

JKLF for UN control of Kashmir for ten years

ISLAMABAD, Oct 30: A major militant group fighting Indian rule in Kashmir on Tuesday urged the United Nations to convene a conference to solve the Kashmir dispute on the basis of self-determination, reports Reuter.

Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) Chairman Amanullah proposed the UN Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar convene a meeting of the representatives of India, Pakistan and Kashmiri "freedom-fighters" in Geneva.

The JKLF has spearheaded a 22-month-old Muslim uprising in the two thirds of Kashmir under Indian rule in which more than 3,600 people have been killed.

Pakistan controls the remaining third of the Himalayan region over which the two countries have fought two of their three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947.

The best solution of the issue under the present circumstances is that the whole state of Jammu and Kashmir be (put) under UN control for 10 years during which its administration be supervised by UN representatives belonging to small and neutral countries, Amanullah said.

During that period, Kashmiri political parties (would) be allowed to explain their views about the future of the state to the people.

After that the predominantly Muslim Kashmiris must decide in a UN supervised referendum whether their state should become independent or join either India or Pakistan, he said.

Tamil Tigers planning to sabotage SAARC summit

Series of bomb attacks in Colombo feared

COLOMBO, Oct 30: Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil guerilla are planning bomb attacks to coincide with the seven-nation summit of South Asian head of state scheduled to be held here next week, local press reports said today, reports AFP.

Defence authorities had information that "terrorist" an official euphemism for the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) — planned a "huge bomb attack" during the November 7-9 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit, reports said.

SAARC groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The Sinhala-Language Lankadeepa newspaper quoted Defence Secretary Cyril Ranatunga as telling an emergency meeting of police officers and civilian volunteers Tuesday that public cooperation was essential to prevent sabotage.

Ranatunga said "terrorists" might smuggle bombs to the capital as they did during two previous attacks on the main military headquarters June 21 and in the March 2 slaying of Junior Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne.

Authorities believe that both those attacks were carried out by the LTTE, although the group denied involvement.

The rebel group was also blamed for the May 21 assassi-

nation of former Indian Prime Manila Rajiv Gandhi.

Sri Lankan authorities have assured the SAARC countries that they will provide adequate security during the summit.

An estimated 10,000 policemen will be on duty during the conference, a police spokesman said, adding that security in the city had already been tightened.

The deluxe hotel where visiting heads of state and government are expected to stay has been closed to the public since Tuesday, more than one week ahead of the conference.

Police have already tightened security in the picturesque central hill town of Kandy, where visiting leaders will spend a half-day retreat November 8 before returning here by helicopter for bilateral talks.

Foreign Secretary Bernard Tilakaratna told reporters here that all SAARC leaders had confirmed their participation. But diplomatic sources said the duration of Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao stay was still unclear.

Indian press reports have quoted officials as saying Rao had been advised to cut short his stay because of security considerations. Gandhi was killed by a woman suicide bomber in southern India, where the LTTE is known to have bases.

Off the Record

British doctors treating world's tallest man

LONDON: A man from Bangladesh, reported to be the tallest man in the world, is being treated in St Bartholomew's hospital in London for treatment to stop him growing.

Partmal Chandra Barman, aged 27, is said to be 8ft 6in tall, which would make him comfortably larger than the existing champion, Hajji Mohammed Alan Channa from Pakistan, who claims to be 8ft 2 1/2 in but who is credited by the Guinness Book of Records with a more modest 7ft 8in.

Neither the hospital nor the doctor treating him, Professor John Wass of the department of endocrinology, would comment on Mr Barman's case. Professor Wass said that tests were being carried out and that it would be inappropriate to say any more until the results were known.

Mr Barman, from Dhaka, grew normally until the age of nine when he began a sustained growth spurt. He is still growing but is said to be weak. Doctors believe that he is suffering from a tumor on the pituitary gland, often a cause of gigantism.

The gland, which lies at the base of the brain, is a tiny organ weighing only about half a gram which is responsible for control of the endocrine system. Among the hormones it produces is growth hormone, which controls the growth and ultimate size of the individual. When it fails to function the result is restricted growth, which can be corrected by injections of growth hormone.

Less commonly, it goes into overdrive to produce giants measuring seven feet or more.

One case can be a tumor in the part of the gland responsible for producing growth hormone. If that happens during adolescence, the result is a giant; if it happens after growth has ceased, in adult life, then the additional growth is concentrated in the nose, lips, tongue, lower jaw, hands and feet, in a condition known as acromegaly.

