

UN forces not allowed in Khmer Rouge areas

PHNOM PENH, June 10: The Khmer Rouge has refused to disarm its fighters or permit UN peacekeepers on its territory, a top UN official said Wednesday, reports AP.

A major guerrilla leader said the Khmer Rouge does not disarm its fighters. His group also will not lay down its weapons, jeopardising the October peace agreement.

Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority Cambodia, warned that fighting could break out again if the Khmer Rouge does not change its position.

He told an emergency meeting of the four Cambodian factions and UN officials that the Khmer Rouge "refusal constitutes a clear breach of the peace agreement and is therefore unacceptable."

The UN was scheduled to demobilize and disarm fighters from the four factions on Saturday, but Khmer Rouge refusal has thrown the process into question.

Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan told UN officials Wednesday his fighters would not disarm because the UN had not implemented other aspects of the peace accords.

He said Vietnam had secretly sent thousands of troops into Cambodia despite the peace accord's call for the UN to verify the withdrawal of all

Vietnamese forces from Cambodia.

The UN says it has no evidence Vietnamese troops are still in Cambodia.

"The peace plan has been betrayed," said a senior Khmer Rouge official in Phnom Penh who requested anonymity. "Certain countries have turned the peace process' main objective into eliminating and destroying the Khmer Rouge."

The Khmer Rouge also called for the dismantling of the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh as a condition to proceed with disarmament.

Vietnam invaded Cambodia in late 1978, overthrew the Khmer Rouge regime, and installed the current government in Phnom Penh.

The Khmer Rouge and two smaller guerrilla factions fought the Vietnamese for 13 years.

The Khmer Rouge led by Pol Pot ruled Cambodia from 1975-1978. During that time, more than one million of its 8 million people were executed or died from famine and civil unrest.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh, head of one of the guerrilla armies, told reporters Friday he would not allow his fighters to be disarmed in light of the Khmer Rouge refusal.

"If one of the parties does not agree, then I cannot go alone," Ranariddh said.

Bush-Yeltsin summit on June 16 Big 2 fail to conclude new deal

WASHINGTON, June 10: The United States and Russia would squander a historic opportunity if they are unable to agree on deep new cuts in strategic nuclear weapons, arms control advocates say, reports Reuters.

After talks on Tuesday in which the two sides failed to conclude a new deal, critics also warned that US insistence on banning heavy long-range missiles in which Moscow has an advantage could undermine Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The proposed new arms pact would go far beyond the START (Strategic Arms Reduction Talks) treaty signed last year by the United States and the former Soviet Union, but not yet implemented, bringing US and Russian atomic arsenals to their lowest levels in 15 or more years.

Although US Secretary of State James Baker said a deal was not reached, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev held out the possibility one could be achieved in time for a summit in Washington on June 16 between President George Bush and Yeltsin.

They are working on other accords covering economics and cooperation on a ballistic missile early warning system but none seem as far-reaching as the proposed nuclear pact.

Kozyrev flew back to Moscow on Tuesday night for consultations with Yeltsin and other government leaders.

"Russian leaders have made clear their desire to negotiate deep mutual cuts. But the administration persists with proposals where US cuts would be minimal, said Senator Joseph Biden in a writ-

ten statement. "This translates to Russian leaders as the pursuit of unilateral advantage. Even a weakened Russia is not going to be pressured into unilateral disarmament, added Biden, who heads the Senate foreign relations subcommittee on arms.

START would force the United States to cut its arsenal from 12,000 to about 10,000 weapons and the ex-Soviet States to slash their arsenal from about 10,000 weapons to 8,000.

Bush, under pressure to use the post-cold war era to promote more radical reductions in the world's most lethal arms. Last January called for each side to cut its stocks to 4,700 weapons. Yeltsin said he wanted to go down to 2,500.

Bush also proposed banning multiple-warhead land-based missiles, which pose the most

serious threat to the United States and are the centerpiece of Russia's strategic arsenal.

Jack Mendelsohn of the Non-Profit Arms Control Association said that for Russia, banning the multiple-warhead, land-based missiles is not only strategically unwise but economically unfeasible.

To compensate for the lost heavy missiles, Moscow would either have to build new single-warhead and missiles or beef up its sea forces — expenditures that are anathema at a time when Russia's economy is in tatters, he said.

