiles with a range of more than 5,500 km (3,400 miles), resulting in the destruction of about 7,000 warheads.

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The final arrangement for the return of the ornaments were reached during a visit to Lisbon by Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro, the officials said.

The ornaments, which include a number of hand-crafted gold heirlooms, are to be flown to Bombay before being returned to their original owners in Goa.

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