Pituitary giants may also suffer from this condition of the eight men condition. Of the eight men listed by Guinness who are attested to have exceeded 8ft in height, seven also suffered from acromegaly. The normal treatment is removal or x-ray therapy of the tumor, combined with drugs to reduce the growth hormone levels in the body. In the past two years, two of the eight footers have died comparatively young Gabriel Monjane, "the Mozambique giant," died in January 1990 aged 47, after a fall, and Sulaiman Nashbush, a Libyan who just topped the eight foot mark, died of a heart attack at the age of 48 last February. The greatest of them in Illinois in 1916, had reached 8ft 11in and was still growing when he died at the age of only 22.

Perhaps the unluckiest man of all was Adam Rainer of Graz, Austria, who started life as a dwarf, measuring only 3ft at the age of 21. He then started growing at a prodigious rate and by the age of 40 was more than 7ft tall. At his death in 1950, at the age of 51, he was 7ft 8in.

The tallest woman of all time was Zeng Jinlian, of central China, who was 8ft 1 3/4 in when she died in 1982. Britain's tallest man is Chris Greener, aged 47, of Hayes, Kent, who stands 7ft 6 1/4 in and weighs 26 stone.

'I hope, she will smile'

BEIJING: Swimsuit-clad Chinese women posed, turned and strutted down the catwalk here late Tuesday in a state-sponsored search for the country's best fashion model, reports AFP.

The title went to basketball player-turned-model Chen Juanhou, a cool, Litten 22-year-old who works in China's most open area, the Shenzhen special economic zone across the border from Hong Kong.

"I didn't think I would win, but I do have a lot of self-confidence," the daughter of machine shop worker said calmly after receiving her crown from Vice Premier Tian Zengpei.

Chen, who hails from rural Zhejiang province, will go to Los Angeles in July to compete in the Ford Supermodel of the World contest, which will pit her against women from some 40 other countries.

"She's great, She's the girl I wanted," contest judge and leading American model handler Eileen Ford Beamed after the contest. But, she added, "I wish that girl would smile."

The emotionless faces of nearly all 10 finalists were perhaps the last remnant of a communist fashion sense that dictated Mao suits as the national uniform during the great proletarian Cultural Revolution (1966-1976).



Greener, Britain's tallest, who at 47 stands 7ft 6 1/4 in

BRIEFLY

Bandits kidnap 15 in Sind: Bandits kidnaped 15 people in southern Pakistan after ambushing a bus, police said Tuesday, reports Reuter.

They ambushed the bus near the town of Sehwan in Sind province on Monday, police said.

They said another gang attacked the Sind village of Malook Kahoro and kidnaped two people.

Kidnapping for ransom is common in bandit-infested areas of rural Sind. Police say they have killed more than 400 of the bandits, known as dacoits, since last November.

Indian SC upholds execution: India's Supreme Court upheld capital punishment Tuesday and ruled its carrying out by hanging to be valid, dismissing a petition that called it barbaric, reports AFP from New Delhi.

A five-judge bench ruled that capital punishment did not violate the right to life and liberty guaranteed by the constitution, and said it could not be abolished in view of the deteriorating law and order situation in India.

The judges dismissed a writ petition filed by the wife of a condemned prisoner now in a Kashmir prison and revoked their October 25 order staying his execution by hanging.

Two Yeltsin opponents resign: Two Russian lawmakers opposed to Russian President Boris N Yeltsin resigned Tuesday from the republic's legislature after Yeltsin asked for more powers to lead Russia out of its economic quagmire, Tass reported, says AP from Moscow.

The official Soviet news agency gave no reason for the resignations of Boris Isayev and Svetlana Goryacheva. Both resigned positions as deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet but did not leave the larger Russian Congress of People's Deputies.

The Congress, the public's highest legislative authority, elects members of the Russian Supreme Soviet.

\$24 m EC grant for Dhaka: The European Community (EC) is to spend 24 million dollars on contraceptives for Bangladesh, the EC's executive commission said in Brussels Tuesday, reports AFP.

It said the grant was part of an international 600-million-dollar programme to improve family planning and health care for mothers and babies, over five years in Bangladesh.

The money will be used to fund stocking and distribution of contraceptives, with the eventual aim of increasing the rate of use of contraceptives from 33 to 50 per cent, the commission said.

It also allocated another 22.5 million dollars for family health projects, and 13 million dollars to begin building cyclone shelters attached to primary schools in an area of Bangladesh where cyclones are frequent.

