

## Bush's Asia-Pacific trip brings new wind of cold war: DPRK

TOKYO, Jan 8: North Korea alleged Wednesday that US President George Bush's Asia-Pacific tour is aimed at creating a "three-way military alliance" against it, reports AFP.

Rodong Simmun, the newspaper of Pyongyang's ruling Workers Party, said Bush's four-nation tour was "bringing a new wind of the cold war and increasing the danger of war."

The attack came after South

Korea called off joint military exercises with the United States and North Korea pledged to sign an agreement later this month to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Rodong Simmun said Bush had reaffirmed security commitments to South Korea when he visited Seoul earlier this week.

It added that Bush was seeking to "make haste with the formation of the UN-Japan-South Korea three-way military alliance and moves toward military confrontation against our republic."

The commentary, carried by the Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo, accused the United States of intending to "create a dispute on the Korean peninsula and lead it to another war according to their strategy of settlement of regional disputes."

## Janata Dal demands Suu Kyi's release

NEW DELHI, Jan 8: About 50 people demonstrated here Wednesday to demand that Burma's military government release Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, reports AP.

## BRIEFLY

### Mandela to fight black domination:

African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela vowed Tuesday to fight black domination in a new government, saying it would be no better than the current system of white-minority rule, reports AP from Johannesburg.

In an interview with Cable News Network, Mandela said the next government must be based on democratic rule, in which the political party winning the most votes in a popular election leads the country.

"That will be majority rule in the accepted sense of democratic rule throughout the world," said Mandela, whose ANC is expected to play a leading role in the next government.

"Black-majority rule would mean a form of racialism," he said. "It would merely be a reversal of the present position, and we have no intention whatsoever to do that."

Whites are outnumbered 6-1 by blacks, and some fear President F W de Klerk's dismantling of apartheid will result in their subjugation under black rule. Mandela has tried to allay that fear as the ANC seeks to broaden its support among whites.

The ANC is the country's main black opposition group and most of its members are black, but it also includes whites, Indians, and people of mixed-race.

Last month, Mandela said he would not oppose guaranteeing whites a bloc of seats in Parliament as a way of reassuring them.

### UN supplies food to Kurds:

US army helicopters have flown nearly 12 tonnes of food and other supplies to Kurds in northern Iraq in an emergency airlift prompted by heavy snows, the Defence Department said on Tuesday, reports Reuters from Washington.

Pentagon spokesman Pete Williams said the airlift by UH-1 transport helicopters based in Turkey had begun on Friday and was continuing this week until roads could be cleared for UN humanitarian teams aiding Kurds in Iraq.

They have moved 5.1 tonnes of flour, 4.1 tonnes of rice, 2.1 tonnes of cooking oil, and three-quarters of a tonne of other food, Williams told reporters.

"There has been an unusually heavy snowfall in northern Iraq during the last few days, and so the military has provided some important airlift support to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees because the snows have made the roads impassable," he said.

### Palestinian shot dead in Gaza:

Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian and wounded 20 in Gaza on Tuesday in a clash with hundreds of youngsters protesting at Israel's decision to expel 12 Palestinian activists, Palestinian sources said, reports Reuters from Jerusalem.

When the crowd started hurling stones at them, Israeli soldiers and police opened fire, hitting and killing Ahmed Abdel Rahman Sheikh, the sources said.

Sheikh, 43, was trying to help youngsters under fire, they added. Israeli security sources earlier gave Sheikh's age as 23.

Two Israeli paramilitary police were injured by stones, the Israeli sources added.

### Plea for press freedom in Kuwait:

Eleven months after Iraqi troops were driven out of their country, journalists here have urged Kuwaiti authorities to drop press censorship in exchange for a self-imposed code of conduct, reports AFP from Kuwait.

The journalists made the offer during a meeting Sunday with Prime Minister Saad Al-Abdallah Al-Sabah, newspapers reported were Tuesday, adding that he promised a response soon.

Sheikh Saad, who is also Crown Prince, told a delegation of journalists led by the president of their association, Yusef Al-Olayan, that censorship was necessary because of "the exceptional circumstances" prevailing in the Emirate.

He urged the press to work toward "maintaining national unity to prevent further external aggressions" against Kuwait.

The code of conduct suggested by the journalists stresses the importance of "not interfering in the internal affairs of foreign states" ... "avoiding rumors" and "exercising the profession within the framework of the law."

Press censorship was initially introduced following the dissolution of parliament in 1986, affecting Kuwait's nine newspapers and half a dozen weeklies.

