

Cambodian factions continue fighting despite peace accord

KOMPONG THOM, Cambodia, Feb 26: Despite a four-month-old peace accord, government troops and guerrillas are still battling to control villages in central Cambodia where there are few UN peacekeepers, reports AP.

During a trip from government to guerrilla zones, an Associated Press reporter viewed villages battered by government artillery attacks. The guerrillas said the strikes have killed scores of civilians and soldiers since the beginning of the year.

"I don't think either the government or the Khmer Rouge intend Kompong Thom loyal to Prince Norodom Ranariddh. The provincial capital of the same name is 140 kilometers (85 miles) north of the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh.

The shelling you hear is fighting for land, so that when

the UN comes they will recognize that land as belonging to them," he said. "Once the UN comes no one will dare to do anything major against the peace agreement."

Under a peace accord signed last October by the Vietnamese-installed government and the three-party guerrilla coalition, the United Nations is to disarm the factions and ensure the peace until elections in 1993.

However, only a small advance UN contingent has arrived.

The UN Security Council is expected this week to vote on UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's \$2 billion plan for a 26,000-member peacekeeping mission in Cambodia—the largest and costliest operation in UN history. The 15,900 UN military personnel would be deployed by the end of May.



WEIMER: Germany Russian soldiers wait in freight yard on February 25 as 100 Russian T-80 tanks prepare to leave from former East German base Weimer to Siberia. All Russian troops are planned to be withdrawn by mid-March. —AFP/UNB Photo

Soviets secretly dumped N-waste into Arctic Ocean

LONDON, Feb 26: Soviet authorities secretly dumped thousands tons of nuclear waste into the Arctic Ocean over a 20-year period, Britain's channel 4 television said Tuesday, reports AFP.

The radio-active waste, which now threatens the Scandinavian coastline, was dumped off the island of Novaya Zemlya, where nuclear tests are also carried out, the Network said in a report from the northern Russian city of Murmansk.

A Russian nuclear expert, Andrey Zolotov, told Channel 4 the waste came from nuclear-powered submarines and ice-breakers based in Murmansk. The Kola peninsula has the world's highest density of nuclear installations, with about 300 reactors, the network said. Zolotov said he had uncovered confidential documents showing that 17,000 containers of radio-active material was dumped at sea between 1964 and 1986.

Off the Record

Be alert husbands, boyfriends

OTTAWA: Women in Canada's capital who feel threatened by their husbands or companions can now call police by pushing a button on a pocket-size alarm, reports Reuter.

Ottawa police spokeswoman Debra McLeod said on Tuesday the alarm is given free to women who have separated from their husbands or boyfriends and are threatened with violence.

The system uses telephone lines to send a signal directly to the police station. It would get the highest priority, McLeod said.

The device will work even if the telephone is yanked loose. But McLeod said, this is nothing to be relied 100 per cent upon for safety. It's a temporary measure. It can only be used for example when 911 (the general emergency line) is not an option.

In in three, out in one

ROBBINSDALE, Minnesota: Six weeks after the painstaking surgery that reattached his severed arms, 18-year-old John Thompson left a hospital Tuesday and headed home to the North Dakota farm where his harrowing ordeal began, reports AP.

"I came down in three pieces and I'm going home in one," Thompson said with a smile as he prepared to board a helicopter for a three-hour, 320-mile (515-km) flight home.

After a checkup at a hospital in Harvey, North Dakota, Thompson was to travel to the family farm near Hurdsfield. The teen-ager was working alone on the farm Jan 11 when a power implement ripped off his arms below the shoulder. He staggered to the unoccupied house, using his mouth to open doors and punch out a phone call for help with a pencil.

Surgeons at North Memorial Medical Center near Minneapolis reattached his arms, but they're unsure whether he'll ever regain the use of his hands.

Asked what gave him the strength to struggle to the house, Thompson said, "I didn't want to lay there and die." Thompson said the prospect of returning home was "pretty scary."