UN envoy meets Najibullah: A senior United Nations envoy met Afghan President Najibullah on Tuesday soon after arrival for talks aimed at finding a solution to the 13-year-old Afghan civil war, reports Reuter from Kabul.

Kabul radio said Najibullah reaffirmed support for a five-point UN peace plan in his meeting with Benon Sevan, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's personal representative on Afghanistan.

The envoy also met Afghan Prime Minister Fazal Haq Khalikyar, the broadcast said.

No further details of the talks were immediately available.

The UN peace plan envisages a ceasefire and an interim administration leading to elections.



RAMSANEHI (India): Former Indian Prime Minister VP Singh is seated with supporters outside a police station, after being arrested while he was proceeding to Ayodhya to stage anti-communal dharna. —AFP/UNB photo



MADRID: US President George Bush shakes hands with his Soviet counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev after their joint press conference. —AFP/UNB photo

I'm still in charge at home: Gorbachev

MADRID, Oct 30: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev asserted here Tuesday that he was still in charge back, reports AFP.

He was speaking after his first meeting with US President George Bush since the hardline Kremlin coup.

Gorbachev made his remarks at a joint news conference after two hours of talks at the Soviet embassy on the eve of the Madrid-Middle East peace conference.

Both leaders stressed that they would encourage efforts but would not impose a Middle East settlement when Israel sits down with its Arab neighbours and the Palestinians on Wednesday.

Bush and Gorbachev also announced that they would

continue discussing details of their respective arms control proposals on nuclear weapons. Bush notably said that both proposals were "close".

The US President said that he wanted to help reform in the president.

"Nobody is taking my job," he said.

Bush took pains to stress that he would "continue to negotiate with president Gorbachev," although

creasingly flexing his muscles since his June election in a direct vote and since he successfully defied the coup plotters from the Russian Parliament.

On the peace conference, Gorbachev said the superpowers should help "as much as possible."

Bush thanked Gorbachev for the "very constructive role the Soviet Union has played" ahead of the historic forum.

But the two sponsors of the conference gave slightly different interpretations of their role once the Arab-Israeli negotiations open.

"We're not here to impose a solution. We are here to be a catalyst," said Bush, declining to answer questions on how the superpowers could help narrow differences between Israel and the Arabs.

Washington had "many contacts" with the republics.

He noted that Gorbachev was "in no way altered" by the "tragic coup attempt," and said he was happy to see his "old friend" again.

The Bush administration has doubts that Gorbachev continues to wield real power since the coup, with Russian President Boris Yeltsin in-

its own laws, they are tied to a unified policy, currency and armed forces.

The federal cabinet is drawn proportionately from the seven emirates, with Abu Dhabi and Dubai given the biggest share and the most important portfolios.

Sheikh Zayed, 68, has been president of the UAE since the federation was established in 1971 and the ruler since 1966 of the largest Emirate, Abu Dhabi.

He is also the biggest shareholder in the disgraced Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), which was shut by Britain and other countries in July for alleged massive fraud.

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the Soviet Union, but stressed that he and the Soviet leader had not agreed on a specific amount of US aid for the crumbling Soviet economy, and that further discussion was needed.

Gorbachev, making his first visit outside the country since the August 19 coup during which he lost power for three days, stressed that he was "still

the president."

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Sheikh Zayed seeks to amend UAE constitution

ABU DHABI, Oct 30: The UAE's supreme council, which Monday re-elected President Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahyan to another five-year term, has also appointed a commission to look into amending the constitution, officials said Tuesday, reports AFP.

The council, the highest decision-making body in the United Arab Emirates, also extended the interim constitution at a meeting of the governors of the seven emirates — Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al-Khaima, Fujaira, Oum Al-Qouain and Ajman.

An official source quoted by the state-run Wam news agency said Finance and Industry Minister Sheikh

Hamdan Ibn Rashid Al-Maktoum was named at the head of a high-level commission to "consider modification of the constitution."

"This indicates a tendency for turning the constitution into a permanent one," an official source said.

The UAE has been run by an interim constitution since it was set up in 1972, one year after the end of British rule.

There have been calls for drafting a permanent constitution to consolidate the federation, a unique experiment in the off-split Arab world, where several similar mergers have collapsed.

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2 Asians arrested in France

SARREGUEMINES (FRANCE) Oct 30: Two Asians who tried to smuggle 12 illegal Chinese immigrants into France were sentenced to 10 months in jail, judicial sources in this eastern French town said Tuesday, reports AFP.