The Kuwaiti opposition has been pressing for an end to the measures before parliamentary elections that are expected to take place in October.

### Ghali to visit Paris, London:

Boutros Ghali leaves for Paris and London later this week on his first overseas visit since he took over as UN Secretary-General last week, his spokesman said Tuesday, reports AFP from New York.

Spokesman Francois Giulianti said Boutros-Ghali would leave for working visits to Paris from Friday then to London Monday before returning here next Tuesday.

France played a key role within the UN Security Council in ensuring Boutros-Ghali's election while Britain holds the council's rotating presidency this month.

British Prime Minister John Major recently proposed a summit meeting of leaders of the Security Council, with the participation of Russian President Boris, to discuss the threat of nuclear proliferation worldwide.

Giulianti also said the new UN Chief would attend the signing of the Salvadoran peace accords in Mexico City January 16.

### UN official to visit Thailand:

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees will leave for Thailand and Cambodia on Sunday to look at preparations for the repatriation of Cambodian refugees, reports Reuters from Geneva.

Sakako Ogata will spend eight days on a fact-finding trip starting on Sunday, her office announced on Tuesday.

The UNHCR said in a statement Ogata would travel to the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh for discussions with Prince Norodom Sihanouk and other members of the new Supreme National Council.

The talks will focus on the obstacles facing repatriation — especially the hundred of thousands of landmines which limit the availability of farming land for returnees. Some 350,000 Cambodians fled their country during 13 years of civil war.

## JKLF to march across ceasefire line

SRINAGAR, (India), Jan 8: A Kashmiri rebel leader said on Tuesday he would lead a march of his supporters across the ceasefire line that divides Kashmir between India and Pakistan, and he asked for UN protection, reports Reuters.

Amanullah Khan, Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), faxed a letter to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali, saying he would lead a march on February 11 across the heavily fortified line of actual control

dividing Kashmir. anti-India campaign flared into open revolt two years ago.

Khan, who lives in the Pakistani city of Rawalpindi, said in the letter that thousands of marchers would cross into Indian-ruled Kashmir but would be "peaceful and unarmed," the JKLF statement reported.

It said the marchers will "express their solidarity with their savaged countrymen" in Jammu and Kashmir, India

only Muslim-majority state.

He also asked the UN military observer group for India and Pakistan, which is charged with supervising the ceasefire line, to help protect the marchers, said a JKLF statement issued in Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-ruled Kashmir.

The JKLF is one of the main rebel groups battling Indian Security Forces in Kashmir, where more than 5,500 people have been killed since the



WASHINGTON: US Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney (L) meets Pak army Chief General Asif Nawaz in the secretary's office at the Pentagon —AFP/UNB photo

## Opposition wants to put Gamsakhurdia on trial

TBILISI, Georgia, Jan 8: Less than a year after Zviad Gamsakhurdia won Georgia's first presidential election, the opposition wants to put him on trial, reports AP.

Complaints against Gamsakhurdia turned first into protests and, by late December, into violence. After a 15-day rebel siege of the parliament building, where he had taken shelter, Gamsakhurdia fled to an Armenian border town.

Only a day earlier, in an interview with The Associated Press in a bunker, Gamsakhurdia had been defiant, boasting the opposition would be unable to dislodge him.

Gamsakhurdia grew increasingly embittered shortly after his election, blaming his troubles on "enemies" of Georgia.

He lashed out, in particular, at ex-Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, also a Georgian, and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He accused the Kremlin of waging a campaign against him.

He could muster rallies of thousands of supporters chanting his name. But there often would be a nearby counter-rally shouting the name of Nicolae Ceausescu, comparing Gamsakhurdia to the deposed — and executed — Romanian dictator.

The 52-year-old Gamsakhurdia's erudition in impressive—he speaks five languages

and has translated the works of Shakespeare into Georgian.

In 1978, he was convicted of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda. After his release, Gamsakhurdia joined with other forces demanding independence for Georgia's 5.4 million people. He was arrested in connection with the 1989 independence rally in Tbilisi that was brutally dispersed by



troops, killing 19 people.

Gamsakhurdia's party, Round Table-Free Georgia, won control of parliament in October 1990 and he was elected chairman. When 99 percent of the electorate voted to separate from the Soviet

Union two months later, he was a hero of the nation.

He was chosen acting president in April and persuaded lawmakers to give him vast powers to declare war, dissolve parliament, grant or revoke citizenship and rule by decree.

