

Sharif's announcement has not surprised me: Rao

NEW DELHI, Feb 4: The Prime Minister, PV Narasimha Rao, today said, India would have to draw its own conclusions from the "discordant notes" struck by his Pakistani counterpart within hours of their meeting in Switzerland by giving a strike call in his country to express solidarity with the people of Kashmir, reports PTI.

Saying that Nawaz Sharif's announcement did not surprise him, Rao said, even the discordant notes have their relevance and one has to draw conclusions.

Replying to wide ranging questions at Delhi Airport on his return after a week long visit to the United Nations and Davos, the Prime Minister said a set-back in the Indo-Pakistan relations was not something new.

Refraining from making any direct comment on the Pakistan High Commissioner, Abdul Sattar's controversial interview, in which he accused India of unleashing terror on the Kashmiri people, Rao said there were people who advocated good bilateral relations and there were also some who acted in a different way.

The Prime Minister suggested that differences persisted among Security Council members mainly on the question of delineating the UN's fu-



ture role, the enlargement of the council membership and the nuclear issue. Rao, who attended the historic Security Council summit in New York on January 31, said these differences were put across loudly and clearly. Asked whether India saw any merit in a proposal for a five nation summit to resolve the nuclear question in South Asia, the Prime Minister said it is inadequate. In an apparent reference to the US and Pakistan, the Prime Minister said those who were advocating the proposal saw merit in it. I have made Indian position on the nuclear issue abundantly clear more than at any time in the past, he said.

Border crossing by JKLF can lead to Indo-Pak conflict

ISLAMABAD, Feb 4: President of Pak-occupied Kashmir Sardar Sikandar Hayat Khan said that an attempt by JKLF activists to cross the line of control into India on February 11 could lead to the outbreak of a conflict between India and Pakistan, reports PTI.

Talking to newsmen here, Khan said that this was not the "appropriate time" to take any such step and that India could resort to any action. He charge the United States with backing New Delhi to create what he called an "Indian hegemony" in the South Asian region to achieve Washington's "ulterior motives."

He also condemned the US policies towards Islamic countries after its emergence as the only superpower in the wake of the fragmentation of the Soviet Union.

Meanwhile, the JKLF claimed that it was giving, "final touches" to preparations to cross the line of control on February 11. In a statement released to the press, the JKLF "chief commander" Javed Ahmad Mir said Kashmiri youths registered themselves to join the march in response to a call by the front Chairman Amanullah Khan.

AFP from New Delhi says: India expressed "deep concern" yesterday over comments made in a newspaper interview on the situation in disputed Kashmir by Pakistan's High Commissioner (ambassador) to Delhi, Abdul Sattar. In the interview Sattar was quoted as saying India was "bugeoning" Kashmiris into submission in the northern state, which is also claimed by Pakistan and where warmed Muslim militants are fighting for self-determination.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that "excerpts" of the interview, given to the pioneer newspaper and published Sunday, were "totally unacceptable" and had "caused us deep concern."

"We find the kind of statements made by the Pakistan High Commissioner on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir totally unacceptable. We are inclined to wonder at the possible motivation... choosing this particular point of time on the eve of the meeting of the prime ministers of the two countries for the airing of such views," the spokesman said.

"We are also somewhat curious as to which body of opinion within Pakistan the Pakistan High Commission has sought to represent," he added in an apparent reference to Islamabad's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence.

The interview was front-paged in the pioneer as Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Indian counterpart PV Narasimha Rao met in Davos, Switzerland, where they have been attending an economic conference.

Both leaders said they would exchange visits in an effort to settle bilateral problems including Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state.

Official sources here told journalists that "since India wants to improve ties with Pakistan," New Delhi was not contemplating any official action against Sattar, a veteran diplomat and former Pakistan Foreign Secretary.

More than 3,600 people, including civilians, have died in fighting between Kashmiri militants and Indian security forces since the campaign for succession intensified in 1990.

More than 200 reporters and camera operators at a news conference in Radio City Music Hall watched Jackson use his black-gloved right hand to sign a sponsorship agreement with Pepsi-Cola, whose soft drinks he promotes.

Asked how much money Jackson would get in the deal, Pepsi's marketing vice president, Peter Kendall, said only, "A lot". Jackson said his only reason for undertaking the lengthy tour was to "spread the message of global love in the hopes that others too will be moved to do their share to help heal the world."

COLOMBO: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed an appeal by a vicar who was sentenced to death for murdering his wife and his lover's husband, reports AP. Rev. Matthew Peiris, 74, was convicted in 1984 for poisoning the two victims. His wife Eunice died in March 1979, six months after the death of Russell Ingram.

