

## Summit at a glance

UNDATED, Aug 1: US President Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev signed a treaty to shrink their countries' arsenals of long-range nuclear weapons. The pact marked the first time the superpowers had agreed to reduce the number of transcontinental nuclear weapons. If ratified by the Senate and the Supreme Soviet, the treaty would reduce these stockpiles by 30 per cent. Bush and Gorbachev signed the START pact with pens made of metal from US and Soviet missiles destroyed as part of the 1987 treaty cutting intermediate-range weapons, reports AP.

Presidents Bush and Gorbachev also announced on Wednesday they intend to convene a Middle East peace conference in October to launch face-to-face negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Political unrest, never far from the surface, erupted as armed attackers killed seven Lithuanian guards and wounded two others at a border post run by the secessionist Lithuanian government. A barracks was also blown up in Lithuania and in a third incident an explosion aboard a passenger train from Moscow to the Azerbaijani capital of Baku killed 15 people, railway and police officials said.

# What's next after the START?

## US, USSR each retain 1,600 strategic carriers with 6,000 warheads

MOSCOW, Aug 1: The START treaty, signed in the Kremlin on July 31, is not the final destination but just an intermediate station along the thorny path of disarmament. Such is the Soviet approach to arms-control talks that had been conducted in Moscow by Presidents Gorbachev and Bush and the heads of the two nations' foreign-policy agencies, reports IAN.

Why is it important to ensure the uninterrupted nature of the arms limitation process? Despite its historic significance, the START treaty has at least three drawbacks.

First of all, it would be an impermissible luxury for each side to retain 1,600 strategic carriers replete with 6,000 warheads after a seven-year period, all the more so as at present conventional weapons are being slashed drastically. At any rate, the United States has always said that nuclear arsenals should be used to deter the conventional threat.

Heaps of nuclear weaponry that are still wielded by the Soviet Union and the United States obviously contradict the new relations of partnership, which have been formalized by Gorbachev and Bush at their current summit in Moscow. Second, the START treaty

does not limit the qualitative arms race. On the one hand, the two sides had been obviously striving to scale down military confrontation, but on the other, they did their best to retain a considerable part of their weapons modernisation programmes, which had been drafted in the past.

While the START talks dragged on in Geneva for ten years in a row, the US and the USSR kept modernising strategic weapons systems. In the meantime, those systems

to be slashed under the treaty were becoming obsolete.

Third, the Soviet side has failed to include a highly important provision linking strategic offensive arms and ABM defence (i.e. the START treaty and the 1972 ABM treaty) into the START treaty. The Soviet side had only made a unilateral statement at the Geneva talks to the effect that any violation of the ABM treaty might be regarded as a pretext for withdrawing from the START treaty.

As before, Moscow keeps regarding the ABM treaty as the cornerstone of the entire disarmament process and calls for strengthening it. The Soviet side hopes that Washington, which in fact had previously suggested that the ABM treaty be replaced altogether, would alter its position.

These three main shortcomings of the START treaty should at the same time be regarded as an incentive for conducting talks on strategic

stability.

During their Washington summit that took place in the summer of 1990, the Soviet and American leaders reflected their commitment to that goal in a special statement. And now both Gorbachev and Bush are doing their best to adopt specific measures for accomplishing that goal. Military programmes, which are expected to last for at least ten years, should not be implemented to the detriment of the two sides' socio-economic interests. Besides, they should not affect the process of strengthening mutual confidence and partnership.

As the US continues with its SDI effort, the USSR is watching this endeavour in a rather attentive manner. It also believes that space and ABM issues should not be dissociated from talks on strategic stability.

## Moscow nullifies Lithuania's recognition to Slovenia

MOSCOW, Aug 1: The Soviet Foreign Ministry yesterday issued a statement invalidating Lithuania's recognition of the independence of Slovenia and Croatia, the two breakaway Yugoslav republics, reports Xinhua.

The recognition 'cannot have any validity under international law since Lithuania itself does not enjoy the status as an independent state, Tass quoted the statement as saying.



