

VHP demolishing temples in Ayodhya, says VP Singh

LUCKNOW, Oct 28: Janata Dal leader and a former Prime Minister V P Singh today urged the Uttar Pradesh government to abide by the court orders in too regarding the controversial Ramjanambhoomi-Babri Masjid issues, and the acquisition of land at Ayodhya, reports PTI. Singh talking to newsmen

here alleged that some temples were being demolished at Ayodhya by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal and demanded that the state government immediately arrest those responsible for demolition of temples there or else it will be taken as if all that was taking place there was at the instance of the state government, he said.

Tamils kill 27 in Lanka

COLOMBO, Oct 28: The death toll in a Tamil guerrilla ambush of an army patrol in eastern Sri Lanka rose to 27, including 14 soldiers, officials here said today, reports AFP.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas showered automatic fire on the patrol in the district of Polonnaruwa on Sunday, killing 10 soldiers on the spot, local officials said by telephone.

They said four more bodies were recovered later raising to 14 the final army death toll in the massacre. Four soldiers, including an officer were seriously wounded.

Military officers believe that a group of about 150 rebels were involved in the ambush,

Another PTI report from Allahabad says: The President of Indian Muslim Youth Conference, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, will reach Ayodhya on October 30 to offer a resolution to nationalist Muslims for the removal of "Babri Masjid" from "Ram janam bhoomi," at Ayodhya.

Naqvi in a press statement said here today that he along with the representatives of the eight nationalist Muslim organisations will also discuss with the leaders of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Ramjanam Bhoomi Action Committee and other related organisations in Ayodhya the issue of removal of Babri Masjid from Ramjanam bhoomi.

Israel bars three Palestinians from joining ME conference

JERUSALEM, Oct 28: Israel barred three Palestinians convicted of security offences from leaving on Sunday to attend the Middle East peace talks as advisers.

Ziad Abu Ayun told Reuters he and two other residents of the occupied territories were informed by US diplomats that Israel had denied them permission to go to Madrid.

"I am one of the people of the 1985 prisoner exchange. They told the American consul that they refused to allow me to leave the country to be part of the Palestinian delegation because I would be dangerous there," Ayun said.



MADRID: An armoured vehicle stands in front of the Madrid Royal Palace here Sunday as part of the security measures being taken prior to the upcoming Middle East peace conference on Wednesday.

"The Israeli government looks like it is not serious about the peace," he said. Israel also stopped two other former security prisoners, Ahmed Shreim from Kakilya and Fathi El Haj from

Khan Younis in the occupied Gaza Strip, going to Madrid. Ayun, 31, is the most prominent former prisoner of the three. He spent two and a half years in a US jail until the US Supreme Court ordered his extradition to Israel in 1981 to stand trial for a bomb attack in Tiberias in 1979.

He was convicted and given a life sentence. He was freed in a 1985 prisoner exchange between Israel and a radical Palestinian guerrilla faction. Later that year he was re-arrested and served three more years in jail.

He now manages an aluminium factory. Israel allowed other Palestinians who were convicted of security offences to go to Madrid for the Arab-Israeli talks starting on Wednesday. But security sources said the three barred from leaving had been convicted of more serious crimes.

Israel had demanded right of veto all Palestinian negotiators to the talks to ensure that none was a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation or from Arab East Jerusalem.

Six other Palestinian activists left on Sunday for Jordan on their way to Madrid where they will have role as advisers.

They were: Dr. Ahmed Dahalan of Khan Younis, a supporter of the mainstream PLO Fatah faction, Jamal Nasser of Gaza city, Said Abu Abed, of Gaza city. Both Nasser and Abed are associated with the democratic front for the liberation of Palestine faction headed by Yasser Abed Rabbo. Owni A-Shawa, a merchant from Gaza city. Muhammed El Hilu from Askar refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, a representative of refugees. Muhammed Al Arouri of Ramallah in the West Bank.

Seven Palestinian journalists attached to the Palestinian delegation also left with the group on Sunday.

Off the Record

Imelda to sell her shoes for fund-raising

MANILA: Imelda Marcos plans to auction off her famous shoe collection to raise funds for victims of the Mount Pinatubo volcano, aids said Monday, reports AP.

The more than 1,200 pairs of shoes have been on display at the Malacanang presidential palace since the former first lady abandoned them when she and her late husband fled into exile in 1986.



Mrs. Marcos has said she will return home next week to face tax changes, and government officials have said she can claim her shoes and other abandoned possessions at that time.

She would authorize a Filipino journalist to handle auctioning off the shoes, said the aides, speaking by telephone from New York on condition of anonymity.

There was no immediate comment from Mrs. Aquino's staff.

