

Ukraine to remove all technical N-arms

NEW DELHI, Mar 27: President Leonid Kravchuk Friday affirmed Ukraine will remove all its tactical nuclear weapons this year...

Suspects to remain at Arab League disposal

NICOSIA, Mar 27: Two Libyans whose extradition is sought by Britain and the United States will remain in Tripoli at the disposal of the Arab League...

UN court begins hearing on Libya's petition

The UN Security Council scheduled private consultations to put the final touches on a resolution for sanctions against Libya.

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Minehane next Commander of UNFICYP

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 27: Brigadier-General Michael Minehane of Ireland will become the commander next month of the 2,150-member UN Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)...

Interim govt in Kabul by April likely

KABUL, Mar 27: Residents of Kabul reacted with cynicism and hope today after hearing that the Soviet-installed government of President Najibullah would go in three months...

a visit here Tuesday by UN negotiator Benon Sevan, endorsed the idea that three months be shaved off the UN timetable for the installation of a neutral government.



MOSCOW: Russian President Boris Yeltsin grimaces as a television technician fits a microphone shortly before a tapping of an American TV address in Moscow.

Proposal for \$20b cut in US defence budget

WASHINGTON, Mar 27: Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and Joint Chief of Staff Chairman Colin Powell Thursday unveiled military cut aimed at shrinking the defence budget by 20 billion dollar over five years, reports AFP.

The national guard is made up from state-run militias which are called out for a variety of emergencies while the reserve is used to reinforce troops on active duty during wartime or national emergencies.

Off the Record

Suicide only way to deal with distress

WASHINGTON: Nearly one in six Native American adolescents has attempted suicide, a rate four times that of other US teenagers, according to a study that found alarming health problems on Indian reservations, reports AP.

American Indian youth are more likely to come from broken homes or abuse drugs, and 20 per cent describe their health as poor, said the report published Tuesday by the American Medical Association.

This is the most devastated group of adolescents in the United States, said Michael Resnick, a University of Minnesota researcher who helped conduct the study.

Indian teenagers are twice as likely to die during their youth as non-Indians, the study said.

Forced to conceive baby they don't want

WASHINGTON: Millions of the world's women are being coerced into having children they don't want, and the number is growing, a Worldwatch Institute study says, reports AP.

The study, "Coerced Motherhood: The Global Dimension," says relatively few women have access to safe abortions, with unsafe abortion and pregnancy complications the major cause of death among young and middle-aged women across the Southern Hemisphere.

She's ready for shuttle

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.: Departing NASA Administrator Richard Truly has urged his successor to quickly put another school teacher on a space shuttle, reports AP.

The only school teacher and first private US citizen ever on a space mission, Christa McAuliffe of Concord NH died with six astronauts when shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff on January 28, 1986.

Truly, said Idaho elementary school teacher Barbara Morgan, McAuliffe's backup, is the one for the job.

She's ready, the space shuttle is ready and the American people are ready, said Truly, who was forced to resign under White House pressure. He made his remarks Thursday at the National Congress on Aviation and Space Education in Oklahoma City, NASA released excerpts of his speech.

Morgan, 40, who teaches third grade in McCall, Idaho, said Thursday night she's eager to conduct classes from orbit. "People remember Christa and they always will. They remember Christa as an inspiration and a great teacher and they want that to continue on," she said.

Cory appeals not to vote another Marcos

MANILA, Mar 27: Philippine President Corason Aquino appealed to voters on Thursday not to forget abuses under the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and to reject candidates who would restore his legacy of one-man rule, reports Reuter.

It is as if we have forgotten the violence we experienced during the dictatorship, Aquino told a rally in nearby Antipolo town while campaigning for former Defence Chief Fidel Ramos, her chosen candidate in the May 11 presidential election.

Let us remember all the evil and loneliness we experienced during the (Marcos) dictatorship, Aquino warned Filipinos not to vote for former first lady Imelda Marcos 62-year-old widow of the dictator, and business Tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco.

11 shot dead in Punjab

CHANDIGARH, Mar 27: Eleven persons, including seven in one village in Majitha police district and a militant, were killed in Punjab since last night, reports PTI.

Militants shot dead seven persons in Gahari Mandi area of Majitha police district late last night.

Husseini accuses Israel of executing wanted Arabs

JERUSALEM, Mar 27: Palestinian Leader Faisal Al-Husseini on Thursday accused Israel of summarily executing wanted Arabs in the occupied territories and demanded UN Protection, reports Reuter.

such a thing can harm the peace process," Husseini said. The army on Thursday again denied summarily executing Palestinians waging an uprising against Israel's rules in West Bank and Gaza Strip since December 1987.

quashed by the military censor. The US Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, Richard Schiffer, noted in the section of his report on Israel for 1991 that...