VILNIUS, Lithuania: Lithuanian women raise their fists during a protest near the Communist Party's Central Committee building here July 31 against the killing of seven Lithuanians early that day at the border with Belorussia. The Lithuanians were killed in a machine-gun attack against a border post, casting a cloud over the US-Soviet summit in Moscow. —AFP/UNB photo

## Israel stands firm on East Jerusalem: Levy

### Judaisation of Islam's third holy place can't be accepted: Arafat

RABAT, Aug 1: PLO chairman Yasser Arafat arrived on Wednesday for talks with Morocco's King Hassan about Middle East peace moves, three days before the king meets US Secretary of State James Baker, reports Reuters.

Baker leaves for Israel today to get an answer on whether it will attend a peace conference which President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev have set for October.

Israel wants US assurances it will not have to talk to representatives from Arab East Jerusalem but Arafat, reported by the official news agency MAP, restated his demand that

they be included.

The PLO leader said he would discuss with the king 'the process which should lead to a so-called settlement through a peace conference and at the same time exclude Jerusalem'.

Arafat said the Israeli claim that Jerusalem was its eternal capital flouted resolutions by the United Nations and by Arab and Islamic summits.

'No Arab or Muslim... can accept the Judaisation of Islam's third holy place and cradle of Christianity or its Absorption by Israel as its capital', MAP quoted him as saying.

King Hassan is President of the Jerusalem committee set

up by the 44-nation organisation of the Islamic conference to liberate East Jerusalem, annexed by Israel after the 1967 war.

'We are not asking for the impossible. All we want is a just peace, based on international legitimacy and on United Nations Resolutions', Arafat added.

'We accepted President Bush's peace initiative last March proposing land for peace, and implementation of (UN) Resolutions 242 and 338 with the withdrawal from all occupied territories including Jerusalem'.

AP adds from Jerusalem: Israel said Wednesday that the planned return of US Secretary of State James A Baker III is a sign of progress toward Middle East peace talks, but remained opposed to an Arab from east Jerusalem attending such negotiations.

Foreign Minister David Levy said although he was confident the peace process would move forward, Israel stood firm on some 'basic positions of principle'.

Yossi Achimeir, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, made clear that Israel's willingness to attend a peace conference depended on settling the issue of which Palestinians will be represented in peace talks.

Achimeir spoke shortly after US President Bush announced from Moscow plans for a US-Soviet-sponsored Middle East peace conference in October. Bush also said Baker would be making his sixth trip to Jerusalem since March.

'As far as I know, there is no change in the position of Israel. If the issue of the Palestinian delegation is solved, there will be a conference in October,' Achimeir said on Israel radio.

But he said Baker's planned visit 'shows that certainly there is some progress.'

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## Off the Record

### 16 wives not enough for Soo San Ho

JAKARTA: Geriatric Soo San Ho is a man whom many would envy for his virility — he has 16 wives. Their ages range from 19 to 50, reports Antara.

And the 60-year-old is considering taking another two. His marriage to two women, who are supposedly mother and daughter is, to say the least, startling.

Soo's latest marriage to a 19-year-old girl, identified only as Ms Ng, had the blessings of her mother, Seow Kai Hong.

Mrs Seow happens to be one of his wives as well. Her daughter is from a previous marriage. Kuala Lumpur newspaper The New Straits Times reported last week.

Soo said some of his wives live together in harmony in his terrace house in Kepong, a Kuala Lumpur suburb.

He said that four of the women, including his first wife, have left him while a few others are now working in Japan and Taiwan.

However, he said, none of his 'marriages' has been registered or even been recognised in a traditional Chinese wedding ceremony.

Soo said 'exchange of vows' is the actual consummation of the 'marriage.'

'The law is not important to my marriages... Love transcends all legal boundaries,' he told reporters at his home.

Soo spoke to the press to deny several reports in vernacular newspapers accusing him of luring young girls into marriage.

At the press conference, the wives defended him, saying that they had all married the man out of love and of their own free will.

So what is his secret?

He is not rich, nor does he have an impressive physique. 'I have my way of attracting women and it is without using any force or any charms... They come voluntarily,' Soo said.

### 4 lakh US troops offered money to retire

WASHINGTON: Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has proposed offering some military personnel payments to leave active service in a plan to cut back the size of the US force, the Pentagon announced Tuesday, reports AFP.

Under the plan submitted to Congress aimed at cutting some 400,000 from the army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, service men and women who had served more than six years but less than 20 would be offered financial incentives to out before retiring.

The voluntary separation of mid-career members will improve career opportunities for those staying in the military service and would reduce aging of the force by making room for younger junior grade members, 'according to a Pentagon statement.