In the presidential election, Gamsakhurdia won 85 percent of the vote. But there was a prediction from his main opponent, Vakhtang Adzharia, who said Gamsakhurdia would crack down on "all of us who were against him."

Power "has gone to his head," said former Foreign Minister Georgy Khostaria, who resigned August 15. Prime Minister Tengiz Sigua quit a day later.

At a September protest rally, Gamsakhurdia's Interior Ministry troops opened fire, wounding five people. The president said he regretted the spilled blood, but blamed enemies.

Since then, he closed newspapers, blacked out Soviet and Russian television, jailed opponents and bused to Tbilisi thousands of people to cheer him.

In September, Gamsakhurdia urged backers to help him "liquidate" those who oppose him.

## Italy recalls envoy to Y'slavia

ROME, Jan 8: Italy recalled its ambassador to Yugoslavia on Tuesday after four Italians serving as European Community monitors were killed in the shooting down of an EC helicopter by a Yugoslav air force plane, reports AFP.

In a statement, the Italian government said Ambassador Sergio Vento had been recalled from Belgrade for consultations following this "tragic and inexcusable event."

The Yugoslav Defense Ministry acknowledged late Tuesday that one of its aircraft had shot down the EC helicopter over Croatia. Four Italians and a Frenchman were killed.

In a statement, Italian Foreign Minister Gianni De Michelis described the attack as "criminal" and said it may have been "a premeditated act of sabotage" of the peace process in Yugoslavia.

## Pak Army chief meets Dick Cheney

WASHINGTON, Jan 8: Pakistan Army Chief General Asif Nawaz met here Tuesday with US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney as he continued a week-long visit to the United States, a Pentagon spokesman said, reports AFP.

General Nawaz arrived in the US capital Saturday and has held a series of talks with Pentagon officials on bilateral relations and South Asia regional issues, Lieutenant-colonel Stuart Wagner said.

The Pakistan army chief on Wednesday will go on to visit the National Security Council and the 24th Infantry Division at Fort Steward, Georgia, and the US Central Command headquarters at Tampa, Florida, the spokesman added.

Press reports from Islamabad said that before coming to Washington, the generals topped over in Rome where he met with exiled former Afghan King Zaher Shah.

## ADB official stabbed to death in Manila

MANILA, Jan 8: A senior official of the Asian Development Bank was fatally stabbed by a security guard at ADB headquarters here, police and witnesses said today, reports AFP.

Robert Bares, 46, an American who was the ADB's Assistant General Counsel, was attacked in the bank's basement car park Tuesday and succumbed to his wounds in hospital.

The guard, suspected to be Fernando Macalindong, fled the scene and was being sought, police said.

Police investigator Captain Fernando Dumput said the motive was apparently personal, describing the suspect, on detail at the ADB from a private security firm, as a chronic money borrower from foreigners at the bank.

"It is possible that he tried to borrow from the American but he did not lend him money," Capt. Dumput said. "Or there might have been a previous quarrel between the two."