Boutros-Ghali's statement stirred controversy among Arab diplomats at the United Nations, prompting his spokesman to issue a clarification later the same day.

Lanka will compensate June tragedy victims

COLOMBO, Mar 27: The Sri Lankan government has agreed to pay 5.25 million rupees (about 123,500 US dollars) as compensation for families suffered death, injury and property damage in the Kokkadicholai incident on June 13 last year, reports Xinhua.

Speaking at the weekly news briefing today, cabinet spokesman W.J.M. Lokubandara said the cabinet has accepted the recommendation of compensation from a presidential commission's final report on the incident, and decided to pay compensation to the affected persons accordingly.

The tragedy, which occurred at Kokkadicholai in the country's eastern province, resulted in the death of 67.

BRIEFLY

India blasts Amnesty: India blasted Amnesty International on Thursday for alleging widespread police torture and killings in the country, and accused it of overlooking brutalities by Sikh and Muslim militants, AFP reports from New Delhi.

It is a totally one-sided report, an official spokesman said here. There are sweeping generalisations about police excesses, abuse of powers.

He accused the London-based human rights body of making allegations without substantiation, and added that New Delhi had not been given enough time to look into specific cases cited in the report released Wednesday.

Amnesty said Indian police routinely torture suspects in jail, alleging hundreds have died from beatings in recent years. It said police also regularly raped women in prisons.

Libya invites Ghali: Libya on Thursday invited UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to visit Libya in person or send an envoy to investigate charges that Tripoli is involved in terrorism, reports AFP from Nicosia.

A statement from the Libyan news agency Jana, received in Cyprus, quoted a source at the Libyan Foreign Ministry as denying Tripoli was "involved in terrorist acts" and saying Libya is "ready to severely punish anybody who is proved to be involved in such acts."

Pravda to reappear soon: Pravda, the former official mouthpiece of the Soviet Communist Party, written off as dead when it ceased publication temporarily two weeks ago, is to reappear, possibly from Saturday, according to a report in the Sovetskaja Russia newspaper, reports AFP from Moscow.

Executives at the paper, which after the collapse of the Soviet Union became a focus for Conservative and Communist opposition to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, said the paper would be back on the streets from March 21.

Pravda Editor Gennady Seleznev, in an interview with Polish paper Tribouna republished by the Russian daily, said an unidentified bank had granted the paper the credits it needed to resume publication of three issues per week.

The paper had not however yet received the money and Seleznev was unable to guarantee its appearance on Saturday.

Pak MPs meet Miyazawa: A parliamentary delegation from Pakistan met Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Thursday to seek support for proposals for a meeting to discuss South Asian nuclear issues, officials said, AFP reports from Tokyo.

The delegation, led by Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad, asked Japan to try to persuade India to attend the meeting that Pakistan proposed in June, the Japanese officials said.

The proposal calls on the United States, China, Russia, India and Pakistan to hold consultations on nuclear issues in the South Asian region.

Miyazawa was quoted as telling the delegation he hoped Pakistan and India would sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Non-aggression pact

Koreas fail to narrow differences

SEOUL, Mar 27: North and South Korea again failed to narrow their differences over how to implement an historic pact of non-aggression and reconciliation, a South Korean official said today, reports Reuter.

eventually lead to unification of the peninsula divided for 47 years. The two Koreas were able only to agree on a date for the next meeting, set for April 23, the official said.

in the three-hour meeting, the Southerners repeatedly proposed the two Koreas put forward a series of step-by-step measures ranging from the prompt establishment of North-South liaison offices, improvement of political and diplomatic cooperation to an end to cross-border slander, he said.

principle to permit International Atomic Energy Agency inspections of its plants. No dates have been set, prompting concern in Seoul and among its allies, which believe the North is only months away from building a nuclear bomb, that Pyongyang is deliberately stalling.

Vajpayee urges Muslims to give up Babri Mosque site

NEW DELHI, Mar 27: A popular Hindu politician Thursday urged Muslims to give up their claims to a site in northern India where Hindus want to replace an ancient mosque with a temple, reports AFP.

He said Hindus believed that a temple of their god Rama existed at the Ayodhya site, and it was demolished by Moghul Emperor Babar in the 16th century and replaced by a mosque. Hindus now wanted to rebuild the Rama shrine. That is the reality and I would therefore make a dispassionate plea to the Muslim leaders to resolve the dispute amicably, Vajpayee told reporters in the southern Indian city of Bangalore.



BAGHDAD: The head of the UN inspection team Derek Boothby answers journalists in Baghdad, after returning from his inspection visit outside Baghdad.

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