Hundreds of thousands of people were displaced when Mount Pinatubo erupted last June and devastated an agricultural area 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of Manila.

Nearly 700 people have died from the effects of the eruption, according to government officials.

Romance blossoms beyond the Gulag

MOSCOW: He is almost penniless, his health is broken and the only cloths he owns are those on his back. But Mr Valery Yanin's 16 and a half years in the Gulag have had a romantic ending.

He was freed only last month, although he had not been forgotten. Miss Katya Bogodukhova, a friend from the past, tracked him down after reading in the newspaper that he had been pardoned.

"Then she was only a young girl, but now she's a magnificent woman. We're going to get married as soon as possible," Mr Yanin said. "God brought us back together. Now we just have to scrape together enough money for a ring and wedding dress."

But the scars left by his treatment at Perm 35, the last camp specifically for those accused of political crimes, are yet to heal.

He spent seven years in solitary confinement and some time in psychiatric hospitals. "I feel the whole time that I should be wearing handcuffs, and surrounded by policemen with truncheons and dogs," he said.



Happy ending: Mr Yanin and Miss Bogodukhova together again in Moscow.

Mr Yanin and Mr Alexander Goldovich, both aged 44, were among the last inmates of the Gulag, the Soviet Union's slave labour machine for political offenders. They left 10 people behind them who can only be pardoned by President Gorbachev. Mr Goldovich was pardoned by President Yeltsin of Russia, and Mr Yanin by President Askar Akayev of Kirghizia.

Mr Yanin's complexion is wan and his clothes too big after a 73-day hunger strike earlier this year. He says that only a few months ago guards tried to beat him to death.

Mr Yanin and Mr Goldovich met in the camp. Both had been convicted of treason after fleeing the country across the Black sea, allegedly in possession of secrets. Mr Yanin, a military pilot, made it to the United States, but was arrested when he came back of a relative. Mr Goldovich, a scientist, was picked up by a fishing trawler as he sailed to Turkey in a rubber dinghy.

Despite its special status, Perm 35, set in the Russian wastelands west of the Urals, does not differ markedly from other Soviet prisons and camps, which hold nearly 800,000 inmates.

The main difference is that when wardens in perm 35 beat prisoners, they try to avoid witnesses. In ordinary camps, guards assault inmates openly and with impunity.

In perm 35 the guards frequently tortured prisoners, stole from their parcels and extorted money.

Both men want to emigrate as soon as possible. But in the meantime their task is to lobby for the release of the comrades they left behind.

Israel to mail 'peace'

JERUSALEM: Israel's Postal Authority plans to commemorate outgoing mail, it announced Sunday, report AP.

The circular stamp, dated Oct. 30, states in Hebrew, Arabic and English: "The start of direct negotiations between Israel and its neighbors."

The word "peace" and an olive branch appears at the center of the stamp, under lined by the word "Jerusalem", a statement from the Postal Authority said.

The director-general of the Postal Authority, Amos Bracha, said the stamp was the Postal Authority's modest contribution to the conference.

"I look forward to the day when postal contacts open between Israel and its neighbors," the statement quoted Bracha as saying.

Brides, grooms asked to remain seated for safety

PENSACOLA, Fla: The minister warned the brides and grooms to "remain seated for safety reasons."

The Rev. Lynn Toney, a Baptist minister and Pensacola television personality, then married 26 couples aboard the Giant Eagle wheel at the Pensacola Interstate Fair. More than 100 other couples renewed their vows Friday night on the Ferris wheel.

"We figured that marriage has its ups and downs, and goes around and round, so why not?" said Newlywed Cheryl Cartwright, 33.

She and husband Kenny McMahon, 29, were decked out in matching white sweat shirts with red rose accent, black jeans and sneakers.

Khmer Rouge guerillas won't give up arms

BANGKOK, Oct 28: The head of Cambodia's ruling party said he is skeptical Khmer Rouge guerrillas will surrender their arms in accordance with the peace treaty signed last week in Paris, reports AP.

Norodom Ranariddh and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front — are sincere in wanting peace.

He said it would be difficult for the United Nations to verify troop reduction and disarmament in hilly, remote guerrilla areas, where arms are hidden.

"As for Phnom Penh, troop reduction and disarmament are not problems because the armed forces in Phnom Penh are grouped together and easy for the UN to control," Chea

Sim said. Chea Sim heads the Cambodian People's Party, which was recently reformed to remove references to Communism in anticipation of future elections.

"In the (new party) platform, we talked neither about building socialism nor abolishing it," he said. "Adherence to democratic government is appropriate for the real situation in Cambodia."

