

# Thai PM discounts 'red solution' on Cambodia

BANGKOK, Aug 18: Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun, in comments published Sunday, discounted speculation that China and Vietnam would ignore a UN peace plan for neighboring Cambodia and promote their own solution, reports AP.

Speculation about a joint Chinese-Vietnamese "Red solution" for Cambodia grew after the China and Vietnam said at talks in Beijing this month that they wanted to normalize relations after more than a decade of hostility.

Their joint statement did not link normalization of ties to a settlement in Cambodia, as China had done before.

Asked about the speculation, Thai Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun told the Thai newspaper The Nation that he believed that all parties accepted the plan drafted by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, including China.

"There are still some differences in interpretation and some issues left unresolved on certain aspects in interpretation of the peace plan but I think basically the draft peace plan is going to be 'the' one which would spell out the terms of the comprehensive political settlement," Anand said.

"I do not believe that there is going to be any deal behind your back or my back," he said.

China is backing guerillas fighting the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh. Vietnam invaded in late 1978 and ousted the pro-Beijing Khmer Rouge regime.

The UN plan, which the Cambodian government has not fully accepted, calls for a truce, demobilization of the four factions, and extensive UN involvement in Cambodia's administration in the period before elections.

The Cambodians are to resume peace talks August 26 in Thailand, which has played a key role of mediator in the ongoing peace process.



ISLAMABAD: Pakistani Premier Nawaz Sharif addressing a public meeting while holding hands with Ijaz-ul-Haq, son of Zia-ul-Haq at the Faisal mosque site in Islamabad on August 17 for the third anniversary of Pakistani President Zia-ul-Haq's death. — AFP/UNB photo

# Fahd's mediation for solution sought Qatar still claims small Bahraini islands

DOHA, (Qatar) Aug 18: Qatar said Saturday it would withdraw a territorial dispute case lodged with the World Court in The Hague against Bahrain if Saudi Arabian King Fahd mediates an acceptable settlement between the two neighbouring Gulf states, reports AP.

An unidentified Qatari official quoted by the state-run Qatar News Agency said, "If an acceptable brotherly solution is reached through the wise efforts of... King Fahd, then the case will be immediately withdrawn."

It said that was in line with an agreement reached during the annual summit conference of the Gulf Cooperation Council in December 1990. Saudi Arabia is the leading party in the six-nation alliance that also includes Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates.

The Qatari statement was the first since it lodged its case in July with the UN-affiliated World Court.

Qatar rejects a British decision in 1939 which granted sovereignty to Bahrain over a string of small islands known as Huwar, and the Fash al-Dibal and Jaradah shoals.

The disputed area between the peninsular state and the central Gulf island nation is potentially oil-rich.

Bahrain, in a brief statement in July, said it "rejects absolutely the claims made by the state of Qatar" to the World Court.

In the meantime, Arab diplomatic sources reported that a Qatari warship on Aug. 3 entered Bahrain's eastern waters "without pursuing the normal official procedure."

They said Bahrain Coast Guard units escorted the Qatari warship until it left the waters east of the Dibal shoals.

The statement distributed by the Qatar News Agency made no reference to this incident. But it said Bahraini naval units several times penetrated the disputed waters in violation of a 1986 agreement that Qatar and Bahrain would desist from a military presence in those areas.

The border dispute had flared in 1986 when Qatari forces briefly occupied the Fash al-Dibal reef where a Dutch firm was undertaking reclamation work. King Fahd immediately stepped in to mediate a settlement.

Aside from the terse July statement, Bahrain officials have declined public comment on the developments, but Gulf officials said Bahrain had officially protested the Aug. 3 incident.

Both countries gained independence from Britain in 1971, and each has a small naval force of barely a dozen units that include Exocet-equipped missile gunboats.

# 16 rockets fired on Afghan capital

KABUL, Aug 18: Guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Afghan government fired 16 rockets on residential areas of Kabul on Saturday killing one person and injuring several others, a government spokesman said, reports Reuter.

No independent information about the casualty figure was immediately available, hospital doctors said they had treated only a few minor injuries after the attack which came two days before Afghan Independence Day celebrations.

Most of the rockets fell near the airport but did not significantly disrupt flights out of the capital, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He said Egyptian-made surface to surface rockets were fired from rebel positions to the west and southwest of Kabul where a rebel shell hit a bus four days ago, killing at least 20 people.

# Algeria to free 300 detainees

ALGIERS, Aug 18: The government of President Chadli Bendjedid said Saturday it will free more than 300 people detained since a state of emergency was declared in June as a result of fundamentalist Muslim protests, reports AP.

But the government said hundreds of others, who include some of the opposition movement's top leaders, remain jailed and will be tried in connection with the unrest that had pressed for election reform.

Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali, in a communique released Saturday night, said 329 people detained in four "safety centers" set up since the state of emergency were to be released Sunday.

The decision was made due to "positive results registered in matters of security," the communique said, apparently referring to a lack of recent unrest. It also said the action was taken because of the government's will for "appeasement."

# Off the Record

## Mathematics crisis threatens Britain

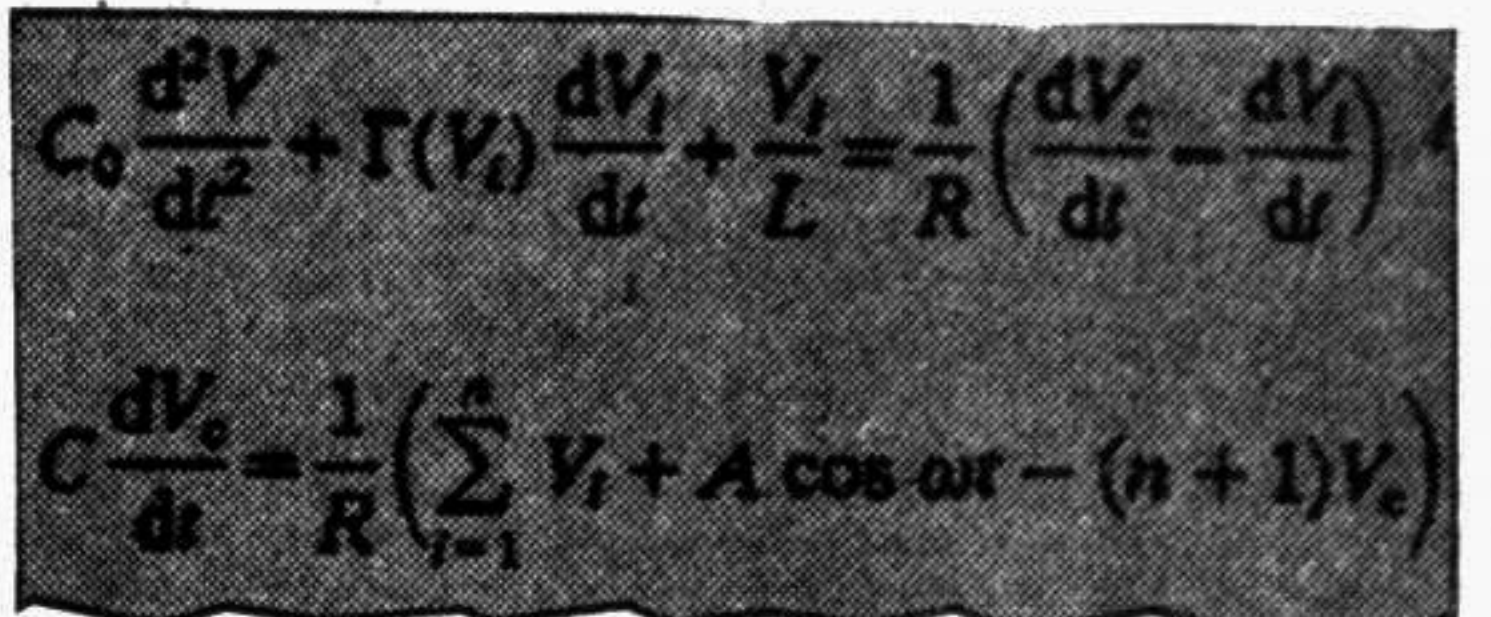
LONDON: Britain faces a rise in innumeracy and a decline in its international standing in mathematics that threatens its position as a technological nation, a report warned.

The report, by leading mathematicians, recommends radical action in schools and a boost in research funding to deal with the brain drain of high-powered mathematicians, the "dangerously inadequate" supply of mathematics PhDs, a "dangerously small" number of mathematicians in key fields, and a "bleak" school system.

"We still have a major position in mathematics in the world. If we leave things as they are, that will go," said Sir John Kingman, Vice-Chancellor of Bristol University and chairman of the Mathematics Strategy Review Panel, which produced the report.

"One effect quite simply is that our children will not learn mathematics, we will have an innumerate society and that will have a quite serious effect on our industrial competitiveness."

Sir John was launching the report on the future strategy for mathematics with Prof Adrian Smith, chairman of the Science and Engineering Research Council's mathematics committee.



Prof Smith said: "Innumeracy has replaced illiteracy as our principal educational gap. When people pick up a telephone, they are not aware of the mathematics of the electronics and the routing of the calls.

"When a plane lands, people are not aware that there is a piece of software based on mathematical equations which is guiding it down. When you visit the doctor you are not aware of the mathematical studies in drug design. Mathematics is all there, but hidden."