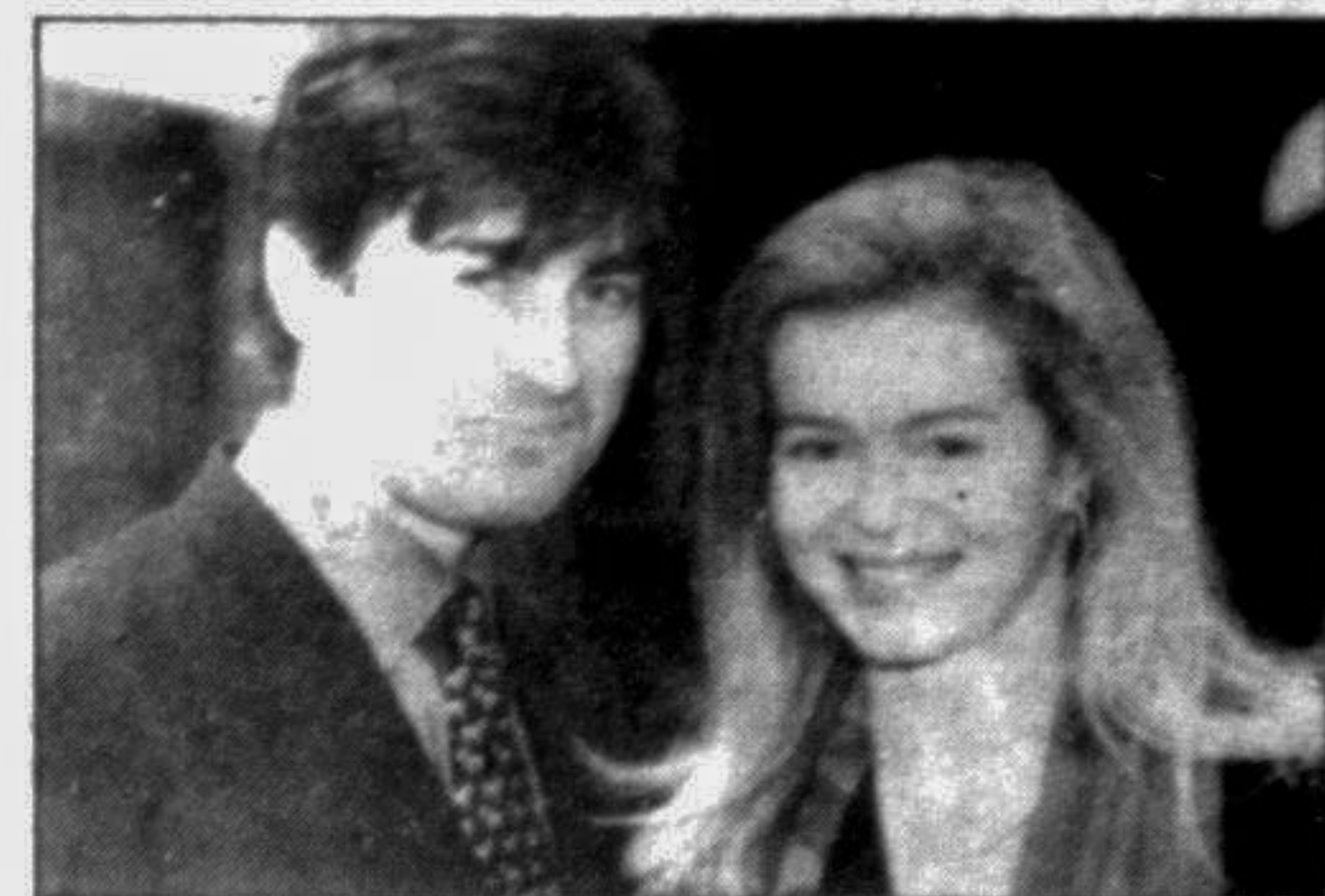
## Tripura tribals call highway bandh

AGARTALA, Jan 8: The All Tripura Tribal Force (ATTF) has called for a 12-day national highway bandh, from January 20 to show their loss of faith in all the political parties of the country, reports PTI.

A letter, signed by its Secretary General Bholanada Debbarma and circulated to the media Tuesday accused the Indian governments, "since independence" of having exploited the tribals.

The letter further said that though they were not against the Indian Constitution, they were determined to see their demands fulfilled.

## Off the Record



LONDON: Lady Helen Windsor (27), cousin of the Queen and daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Kent, Tim Taylor (L) announce their engagement at York House, St James Palace —AFP/UNB photo

## Vietnamese dogs go to the dogs!

HANOI: Only a fool of a dog would give way to temptation and bark at the moon over Vietnam's lunar new year. If it did it could well end up as dog meat, reports Reuters.

There are restaurants all over Vietnam selling the stuff, and in the north, various dog dishes are particularly popular in the cool winter days around TET, the traditional new year festival which starts at the end of January or early February.

Boiled dog, steamed dog, fried dog, dog sausages, dog soup, sweet and sour dog liver and fried dog brain are the seven dishes Nguyen Van Lot offers with beer and vodka at his restaurant in Hanoi's Hang Phien street.

"It's a special Vietnamese tradition. Most Vietnamese eat dogs," he said, insisting it was they who taught their Chinese neighbours the merits of serving up Fido.

People in Hanoi say dog meat, or "thit cay" as it is commonly known, gives strength.

It's not surprising then that, unlike in the rest of southeast Asia, stray dogs are an extremely rare sight on city streets.

## Their trouble began with Columbus' discovery

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico: Twenty-two unhappy sailors aboard replicas of Christopher Columbus' Spanish Galleons jumped ship on Tuesday to protest against what one described as "human relations" problems, reports Reuters.

The Spaniards stayed ashore when their ships—500th anniversary replicas of the Nina, Pinta and Santa maria—sailed out of Puerto Rico's port of Mayaguez for the nearby port of Cabo Rojo, said Javier Saez, one of the group.

