

Sharif predicts victory for Kashmiri militants

NEELA BUTT (Pakistan), Aug 22: Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said yesterday that the dispute over Kashmir was the number one problem with neighbouring India and he asked New Delhi to settle it peacefully through talks, reports Reuter.

Addressing a public rally in Pakistan-controlled Azad (free) Kashmir, he predicted victory for a violent Muslim separatist campaign raging in Indian-ruled Kashmir and assured militants there of Pakistan's continued backing.

The rally at Neela Butt on a 6,000-foot (2,740-metre) high mountain, attended by several thousand people, commemorated a 1947 uprising of Kashmiris.

KGB chief fired: Yaneyev charged with state treason

All Soviet coup leaders arrested: Interior Minister commits suicide

MOSCOW, Aug 22: All the leaders of the coup against President Mikhail Gorbachev have been arrested, Russian President Boris Yeltsin announced in the Russian Parliament here today, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, the Russian Information Agency (RIA) said Interior Minister Boris Pugo, who was among the plotters, had committed suicide.

RIA said Pugo had shot himself with his service revolver at his home.

Yeltsin earlier told Parliament that a "special group" had been sent to Pugo's home to fetch him.

Yeltsin said all the members

of the State-of-Emergency Committee with the exception of two who have Parliamentary immunity, had been neutralised. He said they were being held "in certain places" but did not go into details.

The news of the arrests were met with applause. There had been persistent reports that all eight members of the Emergency Committee that seized power on Monday had been detained after the coup attempt fell apart on Wednesday. But Yeltsin's re-

port was the first authoritative account.

Yeltsin also thanked those who protected the federation's headquarters during the 2 1/2-day coup and the republic's officials who "who were walking around not with notebooks in their hands but machine guns."

He said they should also "express our very great gratitude to the very heroic citizens of Moscow who surrounded our building for three days and prevented it from being at-

tacked." "We now have the right to say that Russia has saved the union, we have the right to be proud of that," he said.

Reuter adds: Most coup leaders who tried to topple Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev have been arrested, Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev said in Moscow Thursday.

"Sixty percent of the junta leaders have been arrested, the others are doomed," Silayev told a cheering crowd

outside the Russian Parliament building.

The arrest of Soviet Vice President Gennadi Yanayev, who was declared new head of state by the eight-member state-of-emergency committee that replaced Gorbachev Monday, was "merely a technical question", he added to loud approval from the masses.

Yanayev is in Moscow, according to the Russian premier. He was a "traitor" and "will get what he deserves," Silayev said adding "he will be punished for his cowardice."

Yanayev was not only guilty of "state treason" but also of "human treason toward a friend", he said.

Silayev spoke after returning from the Crimea with Gorbachev and other Russian officials.

He earlier told AFP that Soviet KGB Chief Vladimir Kryuchkov had been arrested in the Crimea, where he arrived in the company of four other fleeing coup leaders including Interior Minister Boris Pugo and Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov.

"Arrests were made with a minimum of effort and there was no opposition to our operation in the Crimea," he said.

Silayev said Russian officials had been afraid up to the last minute that junta leaders would whisk away Gorbachev before their arrival. The coup leaders landed on the Black Sea peninsula and hour and a half before the Russian officials.

Kryuchkov, also a member of the State-of-Emergency Committee, was being held in the Russian Interior Ministry.



CRIMEA (USSR): President Mikhail Gorbachev in his first appearance since the military coup earlier this week, speaks to reporters at his country house, shortly before his return to Moscow following the failure of the coup in Moscow August 21. Behind Gorbachev, Russian Vice-President Alexander Rutski (C. R) and Russian Prime Minister Ivan Silayev (R). — AFP/UNB photo

Pol Pot was not in peace talks

BANGKOK, Aug 22: A top Khmer Rouge official on Wednesday denied reports that the group's infamous leader, Pol Pot, had secretly attended Cambodian peace talks in Thailand in June, report AP.

"No, he was not there," Khieu Samphan said. He said Pol Pot also would not attend peace talks scheduled next week in Thailand.

Khieu Samphan spoke to reporters at Bangkok airport, where he was greeting Prince Norodom Sihanouk, who will mediate the talks.

The Asian Wall Street Journal Weekly reported earlier this month that Pol Pot attended the talks in Pattaya in June. The story was confirmed to The Associated Press by Cambodian guerrilla and Thai intelligence officials.



Pol Pot was reported to have directed the Khmer Rouge delegation's moves at the June talks, raising concerns that the leader of the Khmer Rouge's bloody rule over Cambodia in 1975-78 was still in control of the group and could have a role in the country's future.

Pol Pot is believed to live along the Thai-Cambodian border, but he has not been seen by independent observers for more than a decade.

Western intelligence analysts long have maintained that Pol Pot has remained the Khmer Rouge chieftain, despite the group's claim that Khieu Samphan is its true leader.

The Khmer Rouge now is one of three guerrilla groups opposing the government that Vietnam installed after invading Cambodia in late 1978.