The report outlined the following problems:

The haemorrhage of mathematics talent from schools even though demand from industry and commerce shows every sign of growing. Of 800,000 children, just 115 ended up with doctorates in science, Sir John added: "We are losing far too many able mathematicians."

The crisis in school mathematics, with the number of well-qualified teachers far too low. The report calls on the Department of Education and Science to take urgent action to recruit enough properly trained teachers to ensure that children develop their mathematical abilities to the full.

Mathematics is no longer simply a "pencil and paper" or "chalk and talk" subject. High-powered computers are needed to test and explore mathematical ideas.

The funding shortfall. Just three applications for funding recently accounted for 70 per cent of the available budget of £2 million.

The brain drain of mathematicians. "What we are seeing is not a quantity brain drain but a quality one." Sir John said key people were being picked off, with American universities recruiting a number of Britain's best mathematicians. Other countries were also head-hunting.

# BRIEFLY

**4 Iranian diplomats slain in Beirut:** Four Iranians kidnapped from their Beirut embassy in 1982 were murdered and buried by Israeli-backed militiamen, a report in a British Sunday newspaper said, reports Reuter.

Quoting what it said was an Israeli intelligence report, the observer in London said the four people, including Charge d'Affaires Mohsen Musawi, were killed by the Lebanese forces militia and buried in mass graves with other prisoners.

The newspaper printed an aerial photograph it said pinpointed the location of the burial ground.

Iran has regularly linked its cooperation in helping with the release of western hostages held by Islamic guerillas in Beirut with news of its own citizens missing in Lebanon.

**ANC won't seek revenge:** President of the African National Congress (ANC) Nelson Mandela has assured whites in South Africa that his organisation will not seek revenge for racial oppression, reports Xinhua from Harare.

Addressing a lecture at the University of Natal in Durban on Friday night, Mandela said he would fight black domination just as he fought white domination in pursuit of ANC's commitment to a non-racial political order in South Africa.

The ANC leader also appealed to all South Africans to develop their roots in the African soil and said that whites in particular, should stop thinking of themselves as Europeans in African with another home to flee if things went wrong.

# Mastermind of Rajiv's killing escapes Clandestine Sri Lanka-Tamil Nadu wireless communication centre found

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: Indian police Saturday unearthed a clandestine wireless communication centre set up by Tamil militants from Sri Lanka in the southern coastal state of Tamil Nadu, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports AFP.

Tamil Nadu Director General of Police S Sripal was quoted as saying two activists from the Sri Lankan Tamil separatist group, The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and a local Tamil associate were arrested.

Sripal told reporters in Madras capital of Tamil Nadu that the communication centre was discovered at a house at Chettipalayam village in the state's Thiruchirappalli district.

A similar LTTE set up was reportedly discovered earlier by police in Tamil Nadu's textile town of Coimbatore.

Security forces have launched a major statewide drive against an LTTE presence in the state following the assassination of former Premier Rajiv Gandhi in Tamil Nadu May 21 which investigators believed was the work of the LTTE.

Indian authorities believe there are a number of LTTE guerillas among some 200,000 Tamil refugees who fled to Tamil Nadu from Sri Lanka by the narrow palk straits.

Reuter adds: The suspected mastermind behind the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi escaped after investigators were slow to act on information about his hideout, India Today magazine reported Saturday.

It quoted neighbours on the outskirts of the southern city of Madras as saying they telephoned the special investigation team several times on July 5 and 6 to say they believed "one-eyed jack" was staying next door.

Police did not raid the house until July 7, narrowly missing the Sri Lankan Tamil who left behind a radio used to communicate with Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerillas in the northern Sri Lankan city of Jaffna, it said.

A massive search has been underway for the alleged mastermind, named by police as Sivarasan and identified as an LTTE intelligence officer, since a woman suicide bomber killed Gandhi near Madras on May 21.

India Today, a fortnightly news magazine, said Sivarasan's real name was Raja Arumainayagam and that he was the LTTE's prime hit man.

But it quoted unidentified investigators as saying the LTTE had ignored Sivarasan's repeated pleas for help to escape from India and that the Tigers appeared to have abandoned him.

# Four killed as trains collide in Germany

WOLFSBURG, Germany, July 27: At least four people were killed and 30 injured, several critically, in a head-on collision between two trains near Oebisfelde, in former East Germany early Saturday, emergency services said here, reports AFP.

A passenger train and a goods train hurtled into one another at full speed as they were travelling in different directions on the same line between Hanover and Berlin.

The passenger train had 250 people on board, who were all evacuated to safety.

At least four wagons of the freight train, which were transporting petrol, exploded and caught fire, setting both engines alight, a spokesman for the local fire services said.

Firemen fought the blaze all night, bringing it under control at dawn.