'Hello! police? I have poisoned my husband'

Rome: An Italian woman poisoned her husband to avenge the death of her dog who was run over by a car two years ago when her husband took him for a walk without a leash, reports AFP.

Giuseppina Negri, 57, phoned police in Monza, Lombardy, after poisoning her husband, the media reported Tuesday. "Hello, police? I have poisoned my husband. I have finally avenged my little Rudy who is dead because of him," she calmly told them.

When police arrived at the Negri apartment, they found the woman prostrated on the floor fondling a photo of her beloved deceased pet.

Her husband, who had consumed six powerful sleeping pills mixed in with his soup, recovered after having his stomach pumped. But Giuseppina, undaunted, stated frankly to police that she intended to do it again.

They took it for joyride

NEW YORK: Some luxury-loving car thieves took the wheels of fortune for a spin early Tuesday, when they went joyriding through lower Manhattan in businessman Donald Trump's black stretch limousine, reports AP.

"No one is immune in New York, or anywhere else, for that matter," Trump said. "I guess they took it for a joyride."

Trump's chauffeur, Barry Mitchell, briefly left the keys in the Cadillac outside a Greenwich Village restaurant to pick up Trump and Marla Maples, said Trump spokeswoman Norman Forrester.

"The chauffeur turned his back and the car was gone," Trump said. The real estate developer and his girlfriend managed to hitch a ride home with their dining companion, singer John Denver, said police spokesman Sgt. Ed Burns.

The car-radio intact — was found abandoned in the Little Italy section.

Iraq got US satellite surveillance before invading Kuwait

WASHINGTON, Feb 26: The United States continued to supply Baghdad with satellite surveillance intelligence on Iranian troop concentrations through June 1990, only weeks before Iraq invaded Kuwait, Cable News Network reported on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The information may have allowed Iraq to concentrate its military efforts on Kuwait, the Network said in a report by its "special assignment" team.

CNN, quoting classified documents and cables, reported that the administration of US President George Bush was told by the Central Intelligence Agency in November 1989 that Iraq was moving quickly to acquire chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Despite the report, CNN said the administration ig-

nored the evidence and chose not to criticize Iraqi policies, even in private.

It said that a State Department cable showed that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz, at an October 6, 1989, meeting with Secretary of State James Baker, complained about protests in Congress over Iraq's use to chemical weapons against the Kurds.

CNN said Baker responded by saying that "the administration continues to look forward, not backward" and did not zero in on Iraq's use of the weapons, but rather talked about worldwide proliferation.

The Network quoted cables as saying Aziz two weeks later was "delighted" with Baker's message that the United States was not trying to destabilize Iraq. He was so delighted that Iraq agreed to pay compensa-

tion for the May 1987 attack on the USS Stark in the Gulf in which 37 sailors died.

An earlier AFP report from New York said: Iraq has proposed setting up working groups to discuss the implementation of UN resolutions relating to its weapons industry, according to a letter made public Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Hussain Al-Khadair sent a letter proposing talks to be held between experts from Baghdad and members of the UN Commission charged with overseeing the destruction of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

"Iraq believes that the best modality for implementing (the resolutions) is to have an expert level dialogue with the special commission to clarify the overall picture of each of the programmes concerned,

said the letter address to UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

Khodair added that Baghdad was ready to cooperate with the commission and that Iraq's industrial capabilities will be devoted to peaceful purposes or to military purposes not prohibited by Security Council Resolution 687.

Resolution 687 was adopted on April 3 last year setting down the conditions of a cease-fire which included the destruction of all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Resolution 707 and 715 call on Iraq to reveal all the information about its nuclear, chemical, biological, and ballistic weapons and for measures to ensure Iraq will no longer produce such weapons.

ME peace talks overshadowed for second day

Bush won't shift policy towards Israel

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb 26: President George Bush said on Tuesday he would not shift US policy towards Israel because of election-year political concerns as congressional critics blasted his stand on 10 billion dollars in loan guarantees, reports Reuter.