The treaty provides for each of the four factions in the conflict to reduce its army by 70 per cent over United Nations-organized elections. The rest of the troops are to stay in UN-supervised areas.

Chea Sim's recent interview with foreign journalists in Phnom Penh was carried by Cambodian state radio Sunday. A transcript was seen in Bangkok Monday.

The Khmer Rouge killed hundreds of thousands of people in radical social experiments in 1975-78, before Vietnam invaded and installed the current government in Phnom Penh.

Chea Sim said the Khmer Rouge already has shown its intentions by trying to move refugees from Thai camps into guerrilla-held areas of Cambodia, violating the repatriation plan of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Chea Sim said he believes the other two guerrilla groups — the forces of Prince

Honasan threatens fresh uprising

MANILA, Oct 28: Fugitive Philippine coup leader Colonel Gregorio Honasan on Sunday dashed official hopes for his early surrender, saying he could launch a fresh uprising if the government ignored demands for political reform, reports Reuters.

"We're not satisfied with how the government is reacting," he declared. "We cannot go on talking for ever."

At a clandestine news conference with Filipino journalists in a Manila suburb, Honasan said the rebel reform the armed forces movement (RAM) was offering peace talks in return for political change, including immediate withdrawal of American forces from the former US colony.

Athulathmudali says Lanka to be proud to host Khaleda, Koirala in SAARC summit

COLOMBO, Oct 28: Dissident leader Lalith Athulathmudali has said that Sri Lanka would be proud to play host to "pro democracy" South Asian leaders who will attend a regional meeting here in November, press reports said Sunday, reports AFP.

The seven leaders of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) will hold their three-day summit in Colombo from November 7. SAARC groups — Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The Sunday Times quoted Athulathmudali as telling a public meeting in north central Anuradhapura Saturday that Sri Lanka would be proud to host "pro-democracy" lead-

ers like Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Nepal Premier Prasad Koirala, who swept aside dictators and ushered in "real democracies," the newspaper quoted Athulathmudali as saying.

Athulathmudali, a former national security minister, led a revolt within the ruling party in August and launched a public campaign to replace the existing executive presidential system of government with parliamentary rule.

The rebels moved motion in parliament in August to impeach President Ranasinghe Premadasa accusing him of abuse of power but the speaker dropped charges against the President this month after earlier accepting them as valid.



Khaleda

Koirala

Typhoon kills nine in Philippines

MANILA, Oct 28: Typhoon Ruth roared across the rugged mountains of northern Luzon island on Monday, killing at least nine people, disrupting transportation and knocking out power in Manila and other

cities, reports AP. Twelve other people were injured and 16 were missing, local officials said.

The giant storm crippled at least two freighters off Taiwan, about 500 miles (800 kilometers) north of the typhoon. Officials said 18 crew members of the Panamanian-registered Tung Lung were missing after the 6,300-ton vessel sank Sunday about 50 kilometers (32 miles) west of Taiwan.

Muslims in Soviet Union, Y'slavia defy ban on poll to decide future

UNDATED, Oct 28: Muslims in two republics of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia have seemingly gone for uprising and participated in unauthorized elections to determine their own future, reports agencies.

Reuters says: Defying bans by Russia and their own government, the rebellious people of a Muslim Autonomous republic on Russia's southern fringes voted on Sunday to choose a president.

The election was called by powerful opposition forces in the turbulent Chechen-Ingush republic. Led by Jakhar Dudayev, they want independ-

ence from the Russian Federation and an end to local rule by a Moscow-backed provisional government.

Russia declared the poll illegal on Thursday, and the provisional Chechen-Ingush parliament in Grozny followed suit on Saturday. Both have said they will ignore its results. Voting went ahead anyway, Tass news agency said.

"However, polling stations are not open everywhere because practically all local Authorities ordered that no space should be allocated to them," it said.

cent of the Muslims in the southern Yugoslav Sanjak region voted in an illegal three-day referendum on political autonomy, organizers claimed Sunday.

Defying a ban, Muslims in southern Serbia and in the neighbouring republic of Montenegro continued voting in secrecy Sunday after police closed down several polling stations.

Sulejman Ugjanin, a local Muslim leader in this Sanjak center, told reporters that some activists of the Muslim Party of Democratic Action sponsoring the vote were arrested in the Montenegrin

town of Bijelo Polje. "The overall turnout was more than 90 per cent, ever before the voting was over," said Rasim Ljubic, the chairman of the party here.

"The results will show to both Serbian and Montenegrin parliaments that the Muslims do not want to be ruled by them any more," Ugjanin said.

The Serbian government called the three-day referendum "illegal and irresponsible." The results, which no one in Novi Pazar doubted would support political autonomy, were expected Wednesday.