VIENNA: This four-month-old underfed male Kurdish baby receives first medical aid and artificial nourishment after arriving at the Vienna Airport August 17. He is the youngest member of a group of 16 Kurdish patients who were airlifted from northern Iran to Austria and distributed here to several hospitals. — AFP/UNB photo

# It's bid to topple govt : General Nyunt Burma's military junta involved in drug trafficking : US report

BANGKOK, Aug 18: Allegations that Burma's ruling military junta is involved in drug trafficking are intended to help topple the country's government, a Burmese official said, reports AP.

The Burmese state radio quoted military intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt as saying Thursday that "false allegations are... being made that our government is encouraging the spread of narcotic drugs." A text of his comments was seen Saturday in Bangkok.

Khin Nyunt said the drug allegations and accusations of human rights abuses were part of attempts by "some big nations" to install a new government.

The General apparently was referring to the United States, which in July imposed economic sanctions on Burma because of its lack of progress in curbing the flow of narcotics and in easing political repression.

The US government said in a March report that "despite three highly publicized burnings of narcotics and refinery equipment, the government of Burma did not demonstrate a comprehensive interest in narcotics law enforcement in 1990."

Opium production, the report said, was nearly twice as large as that of two years earlier.

Burma's military seized power in 1988, when soldiers shot dead hundreds and possibly thousands of peaceful pro-democracy demonstrators. The opposition National League for

# Frederick the Great reburied in his Palace

POTSDAM (Germany): Prussian King Frederick the Great, symbol of German militarism and enlightenment, was reburied in his old palace after a pomp-filled ceremony attended by 80,000 people, reports Reuter.

Frederick's casket was lowered into the tomb at Sanssouci Palace at midnight (2200 GMT) on Saturday, the 205th anniversary of his death, in a private rite attended by his descendants and a special guest, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

It was a posthumous return home from exile for the legendary Prussian monarch, whose remains had been spirited to Western Germany in 1945 to keep them out of the hands of Soviet occupation forces after World War II.

The 1989 collapse of communist rule in East Germany followed by German unification cleared the path for Frederick's repatriation to his former dynastic retreat in Potsdam, an old Prussian garrison town outside Berlin.

# 'Where the boat goes, I don't know', Soeharto's aide recites poem

JAKARTA, Aug 18: Indonesia enjoyed a breath of poetic fresh air in the hours before Independence Day Saturday, with cabinet ministers joining controversial poets in a night of recitations in front of a huge crowd, reports Reuter.

The readings were part of Independence Day celebrations, marked this morning by a solemn ceremony commemorating the 46th anniversary of independence from Dutch colonists.

Indonesia's best-known poet Rendra, whose public recitations were cancelled after two of his poems were banned by the government last November, was among the participants in Friday night's reading.

There is no censorship of the poems to be read. But they should be mature and responsible, said Syaikat Banjarsari, Head of the committee which organised the event in the capital Jakarta.

Banjarsari, President Soeharto's Military Secretary, was among several cabinet ministers, academics, politicians and cultural figures at the gathering in Chairil Anwar Park.

Hundreds of people turned up for the unusual event, which began with a reading by Admiral Sudomo, Soeharto's Coordinating Minister for Security and Politics.

Dressed in a dark blue traditional Batik shirt and sitting on a wooden stage, Sudomo set the tone of the evening by reciting a poem that began: "The wave carries my boat slowly, in the silence of night, where it goes I do not know."

The audience, sitting around him on the grass, shouted back: "Neither do I, where?"

Sudomo said it had been difficult for him to turn up at the recitation.

"The usual impression when I appear on television is of being bad tempered," Sudomo told the audience.

Ciputra, leading ethnic Chinese businessman, said he stayed up all night writing his first poem.

"After a long discussion with my son, I made it. Writing a poem is much more difficult than heading a conglomerate," he said before his recitation.

His poem was about a dream he had about Indonesia's journey across a thousand years — from the time long before foreign traders came to collect spices in the Archipelago, through Dutch and Japanese rule, to modern times.

Starting each stanza with: "I dream..." Ciputra was given a good-natured ribbing by the audience who reflected the general attitude to the mainly Chinese owners of big business conglomerates.

In his Independence Day speech to Parliament on Friday, Soeharto urged big business to look after wider interests, an apparent reference to growing resentment of the small ethnic Chinese community dominating the country's economy.

Another controversial participant was Guruh Sukarnoputra, who like Rendra normally needs special police permission to give public performances.

Guruh is a son of former President Sukarno, Soeharto's predecessor.

"Hopefully, there won't be any more people against poetry and art. I am glad to have had a night like this," said leading writer Hans Bague Yassin.

Soeharto promised a lessening of controls on open discussion last year. The media now report the activities of dissidents, some of them critical of the government.

# Audience shouts back : 'Neither do I, where ?'