Secretary of State James Baker, spelling out strict conditions, said on Monday that Washington would back the loan guarantees only if Israel agreed to freeze all construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The stand came under attack in the Senate on Tuesday as key Senators sought a compromise solution.

Senator Patrick Leahy, a Vermont Democrat and chairman of the senate subcommittee on Foreign Operations, made clear that unless he got administration backing for a compromise, he would refuse to go ahead with a bill

containing aid for the former Soviet Union.

Bush told reporters abroad his presidential plane he did not intend to shift his policy because of "political expediency"

Bush said: "We spelled out our policy. There it is. It's a proper policy. It's been the policy of the US government for a long long time."

Asked if it was politically risky to challenge Israel, Bush replied, "it might be, but I'm not going to shift the foreign policy of this country because of political expediency. I can't



George Bush

do that. I would not have any credibility worldwide."

Baker, appearing before Leahy's subcommittee, said the administration was ready to support the US guarantees that Israel needs to help raise money to absorb an influx of Jews from the former Soviet Union, but only in a way that did not undermine US policy.

The United States has long called Israel's policy of building settlements in territories occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war an obstacle to peace.

Leahy and the panel's senior Republican Robert Kasten, of Wisconsin, said they were seeking an agreement on a compromise that would allow

the guarantees to be provided. Leahy has previously called for a reduction in the amount of the guarantees provided to match Israel's expenditure on settlements — a position that stopped short of a demand for an outright settlement freeze.

He said that unless there was an agreement on a compromise that reflected his position and would not lead to a veto by Bush he would refuse to go ahead with a foreign aid bill for the remainder of the 1992 fiscal year.

His threat put pressure on the administration, which wants to include in the bill 150 million dollars in humanitarian and other aid for the former Soviet Union.

Kasten introduced a bill last year, supported by 73 Senators, that would allow the guarantees to go forward without conditions. He said he was now seeking a middle ground.

Baker's hard line on the guarantees drew expressions of dismay from subcommittee members.

"This administration has made a serious mistake by using a humanitarian program... to further our policy in opposition to settlements," Kasten said.

Peace talks

AFP from Washington adds: Arab-Israeli peace talks resumed here Tuesday overshadowed for a second day by the US decision to link loan guarantees for Israel to a halt in construction of Jewish settlement in the occupied territories.

The Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian delegations held a general meeting at the state Department, which the Arab delegations rebuffed an Israeli request that the talks be moved to a location nearer to the Middle East.

Jordanian and Israeli nego-

Chinese law on territorial waters

BEIJING, Feb 26: China's Parliament has passed its first law on territorial waters and approved a new pact on the borders with the republics of the former Soviet Union, the official People's Daily said today, reports Reuter.

The Standing Committee of the National People's Congress on Tuesday approved the new law on territorial waters, claiming sovereignty over the water, seabed and airspace stretching 12 nautical miles from the coast.

The new law also reiterates China's claim to the spratly islands in the South China sea—the subject of a dispute between several countries in the region — and the Senkaku Islands, which are claimed by Japan.

Avalanches kill 25 in Turkey

Twenty-five persons lost their lives and 13 were injured in a series of avalanches that hit Eastern Anatolia and the South-Eastern province of Sirnak on Tuesday, the Turkish Anatolian news agency reported, AFP says from Ankara.

At least five persons were killed and six injured when an avalanche swept down on the village of Cemalettin, near Ahlat in the Eastern province of Bitlis. Ten remained buried under the snow.

Fourteen persons died and five were injured at Alakoy in Van province. Rescue teams were trying to reach the village where 15 persons were reported missing.

Two avalanches in Sirnak province bordering Iraq claimed six lives and injured two persons.

Around 225 people have died this month in avalanches in East and Southeast Anatolia where heavy snow and poor weather conditions have continued for over a month, blocking roads.