Gorbachev meets face to face with 4 coup-plotters

MOSCOW, Aug 22: Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev met face to face Wednesday with four of the eight-member committee that staged his short-lived overthrow from power, the official Tass news agency reported here, says AFP.

The four were Defense Minister Dmitri Yazov, KGB Chief Vladimir Kryuchkov and the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee members Oleg Baklanov and Alexander Tsybakov.

They flew to Gorbachev's holiday dacha in the Crimea on board a plane with Soviet Parliament President Anatoly Lukyanov and Communist Party Deputy Secretary General Vladimir Ivashko, Tass said.

Gorbachev reported the

face-to-face meeting on the phone to the President to Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev, said the news agency.

The meeting seemed to show that the putsch-leaders hoped to negotiate a way out of avoiding serious consequences for themselves following the failed coup.

Earlier, the news agency reported that the Soviet state prosecutor would put the case of the eight Communist Party hardliners who launched the coup into the "hands of a group of investigators."

Reuter adds: The Soviet government will not resign in the wake of this week's failed coup attempt but ministers involved will have to explain themselves. First Deputy

Prime Minister Vladimir Shcherbakov said on Wednesday.

The government has no intention of resigning, he told a news conference explaining that to do so would only worsen the grave problems facing the Soviet Union as it tried to undo damage caused by the crisis.

Shcherbakov who opposed the "Emergency Committee" which sought to seize the reins of power on Monday, said order would be re-established shortly in line with the constitution.

He also said he hoped he would be the man to replace Prime Minister Valentin Pavlov, whom he said was in bad health and was deceived into joining the committee led by Vice-President Gennadi Yanayev.

Comrade Pavlov is very ill really ill, not a political illness, he said. He was misled by false information on the health of the President. As for other members of the committee they will provide their own explanation.

As far as the next Prime Minister is concerned I hope that it will be myself.

US Presidential candidate qualifies for Federal Matching Funds

BOSTON, Aug 22: Democratic Presidential candidate Paul Tsongas said Wednesday his campaign treasury has been hurt by the recession but will get a financial lift by qualifying for federal matching funds, reports AP.

Tsongas, a former US senator from Massachusetts, said he cleared the threshold by raising a minimum of dollars 5,000 in contributions of dollars 250 or less from individuals in 20 states.

That means whatever the campaign has raised by Jan. 1, the federal government will add 40 per cent to the total, Tsongas said.

Sonia leaves for abroad

NEW DELHI, Aug 22: Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's widow Sonia has left India for the first time since her husband's assassination in May, a news agency said Thursday reports AP.

Mrs. Gandhi has been under intense pressure from a wing of the governing Congress Party to enter politics and run for the Parliament seat left vacant by her husband's death.

United News of India said Mrs. Gandhi left Wednesday night for a "short visit abroad" and that she is expected to return next month. It did not say where she went or whether her two children went with her.

The report was attributed to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, a charitable fund established after Gandhi's death which his widow heads.

A spokesman for Mrs. Gandhi refused to confirm the report.

The Congress Party spokesman also had no comment.

Mrs. Gandhi was born in Italy, where her family still

lives. She became an Indian citizen after she married.

Although she has resolutely turned down political overtures, she recently began meeting Congress members and politicians at her New Delhi residence and has entertained delegations of villagers from Gandhi's constituency.

The activity around her has fueled speculation that she might change her mind. Last weekend three major English-language magazines ran cover stories on her and the silent influence she wields over the Congress Party, India's largest political group.

Mrs. Gandhi, who has always shunned the limelight, has not spoken in public since her husband was killed May 21 by a suicide bomber in the southern town of Sriperumbudur at an election campaign rally.

After Gandhi's death, the Congress Party turned to his widow with an offer of leadership to keep alive the political dynasty.

Speaking through a translator, he said: "The whole world should know about this. What exactly was being plotted and what they had expected to do to me and what they were trying to get from me and what they did not get from me. They were not successful." "We cannot be ambiguous about this. This group wanted to push these people on to a path which would bring our entire society to a catastrophe. This didn't take place and this is an enormous conquest and victory of perestroika.

That which they tried to do with the President during these days and with his family when for 72 hours completely encompassed by troops, him and his family. They wanted to break him. Well nothing came of this." Gorbachev said the coup leaders had tried and failed to take advantage of Soviet tensions over economic problems, food shortages and living condition to coerce the public. He thanked Boris Yeltsin, the President of the Russian Republic, and the Soviet people for opposing the

coup. "I am extremely appreciative and grateful to the Soviet people and for that principled position that the Russians have taken, to the President of the Russian Republic Yeltsin. Who resolutely took up this path to combat this adventure. This is what we can truly be proud of." "The most important thing, everything that we have done after 1985 has already given its realistic fruits, our society, our people have become different and this has been the primary

obstacle on the path of that adventure which a group of persons has embarked upon." The President, who looked grave but also smiled from time to time during the comments, said that the aim of the coup plotters "was to break me, morally, break the President morally. Well nothing came of it." "I rebuffed it when their emissaries came to me to support this adventure. I said this would bring ruin to both them and our country. I was against it."