The Defence Department has said that much of the reduction in the two-million-strong service would come from the natural attrition of retirements and hiring cutbacks, but that there would probably have to be some discharges.

### A free subway ride in Moscow

MOSCOW: With prices rising higher and higher in the Soviet Union, millions of subway riders in the capital received an unusual surprise Wednesday: a day of free rides on the metro, reports AP.

The day was sponsored by the MMM company, a Soviet firm that sells computers, fax and photocopy machines, telephones and a variety of other electronic gadgets.

Radio and newspapers had been announcing the free rides for weeks.

But those passengers who hadn't heard the news got a surprise when normally grumpy subway controllers waved them through the turnstiles. The slots for coins were covered with tape.

Subway officials said on the radio they were happy for the opportunity to repair the turnstiles.

The subway fare was recently tripled to 15 kopecks. The average worker earns about 350 rubles, or 35,000 kopecks, a month.

### Company's VP yet to learn to walk first

BIRMINGHAM (Mich): As vice president of a holding company, Natalie Novik's job description calls for her to assist in marketing, public relations, planning and supervising daily operations, reports AP.

She'll have to learn to walk first.

At 7 months old, Natalie is climbing the corporate ladder from the cradle.

Her mother named her vice president of Lynn Hall Flowers, florist shops in Birmingham and Dearborn's Hyatt Agency Hotel.

'I just wanted to make her part of the company, and I felt the best way to do that was to name her an officer,' said her mom, 28-year-old company President Lynn Hall.

Natalie's father, Michael Novik, is company treasurer, and her grandmother, Phyllis Hall, secretary. Incorporation papers filed with the state have all their signatures except Natalie's.

'We used her footprint,' Hall said.

Natalie doesn't get a salary, but Hall guarantees she'll have an adequate supply of diapers, baby food and love.

What's it like working for someone 7 months old?

'She's certainly not very demanding,' said Cathy Sinclair, manager of the Hyatt Regency florist shop. 'Except when she's hungry.'

## Manila sues Imelda, children for fraud

MANILA, Aug 1: The government filed criminal charges against Imelda Marcos and her children Thursday, accusing them of failing to file tax returns after the late President Ferdinand Marcos was ousted five years ago, reports AP.

The charges were the first criminal complaints ever filed in a Philippine court against the family of the late president, who was ousted in the February 1986 popular uprising that propelled President Corason Aquino to power.

Eleven counts were filed against Mrs Marcos, two against daughter Imee Manotoc and eight each against Ferdinand Jr. and Irene Araneta.

On Wednesday, the government said Mrs Marcos and her children were free to return from exile in the United States to face tax fraud charges.

The charges are in effect recommendations, which must be reviewed by a committee of state prosecutors. If they determine there is enough evidence, they will ask a judge to issue an arrest warrant. The procedure often takes weeks.

## BRIEFLY

**US intelligence activities okayed:** The House of Representatives on Wednesday approved a bill authorising intelligence activities around the globe in the current fiscal year, which ends Sept 30, AP from Washington says.

The 419-4 vote sent the measure to the Senate, which also was expected to approve it. The measure then would go to President Bush, who is expected to sign it.

While the precise price tag of the bill is classified, it's believed to authorise close to \$30 billion in spending by the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the National Reconnaissance Office and other clandestine operations.

**68 killed in Romania floods:** Flood in northeastern Romania has killed 68 people and left 50 others missing, officials said in Bucharest Wednesday, reports AFP.

Prime Minister Petre Roman put the toll Tuesday at more than 100 dead after a visit to the eastern Moldavia region, where two villages were inundated when dam broke following torrential rain.

The latest official toll from Sunday night's floods said more than 1,000 homes were destroyed, about 500 were damaged and 7,000 inundated.

More than 40 bridges including four major ones had been destroyed or damaged.

**Diana to visit Pakistan:** The Princess of Wales plans a five-day visit to Pakistan next month, the government said Wednesday, reports AP from Islamabad.

The Foreign Ministry said Princess Diana would arrive Sept 23 and return to Britain on Sept 27. It released no further details of the planned visit.

She had scheduled a trip to Pakistan a year ago. But the visit was postponed after the government of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was ousted on corruption charges.

**Drugs found in Canada, 25 held:** Quebec provincial police said Wednesday that 25 people have been arrested after hundreds of blue plastic barrels filled with hashish were found floating in the Gulf of St Lawrence, AP says from Montreal.