Rocket hits Athens police van: An anti-tank rocket slammed into a parked police van early Wednesday morning, injuring 18 riot squad officers, police said, AP reports from Athens.

The rocket was fired at the van at 6:40 a.m. (0440 GMT) while it was parked near a subway station in the Thessalon district of Athens. The subway station is located near the ancient Acropolis.

Police said about 20 members of the riot squad were inside the van when it was struck by the rocket at daybreak. They said 18 were taken to nearby hospitals for treatment.

Witnesses told police that three men fled the area in a car after the attack.

US sub returns to port: A nuclear-powered US submarine that collided with a Russian sub two weeks ago returned home Tuesday. Navy officials said it was in good condition, AP reports from Norfolk.

The USS Baton Rouge cut short its cruise after the Feb 11 collision in the Barents Sea, near the Arctic Ocean. The vessel hadn't been expected to return before April.

Pentagon officials said the Baton Rouge wasn't damaged and no crew members were injured. There was no sign of exterior damage as the vessel docked at Norfolk Naval Station.

"The ship's in good shape," said Cmdr Gordon D Cremer II, skipper of the Baton Rouge.

French students protest reform: College students and schoolchildren marched through Paris on Tuesday to protest against the socialist government's plan to reform the education system, Reuter reports from Paris.

The demonstrators, 10,000 according to police, 25,000 according to organisers, marched through Paris's student heartland, Helatin quarter on the left bank of the Seine, to demand the repeal of reforms they see as limiting and elitist.

Apart from one clash between police and a handful of masked youths hurling bottles, the rally was peaceful. Students are piling pressure on the left-wing government which is already besieged over other issues by many of its traditional supporters, including nurses, social workers, transport workers and dockers.

'Holy war' against Hindus

A black Muslim group has declared a "Holy war" against Hindus living in Toronto, a newspaper reported Tuesday, AFP reports from Toronto.

The Toronto Sun, citing police sources, said the latest incident in this "Holy war" was the shooting death Saturday of doctor Dhian Thapar, 49.

The police sources told the newspaper that Thapar was the second high-profile Hindu in the Toronto area to have been gunned to death in the past year.

In May, television personality Prithvi Raj Vij, 49, was shot dead outside his downtown office. Both victims were active in Toronto's Indian community.

Asked pointedly how long he believed it might take North Korea to produce a nuclear weapon, the head of the Central Intelligence Agency said: A range between a few months to a couple of years.

North Korea, which denies having nuclear weapons or plans to build one, last month signed an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under which it pledged to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Communist Pyongyang has also signed an agreement with South Korea banning nuclear weapons from their peninsula. Gates, asked if he thought

DPRK to produce N-arms soon

WASHINGTON, Feb 26: CIA director Robert Gates said Tuesday that North Korea could be as little as a few months from completing a nuclear weapon, reports AFP.

Testifying before the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, Gates cited what he called North Korea's reluctance to open up its nuclear facilities to international inspection and said he have some skepticism as to where they're headed.

Asked pointedly how long he believed it might take North Korea to produce a nuclear weapon, the head of the Central Intelligence Agency said: A range between a few months to a couple of years.

North Korea, which denies having nuclear weapons or plans to build one, last month signed an agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) under which it pledged to allow inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Communist Pyongyang has also signed an agreement with South Korea banning nuclear weapons from their peninsula. Gates, asked if he thought

these moves were a ruse designed to gain time while continuing to develop nuclear weapons, said, we are skeptical of their intentions.

We have some information that I can't go into here in this setting that suggests that they have a deception plan for hiding their nuclear capabilities.

Govt request to bar Imelda from fetching Marcos body rejected

MANILA, Feb 26: Two courts Wednesday turned down government motions to bar former first lady Imelda Marcos from traveling to Hawaii to fetch the body of her husband, reports AP.