The 24-year-old crewman of the Santa Maria said the group decided to stay behind after making a series of complaints involving "human relations". He declined to elaborate.

About 100 demonstrators burned a Spanish flag on December 20 to protest against the arrival of ships in San Juan, waving placards and banners decorated with skulls.

Many of the planned event marking the anniversary have been criticised by human rights activists who charge Columbus enslaved native peoples and plundered their valuables.

The three ships set sail from Cadiz, Spain, 35 days ago. Their voyage is scheduled to last about one more month and end at a port on the US east coast where they will be sold.

## Aussies don't want Silicone breasts

CANBERRA: The government on Tuesday followed up a US moratorium on silicone breast implants by ordering several brands taken off the Australian market because their makers cannot prove they are safe, reports AP.

The US Food and Drug Administration has asked surgeons to stop using the implants temporarily while its studies evidence linking silicone implants with cancer and chronic inflammatory disease.

Health Minister Brian Howe said Australian health officials are urgently seeking information from the FDA about the moratorium.

The government ordered manufacturers in July to submit information on their products' quality, Howe said. He said implants made by manufacturers that did not submit information were being ordered off the market.

He did not say which brands of implants would be withdrawn.

Howe said he was concerned the FDA action may cause alarm for Australian women with implants, and stressed that neither the US moratorium nor Australian inquiries affected saline-filled implants.

The FDA said in Washington it had received about 2,500 reports of illnesses or injuries associated with some implants. It will decide within 45 days whether to allow their continued use.

It said one million American women had received gel implants, with 150,000 implanted annually.

## Canada protests expulsion of parliamentary team

OTTAWA, Jan 8: Canada strongly protested against the expulsion of three members of parliament by Chinese police on Tuesday and said the "affront" shows China was not improving its human rights record, reports Reuters.

Senior external affairs department officials called in Chinese ambassador Wen Yezhan to protest against the expulsion and seek an explanation, a spokesman said.

"I am particularly offended at this affront to the institution of parliament and the treatment of democratically elected

representatives of the Canadian people," External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall said.

## US to host 60-nation confce

WASHINGTON, Jan 8: The United States said on Tuesday it would host a major conference of up to 60 nations and international organisations January 22 and 23 to coordinate aid for republics of the former Soviet Union, reports Reuters.

## Security Council condemns downing of EC copter

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 8: The UN Security Council has condemned the downing of a European Community helicopter by the Yugoslav military, but still plans to send a military observer mission to the war-scarred nation, reports AP.

Council President David Hannay, the British ambassador, said the advance team of 50 liaison officers will be in Yugoslavia by January 15.

He said the council will meet Wednesday to formally approve deployment of the observers to promote the Yugoslav cease-fire between Croats and Serbs allied with federal army forces. A full peacekeeping force of up to 10,000 soldiers is envisioned, but won't be deployed unless

the cease-fire holding. Hannay, who heads the council in January, spoke after Tuesday's session.

"We have reached agreement on council approval of the secretary-general's proposal to deploy a 50-member military liaison group in Yugoslavia and a formal decision will be adopted tomorrow," Hannay said.

Earlier Tuesday, French Ambassador Jean-Bernard Marimée said of the helicopter incident, "this is a tragedy, but we don't want to jeopardize the sending of UN observers to the area."

The council convened to hear Hannay read a statement condemning the attack on two helicopters by the federal plane. One helicopter was shot



ZAGREB: The remains of European Community helicopter in which five EC observers were killed when Federal jet shot it down Jan 8 —AFP/UNB photo

down and all five men aboard were killed. The other craft was not hit and landed safely.

The members of the council condemned this callous attack on unarmed civilian personnel," said the statement, approved by consensus.

Hannay noted the Yugoslav authorities had accepted responsibility "for this flagrant breach of the cease-fire" and promised disciplinary action.

The council asked Yugoslav authorities to ensure that such attacks do not occur again and insisted on punishment. It asked all Yugoslav parties to cooperate with peacekeeping efforts.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said in a written statement: "This tragic incident vividly demonstrates the need

to redouble the efforts under way to bring peace back to Yugoslavia."

The breakdown by nationality of the 50-member force was not announced, but it was to be drawn from existing peacekeeping operations.

Meanwhile Reuters, from Brussels reports: European Community governments called for an urgent investigation into the death of five EC monitors on Tuesday when their helicopter was shot down by a Yugoslav armed forces jet.

"The European Community and its member states are appalled and dismayed with the tragic events that occurred today," a statement released by the executive European Commission said.