Peiris' mistress, Dalrine Ingram, was initially charged for the murders and sentenced to death. But an appeal court overruled her conviction, saying that although the evidence established an amatory relationship between the two defendants, she was "an innocent tool in the hands of Rev. Peiris."

JERUSALEM, Feb 4: Palestinian peace negotiators said on Monday the next round of bilateral talks with Israel was likely to resume in Washington on February 17 or 24, reports Reuter.

"We have been informed that they (the talks) will be delayed a bit because Secretary of State James Baker will not be in the country on the 10th. Two dates have been suggested. We still don't know the final date... either the 17th or the 24th," said Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

An Israeli official said the dates were "not off mark." Arab and Israeli negotiators had been considering resuming the talks on February 10. A US official said Baker would be abroad until the last week of February and it was up to Israelis and Arabs to set the date.

LARNACA, Cyprus, Feb 4: Non-Aligned foreign ministers here yesterday debated a new identity for their movement in the aftermath of the Cold War, with Egypt arguing that Non-Alignment itself was no longer relevant, reports AFP. Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, whose country is the current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), appealed for a more equitable relationship among the large and small nations.

"We seek to contribute to a new world order that is seeking democratization within na-

Off the Record

Only to protect them from male lawyers

DALLAS: The American Bar Association voted on Monday to protect its employees from sexual harassment by the group's predominantly male membership, reports Reuter.

In a unanimous vote, the World's Largest Lawyers' Association also agreed to play a major role in educating the legal profession about the scope and harm of such harassment.

Most of the ABA's 370,000 members are male. This must be a continuing and widespread effort, said Cory Amron, a Washington lawyer who heads the ABA's commission on women in the profession. She said that the ABA must educate lawyers as sexual harassment is most likely to occur within a profession that is predominantly male, only about 20 per cent of attorneys in large law firms are women.

She cited a comprehensive 1990 study conducted by the ABA young lawyer division that showed about 85 per cent of female lawyers had experienced or observed at least one form of sexual harassment during the previous two years.

NEW YORK: Michael Jackson announced Monday that he is hitting the road this summer and aims to gross 100 million dollars by Christmas of 1993 - an 18-month world tour to raise money for his new foundation. Heal the World, reports AP from New York.

The tour will be called the "Dangerous" tour. More than 200 reporters and camera operators at a news conference in Radio City Music Hall watched Jackson use his black-gloved right hand to sign a sponsorship agreement with Pepsi-Cola, whose soft drinks he promotes.

Asked how much money Jackson would get in the deal, Pepsi's marketing vice president, Peter Kendall, said only, "A lot". Jackson said his only reason for undertaking the lengthy tour was to "spread the message of global love in the hopes that others too will be moved to do their share to help heal the world."

COLOMBO: The Supreme Court on Monday dismissed an appeal by a vicar who was sentenced to death for murdering his wife and his lover's husband, reports AP. Rev. Matthew Peiris, 74, was convicted in 1984 for poisoning the two victims. His wife Eunice died in March 1979, six months after the death of Russell Ingram.

Peiris' mistress, Dalrine Ingram, was initially charged for the murders and sentenced to death. But an appeal court overruled her conviction, saying that although the evidence established an amatory relationship between the two defendants, she was "an innocent tool in the hands of Rev. Peiris."

JERUSALEM, Feb 4: Palestinian peace negotiators said on Monday the next round of bilateral talks with Israel was likely to resume in Washington on February 17 or 24, reports Reuter.

"We have been informed that they (the talks) will be delayed a bit because Secretary of State James Baker will not be in the country on the 10th. Two dates have been suggested. We still don't know the final date... either the 17th or the 24th," said Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi.

An Israeli official said the dates were "not off mark." Arab and Israeli negotiators had been considering resuming the talks on February 10. A US official said Baker would be abroad until the last week of February and it was up to Israelis and Arabs to set the date.

LARNACA, Cyprus, Feb 4: Non-Aligned foreign ministers here yesterday debated a new identity for their movement in the aftermath of the Cold War, with Egypt arguing that Non-Alignment itself was no longer relevant, reports AFP.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, whose country is the current chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), appealed for a more equitable relationship among the large and small nations.

"We seek to contribute to a new world order that is seeking democratization within na-

About 1.6 lakh foreigners live in Japan illegally

TOKYO, Feb 4: The number of foreigners living illegally in Japan rose sharply to 159,828 in the year ending last May 1, a Justice Ministry study showed today, reports Reuter.

This was a 50 per cent increase over the first survey taken in 1990, when 106,497 illegal residents were recorded. Most are thought to have jobs in Japan, which suffers from a chronic labour shortage.