Chief Inspector Claude Quinn said an international operation that ran through Singapore, Portugal and Pakistan tripped up when the drug load became too heavy to tow ashore. He estimated the value of the hashish at more than 612 million dollars.

The inspector said police had worked out a probable itinerary that began in Singapore in February and proceeded to Pakistan and Lisbon, and involved a tug boat, a crane-equipped barge and three inflatable Zodiac boats with outboard motors.

He said the hashish was put into plastic barrels that were unloaded July 22 into three floating bloats, each attached to a Zodiac inflatable boat, near Anticosti Island, in the Gulf some 600 miles east of Montreal.

**Mandate extended:** The Security Council unanimously approved on Wednesday a six-month extension, until January 31, 1992, of the mandate of the UN peace-keeping force in Southern Lebanon, Reuter reports from United Nations.

Known as the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), it was established in 1978 to oversee the withdrawal of Israeli troops who had attacked Palestinian guerrilla strongholds in the region, and to help restore the authority of the Beirut government.

Israel, which invaded again in 1982, continues to control a border zone, together with its militia allies of the South Lebanon Army, to prevent attacks on northern Israel.

**Riot in Tehran:** Riots erupted in downtown Tehran when Iranian security forces tried to raze a tenement neighborhood, an Iranian newspaper reported Wednesday. It was the second urban riot in as many weeks, AP reports from Nicosia.

The Parsi-language daily, Resalat, gave no figures about possible casualties, but said there were 'many wounded and injured on both sides,' in clashes Monday that lasted four hours.

It said a 10-year-old boy, identified as Qorban-Ali Hassani, was hit in the shoulder by a stray bullet that ricocheted off a building when police fired into the air to subdue the crowd.

The boy's condition was not reported.

The clash in Simetri street erupted at 9:00 am (04:30 GMT) Monday, when security forces and municipal workers attempted to demolish houses and shops the government insists were built without permits in the Bager-Abad slums in downtown Tehran.

**US astronaut to fly on Soviet space station:** A US astronaut will fly on the Soviet space station, Mir and a Soviet cosmonaut will fly on an American space shuttle under an agreement signed at the superpower summit in Moscow, US space officials announced on Wednesday, reports Reuter from Washington.

The purpose of the exchange of flights is to conduct life sciences research of mutual interest, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) said in a statement.

The agreement calls for more cooperation in monitoring the global environment from space and annual consultations between the US and Soviet governments on space issues, NASA said.



JERUSALEM'S DOME OF ROCK — Israeli settlers wish to destroy it and the nearby Al-Aqsa Mosque in order to build the Third Temple in their place....

NICOSIA, Aug 1: The following are the positions of the main Arab parties in a peace conference with Israel, reports AP.

All support a land-for-peace formula under UN Security Council Resolution 242. Passed after the 1967 war, 242 calls for the return of territories captured by Israel and the right of all states to live in peace.

Egypt: Would attend. The most populous Arab state regained Sinai Peninsula, lost in the 1967 war, through a 1979 peace treaty with Israel. The Camp David accords also called for future negotiations among Egypt, Jordan, Israel and

the Palestinians to solve the Palestinian question, proposing autonomy and elections for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Egypt committed itself to the peace conference and worked hard to convince other Arabs to attend.

Iraq: Would not attend. President Saddam Hussein claimed he occupied neighboring Kuwait to force Israel to relinquish the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Saddam has called his longtime enemy, Syrian President Hafez Assad, a traitor for agreeing to talk



## ME Confce: Where Arabs stand

to Israel. Jordan: Would attend. Jordan, with over half its 3 million population Palestinian, has great interest in seeing them achieve self-determination, which might result in a confederation with Jordan. In times of economic hardship, Jordanians of largely Bedouin backgrounds view the Palestinians with resentment. Jordan also has border and water concerns to work out with Israel. Lebanon: Would attend. Its acceptance of the conference is basically dictated by

neighbouring Syria, which has 40,000 troops in the country. Lebanon wants Israel to withdraw from the southern border zone it has occupied since the 1982 invasion.

Palestinians: Would attend, but the question is who. The Palestine Liberation Organization is accepted as the representative of the world's 5 million Palestinians. But Israel refuses to talk to the PLO, citing its past support for terrorism, which the PLO has renounced. The PLO has agreed to let independent