A similar motion is still pending in the Manila Regional Trial Court, and officials said a ruling was expected next week.

The window of ousted President Ferdinand Marcos announced Tuesday she had accepted government conditions that the body be flown directly to his northern home province and buried there instead of in Manila.

Mrs. Marcos, one of eight

candidates in the May 11 presidential election, said she would leave as soon as possible for Honolulu to fetch the body. Her staff said she expected to receive a passport this week.

Mrs. Marcos appeared in court Wednesday to plead innocent to 11 charges of depositing funds abroad without Central Bank permission. She faces more than 80 criminal and civil charges in connection with alleged corruption during her husband's 20 year rule.

During Wednesday's arrangement, the prosecution asked Judge Manuel Muro of the Manila Regional Trial Court to bar Mrs. Marcos from leaving the country pending litigation on the charges.

But Muro turned down the request, citing Mrs. Marcos' presidential candidacy and desire to bury her husband in the Philippines.

Today I'm very happy that at last I am going to be able to bring home my husband, Mrs. Marcos told reporters Wednesday as she signed autographs for court employees who swarmed around her.

Prosecutors complained helplessly to one another that Mrs. Marcos was turning the arraignment into an election rally.

Marcos was ousted in the February 1986 uprising that installed Corason Aquino as president. He was driven into exile in Hawaii where he died in September 1989.

Mrs. Aquino had banned the body from the Philippines. She relented last October on con-

dition that the body be flown directly to Marcos' home province of Ilocos Norte, 410 kilometers (250 miles) north of Manila, and buried there.

Mrs. Marcos had insisted her husband be buried in Manila with full ceremonial honors as a former head of state. Marcos body has been kept in a refrigerated mausoleum in Honolulu.

On Tuesday, Mrs. Marcos made a brief trip to Ilocos Norte to survey possible burial sites.

"I am very happy that at last he will be in the Philippines, his mother land, his dream all along," Mrs. Marcos told reporters Tuesday.

Mrs. Aquino had cited national security, first in banning the body from the Philippines and then in refusing to allow a funeral in Manila.

Mrs. Marcos had claimed her husband's "dying wish" was to be buried in Manila. Sources close to Mrs. Aquino said the president refused a Manila funeral because protocol would have required her to attend the wake.

Mrs. Aquino blames Marcos for the 1983 assassination of her husband, Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. who was killed moments after returning from three years' exile in the United States.

Indian to head UN peace-keeping force in Y'slavia

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 26: An Indian officer, Lieutenant-General Satish Namibia, will head the 14,000-member peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia, sources at the UN said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The appointment is expected to be announced shortly by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

The Security Council voted unanimously last Friday to establish the operation, called the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) until Serbs and Croats in Croatia reach a political settlement.

But the force will not be deployed fully until the United Nations draws up a new budget following objections from the United States and others that its 635 million dollar forecast was too high.

Namibia will be brought to New York for intensive briefing along with commanders of battalions from troop-contributing countries.

India, however, has not been asked to contribute forces to the operation, although an infantry battalion has been requested from its neighbour Pakistan.

Australian fighting with Karens killed

MAE SOT, Thailand, Feb 26: An Australian mercenary fighting with Karen rebels against a Myanmar army attack was killed on the battlefield last month, a student guerrilla said today, reports Reuter.

The 23-year-old was hit in the head by shrapnel during fighting on a hill called Thipavicho, the student told Reuters in this Thai border town.

He did not have a name for the man. An Australian consular official in Bangkok said the embassy had not been told of any death.

Between 15 to 30 Western mercenaries including Australians, French and Americans, have fought for the Karen ethnic minority over the past year, he said. Two Frenchmen had earlier been reported killed.



MANILA: Imelda Marcos is interviewed by reporters after her arraignment at a Manila court on 11 counts of falling to report to the central bank an alleged 370 million USD in capital and earnings deposited in various Swiss Bank in 1983. —AFP/UNB Photo