Kim Keo Kao, a Cambodian refugee, and Weibin Chen, from China, both living in the Paris area, were arrested Friday night at Grosbliederstroff on the Franco-German border as they sought to smuggle over the 12 Chinese.

The illegal immigrants, who were sent back to Germany, were believed to have been headed for clandestine garment sweatshops operating in the Asian quarters of Paris.

Mass graves discovered in Iraq

CAIRO, Oct 30: Iraq said yesterday it discovered bodies of 44 soldiers who were buried alive by American forces during the Gulf war, reports Xinhua.

The Iraqi news agency said the bodies were found in two mass graves in an area where American forces crossed the Saudi-Iraqi border in the last stage of the war in February.

The report quoted a pathologist as saying the cause of death was suffocation.

Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussain sent a letter to the Arab League Secretary-General, Esmat Abdul-Meguid, to inform him of this ugly crime by the American forces, the report said.

The letter also demanded a UN investigation.

Kennedy trial to lay bare private lives of famous American family

WASHINGTON, Oct 30: The rape trial of William Kennedy Smith resigns today with the selection of jury to pass judgement on a scandal that promises to lay bare the private and public lives of America's most famous political family, reports AFP.

A 31-year-old medical school graduate, Smith is accused of having raped a 29-year-old single mother on March 30 at the luxurious Kennedy family estate in Palm Beach, Florida.

Smith has acknowledged having a sexual relation with the woman, but has pleaded not guilty to the charge of rape.

Also implicitly on trial in the case, though not accused, is Smith's famous uncle,

Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy and Patriarch of the Kennedy clan, who was at the mansion on the night the rape is alleged to have occurred.

His detractors accuse the senator of having testified in a belated and contradictory manner during the initial investigation by local police. He testified August 30 behind closed doors.

More recently, Kennedy took part in the recent senate confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, who was accused of sexual harassment by a former employee, law Professor Anita Hill.

His adversaries did not miss the chance to recall Kennedy's problems with Alcohol, his reputation for

womanizing, and a mysterious automobile accident in 1969 at Chappaquiddick, Massachusetts that claimed the life of a young woman. So great has been the impact that he chose the 25th anniversary of the Harvard School of Government, named after his slain brother, President John F. Kennedy, to acknowledge "faults in the conduct of my private life."

"I alone am responsible for them," he said during a surprising and eloquent speech.

For its part, west Palm Beach has taken on the appearance of a city under siege in anticipation of a new public outpouring over the question of "A woman's word against a man's word," in the words of one legal scholar cited by USA Today. The daily reported that the woman already has received offers of up to 500,000 dollars to tell her story.

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Kennedy Smith

Imelda shoes 10,000 US dollars a pair

MANILA: Imelda Marcos said Tuesday she has authorized an auction of some of her 1,200-pair shoe collection to benefit victims of the Mount Pinatubo volcano, reports AP.

In previous auctions, she said, her shoes have fetched as much as 10,000 dollars a pair.

"Frankly, Cory has been getting much money displaying my shoes," Mrs. Marcos said in a radio interview from New York, referring to President Corazon Aquino by her nickname.

The widow of former President Ferdinand Marcos left behind the shoes and other possessions — including a bullet-proof bra — when the couple fled the 1986 "people power revolution" that propelled Mrs. Aquino into office.

Mrs. Marcos shoes — sizes 8 and 8 1/2 — are on display at the Malacanang presidential palace as a monument to the excesses of the 20-year Marcos reign. Government officials have said the items will be returned if Mrs. Marcos asks for them.

"I've very few pairs left because most have been given to charities for auctioning, sometimes at 10,000 dollars a pair," Mrs. Marcos said.

The former first lady plans to return to the Philippines next week after nearly six years in exile in the United States. She said she will return Monday aboard a chartered jet unless the Aquino government refuses landing rights.

If so, Mrs. Marcos and her entourage will take a commercial flight from Honolulu.

'Phone the S. Korean President'

SEOUL, (South Korea): The president's phone numbers, unlisted since the 1940s for security reasons, will become public Friday when two of them become citizen hotlines, reports AP.

The two lines will be opened to "eliminate remnants of the past authoritarian practices and to improve service to the public," a statement from President Roh Tae-woo's office said Tuesday.

Aides said the numbers — 730-5800 or 737-5800 — can be used for filing complaints, asking for information and identifying possible swindlers who claim to work at the Blue House, the presidential mansion.

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