Off the Record

Bush was out on a boat when Gorby phoned

KENNEBUNKPORT (Maine): For several days President George Bush tried to telephone Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and when his call was finally returned he was out on a boat, reports Reuter.

National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft placed a call to Gorbachev in the Soviet Crimea on Wednesday morning, but as he could not immediately get through Bush took his power boat out to the waters off his seaside estate here.

It was not long before a military aide out with the President got word that an important call had come in.

"He told the President that he had a call from a head of state," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

Bush headed the boat home and he and wife Barbara took the call in their bedroom at the President's Walker's Point home. Gorbachev told Bush he had resumed power following the collapse of the coup.

The President had tried on Monday and Tuesday to get a call to Gorbachev after hardliners launched the coup, but without success.

Bush was apparently the second person Gorbachev called, the first was Boris Yeltsin, President of the Russian Republic.

Gorbachev behind coup, says Kasparov

MALIBU (Calif): World chess champion Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union, vacationing in Southern California, suggested Wednesday that Mikhail Gorbachev may have orchestrated the coup in his homeland, reports AP.

"I think Gorbachev was involved, but to what extent is difficult to say right now," Kasparov said from his rented Malibu Colony beach house.

"I believe he provoked this," Kasparov said of Gorbachev. "He provoked (coup planners) to do it because it was his only chance to boost his popularity among the people in the country..."

"He now looks innocent," said Kasparov, who returns home late next month. In Kennebunkport, Maine, President Bush dismissed such a Gorbachev-inspired scheme as ridiculous, saying, "I would dismiss that 100 per cent."

On Monday night, the 28-year-old Kasparov appeared on Cable Network News "Larry King Live" programme and predicted the Soviet upheaval would end within days.

Jeanne Kirkpatrick, the former US ambassador to the United Nations, was on the same programme and disagreed, saying it would last months.

Kasparov said he felt vindicated. "I kept saying that the coup would have no chance to succeed and democracy will be restored within a couple of days," Kasparov said. "I'm very happy about it, not because my prediction was right, but because my people aren't suffering."

2 hanged in 27 years in Calcutta

CALCUTTA: After a lapse of 27 years two convicts, Sukumar Burman and Kartick Seal were hanged to death simultaneously at the Alipore Central Jail on Wednesday for killing eight members of a family over a land dispute at Balurghat in West Dinajpur in 1987.

The state's Home Secretary, Mr Munish Gupta told PTI that both Burman and Seal were hanged early Wednesday morning.

A jail spokesman said that two deputy magistrates, the Superintendent of the jail, the Inspector General of Prisons, the Jailor and Deputy Jailor were among others present at the time.

All eight members of the family were killed brutally while asleep in their house Balurghat in 1987. A child was the main witness to the gruesome murder in the case.



YUGOSLAVIA: A torn picture of former Yugoslav President Tito lies on the floor of a local pub in Pankrac August 21, which was taken from Serbian terrorists by Croatian police forces after a battle in this Western Slavonian city. — AFP/UNB photo

A meteorite killed dinosaurs?

NEW YORK: A cache of tiny diamonds is the latest evidence that a meteorite smashed into Earth about 65 million years ago, an event some scientists say led to extinction of the dinosaurs, reports AP.

Such diamonds, smaller than some viruses, appear in some meteorites. Researchers now say they found some in sediment formed at the time it's believed the meteorite hit.

That suggests the diamonds were in the debris that was blown far from the impact and then settled back to Earth.

No diamonds appeared in sediment that formed just before or after the believed impact, David Brez Carlsle and Dennis Brame report in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

Carlsle is from the agency Environment Canada in Ottawa and Brame works at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology in Drumheller, Alberta.

"The diamonds are smaller than most virus particles," Carlsle said Wednesday in a telephone interview. A thousand of them strung end to end "would just about make a grille for a bacterium if a bacterium had a waist." The diamonds appeared in a layer of gray clay found in Alberta.

Coup-makers tried to extort support from me: Gorbachev

NEW YORK, Aug 22: President Mikhail Gorbachev looked tired but ebullient in the first pictures of his return to Moscow on Wednesday after the abortive coup against him, reports Reuter. Gorbachev, surrounded by officials at a Moscow airport, thanked the Soviet people for their resistance to the coup.

Gorbachev, in casual clothes with an open-necked shirt, was shown stepping down from the plane that brought him from the Crimea where he had been held since the coup.

Gorbachev's wife Raisa, followed him off the aircraft with her arm around a young girl wrapped in a blanket. The pictures, from Soviet television footage, were shown by extensively by the ABC television network and some by the Cable news network. Gorbachev alluded several times to attempts by the coup leaders "to break me" and to influence his family. Gorbachev said he will give full details later of his detention under military guard at his dacha in Crimea.

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obstacle on the path of that adventure which a group of persons has embarked upon." The President, who looked grave but also smiled from time to time during the comments, said that the aim of the coup plotters "was to break me, morally, break the President morally. Well nothing came of it." "I rebuffed it when their emissaries came to me to support this adventure. I said this would bring ruin to both them and our country. I was against it."