A breakdown by country shows that Iranians were responsible for the biggest increase, their numbers rising from 764 to 10,915. The largest number of illegal residents, 27,228, came from the Philippines, followed by South Korea with 25,848 and Thailand, 19,093.

Of the illegal residents 106,518 were men and 53,310 women. Russia will monitor arms export. LONDON, Feb 4: Russia is to set up a body to monitor the export of its arms abroad, Russian Finance Minister Yegor Gaydar said on Monday, reports AFP.

Radio Russia, monitored by the BBC, quoted Gaydar as saying there would be political control over arms exports, with a special body to include government officials from the foreign policy, industry, economics, finance and security departments.

Gaydar acknowledged that the export of arms was "not the best solution" to Russia's economic problems, but nevertheless necessary. "We cannot close our eyes to the fact that selling arms is a normal part of world trade, and we intend to make our materials competitive in this market," the minister was quoted as saying by the independent newspaper.

Peace talks on Nagorno-Karabakh SOON. ISTANBUL, Feb 4: Azerbaijan and Armenia have accepted an invitation to hold peace talks in Moscow soon on the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozzyrev said on Monday, reports Reuter.

"I invited the two ministers to come. As I understand, both of them accepted," he told reporters. Kozzyrev brought Azeri Foreign Minister Hussein Sadikhov and Armenia's acting Foreign Minister Armand Navassardyan together informally during a meeting to set up a black sea Economic Cooperation Pact between Turkey and eight ex-communist states.

Algiers won't ban FIS. ALGIERS, Feb 4: Algeria's new authorities have no intention of banning the Islamic Fundamentalist Movement and will maintain the present Prime Minister in his post, the president of the High State Council (HSC), Mohamed Boudiaf, said Monday, reports Reuter.

The HSC "has absolutely no intention of questioning the recognition of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS)," Boudiaf said in his first televised interview since he returned from exile in Morocco last month to head the council. But he warned, "the FIS is formally forbidden to use the mosques and religion for political ends."

Boudiaf said the FIS would be "perfectly free, if it really seeks Algeria's interests, and if it respects the laws of the country... if it obeys the law, we are ready to listen to it."

Boudiaf urged the FIS "to respect the rules of democracy and avoid using democracy to destroy it." Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali will continue as Algeria's head of government despite the upheavals of the past few weeks, Boudiaf announced.

A government reshuffle was "possible," but the new authorities were "working with Ghazali to draw up a plan of salvation," he said. A reshuffle would be designed "simply to reduce state expenditure." The need, he said, was "to grasp the situation in order to remedy it with the appropriate means."

Abu Nidal had secret deal with France? NEW YORK, Feb 4: A book published on Monday alleges that France may have struck a secret deal with the shadowy Abu Nidal guerrilla group to prevent terrorist attacks on its soil, reports Reuter.

Abu Nidal, a gun for hire by British journalist Patrick Seale also points to numerous circumstantial links between Nidal and Israel's secret service, the Mossad, and wonders whether Israel had benefited from his activities. The book was published by Random House at a time when the French government is under fire for having allowed hard-line Palestinian leader George Habash to receive medical treatment in Paris.

BRIEFLY

12 die in Brazil plane crash: A plane carrying 12 people crashed into a mountain and exploded in northeastern Brazil on Monday, and rescue workers were rushing to reach the plane, the country's largest TV network reported, says AP from Brazil.

TV Globo said the twin-engine Bandeirantes plane, operated by Northeastern Airlines, was carrying ten passengers and two crew members when it crashed near Curitiba, 930 miles (1,500 kilometers) northeast of Rio. Crews were trying to reach the plane, which fell in a remote area, the network said. Globo said there were reports of survivors, although it provided no source for the claim.

Sandstorm kills 4 in Cairo: A sandstorm whipped up by violent winds killed at least four people in northern Egypt on Monday, Reuter reports from Cairo. It closed major roads and cut off electricity in some areas. Three people were killed when the side of a building collapsed on them in the Cairo suburb of Giza, security sources said. A man out walking with his finance died in Cairo Zoo when a tree fell on him.

Al-Ahram newspaper said five people were killed while Al-Akhbar put the death toll at eight. Dozens of injuries were reported. Fierce winds from Russia hit Egypt's Mediterranean coast and then moved inland, churning up desert areas and throwing clouds of sand over cities and towns.

31 Filipinos held in Germany: A group of 31 Filipinos crossed the border from Czechoslovakia to Germany hidden in a semi-trailer, police said on Monday, AFP reports from Germany. The 28 men and three women were arrested around Frankfurt Airport, near where the driver had dropped them off, police said.

All had passports with valid visas for Czechoslovakia, German authorities said. Police said they were being examined at the Frankfurt Airport Clinic and would soon be questioned by officials.

Veiled women banned from driving: Kuwait's Traffic Department has banned veiled women from driving, Reuter reports from Kuwait. "A decision has been taken which bans women who use veils to cover their faces from driving vehicles - those apprehended breaking this law will be subject to penalties," Lieutenant Colonel Ismael Al-Khalidi was quoted as saying on Monday.

Last November Kuwait's faculty of medicine banned Muslim Fundamentalist women from wearing face veils in class, laboratories or on hospital ward rounds.

Lanka celebrates independence: Sri Lanka celebrated its 44th independence day Tuesday with President Ranasinghe Premadasa warning that the country's disunity may invite foreign interference, reports AP from Colombo.

To the extent we are divided and disunited external elements will be able to interfere in our internal affairs," Premadasa said in a televised address. More than 20,000 people have died since 1983 in fighting between the country's two main ethnic groups, the Sinhalese and the Tamils, and from rivalries within each group.

Premadasa said it was tragic to see bloodshed in a country that had gained independence from colonial Britain without shedding a drop of blood. He called on the people to end violence and terror and to forge bonds of brotherhood among the country's different communities.

Abu Nidal had secret deal with France? NEW YORK, Feb 4: A book published on Monday alleges that France may have struck a secret deal with the shadowy Abu Nidal guerrilla group to prevent terrorist attacks on its soil, reports Reuter.

Abu Nidal, a gun for hire by British journalist Patrick Seale also points to numerous circumstantial links between Nidal and Israel's secret service, the Mossad, and wonders whether Israel had benefited from his activities.

The book was published by Random House at a time when the French government is under fire for having allowed hard-line Palestinian leader George Habash to receive medical treatment in Paris.



Nelson Mandela (L) is presented the Felix Houphouet-Boigny award Monday at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris by Kissinger, president of the jury, as South African President Frederik W De Klerk (C) looks on. Mandela and De Klerk were rewarded in recognition of both men's 'decisive contribution' to reconciliation in their country. -AFP photo

US rejects Gaddafi's offer for compromise

WASHINGTON, Feb 4: The United States Monday rejected Libyan leader Colonel Moammar Gaddafi's call for compromise aimed at avoiding United Nations sanctions for refusing to cooperate with probes of two airplane bombings, reports AFP.

In an interview with the Washington Post Gaddafi said his country was a "scapegoat" in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am Airliner which blew up and crashed in Lockerbie, Scotland, and insisted that Libya had agreed to a UN demand for cooperation in investigating the attack.

He told the Post that he thought a "compromise" could be worked out to avoid any UN sanctions against Libya and that he wanted Washington to reopen its embassy in Tripoli. "We don't see any change or anything new or significant in it," said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler of the Libyan leader's offer.

"Gaddafi simply repeats Libya's position which he has taken since indictments were handed down," she said. "The UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 731 on January 21 and Libya must comply fully with the requirements of that resolution," Tutwiler added.

That resolution calls on Libya to fulfill requests from the United States, Britain and France who want to bring to trial Libyan intelligence agents linked to the Lockerbie bombing and the bombing of an airliner of French Airline UTA over Niger in 1989.

He was interviewed Saturday in a tent 300 kilometers (180 miles) from the Libyan capital of Tripoli, the Post said. Gaddafi also said he had "respect" for President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker because they had not personally attacked him and seem to be "serious" over a Middle East peace.

Questions focused on UN demands that Libya cooperate with investigations about the Lockerbie and UTA bombings, which left more than 400 people dead. Two Libyans have been accused by investigators in the Lockerbie bombing and four in the UTA case.

Mujahideen vow to continue war against Najibullah. ISLAMABAD, Feb 4: More than 550 Mujahideen commanders have vowed at a meeting in Afghanistan to continue their Holy War to oust President Najibullah and establish an Islamic government, a statement said Monday, reports AFP.

A statement released in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar said the commanders met in the Afghan province of Pakia from January 27 to February 1 to discuss the political and military situation in Afghanistan. It said the meeting of commanders decided to agree to a UN peace plan for Afghanistan provided it met expectations for the establishment of an Islamic government.

The plan requires clarifications, the statement said. "If the Five-point plan is not against the expectations of our Jihad (Holy War) and national interest and results in the establishment of Islamic government, it will not be opposed," the statement said.

The UN blue print calls for a ceasefire and installation of an interim administration ahead of elections. UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has directed his personal envoy Benon Seiden to intensify consultations with all parties for the convening of an Inter-Afghan Assembly.