With the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the rise of political and economic chaos in the newly independent states, arms experts say it is crucial to lock in deep new cuts as soon as possible.

'European community a model of peace'

PARIS, June 10: Britain's Queen Elizabeth II her husband, Prince Philip, and 200 other guests at a gala dinner hosted Tuesday by French President Francois Mitterrand and his wife Danielle dined on foie gras and lamb with roasted figs, washed down with two of France's best Bordeaux wines, reports AFP.

In their after dinner speeches both the Queen and the French President expressed their faith in and their attachment to European union, which they, said was a factor for peace and progress.

The Queen, speaking in French, said that in a world of instability upheaval and uncertainty, the European community is a model of peace and progress.

She added with a smile that Frances' indelible imprint on the community is not always comfortable for those whose institutions rely on different traditions: The Anglo-Saxon tradition is to the Latin tradition in Europe what oil is to

vinegar. But both are needed for the salad to be properly seasoned.

The royal couple, who arrived on a four-day state visit earlier in the day, also dined on French cheese, known to be enjoyed by their son and



PARIS: Queen Elizabeth II waves to crowds along the Champs Elysees as she was welcomed to the French capital by President Francois Mitterrand (R) on Tuesday. — AFP/UNB photo.

their Charles, and an Elysee icon was a speciality of the presidential bakers.

The two wines, a chateau yquem 1981 and a chateau la-tour 1978 were served with the dinner held in the Elysee presidential palace's reception room.

Before the dinner, Elizabeth II awarded the French President with the royal Victorian chain, a decoration invented in the reign of Edward VII in 1902, to mark the esteem and affection of the sovereign for the recipient.

Mitterrand also received two 1778 volumes of the Duke of Berwick's memoirs and two things by John Scarlett Davis, a British 19th-century artist showing views of Paris.

Mrs Mitterrand received an ancient Japanese porcelain tea-service.

The evening was scheduled to end with a reception under the landmark glass pyramid which marks the entrance to the Louvre Museum and a fire-work display.

Pledge to strengthen Sino-Indian ties

BEIJING, June 10: Senior Chinese and Indian officials pledged here today to strengthen Sino-Indian relations by learning from the national economic construction efforts of the other, reports Xinhua.

The pledge was made during a meeting between Li Ximing, a member of the Political Bureau of the central committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and a fact-finding delegation from the Indian National Congress — the Indira Gandhi Party — headed by B Chatarvedi, member of the council of states.

The delegation, invited by the international liaison department of the CPC central committee, are visiting China to learn more about its policies of reform and opening to the outside world and to survey its special economic zones.

Li expressed pleasure with the opportunity to meet his Indian friends, many of whom he met last year during a visit to India as guest of the Indian

National Congress. He spoke highly of the Congress for its efforts to the development of the Indian national economy.

Li briefed the delegation on

China's current economic policies and expressed the hope that the two countries will continue to strengthen exchanges of information con-

cerning economic construction.

Chatarvedi said that as developing countries, both India and China face similar problems in economic development. He added that the two ruling parties should strengthen relations in order to learn more about the economic development of the other.

Both leaders expressed satisfaction with the sound development of relations between the communist party of China and the Indian National Congress since the two parties established ties in 1985.

The Indian delegation arrived here on June 7 and will conclude their tour of China on June 17. The group will leave Beijing on Wednesday to visit Hainan province and Shenzhen, two of China's special economic zones in the south.

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Chatarvedi noted that his party is highly impressed with the progress China has made in its national economic construction.

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Bush wins North Dakota primaries

BISMARCK, ND, June 10: President Bush, his nomination long ago sewn up, won the Republican party primary in North Dakota on Tuesday. But Ross Perot's 15 per cent in the just-for-show Democratic primary mirrored estimated write-in support in primaries in Oregon and Washington, reports AP.

Political extremist Lyndon LaRouche, a perennial candidate serving a 15-year prison sentence for mail and tax fraud, was leading the Democratic contest.

UN relief convoy leave Belgrade for Sarajevo

BELGRADE, June 10: A 25-truck UN relief convoy left Belgrade for war-shattered Sarajevo today where intermittent fighting persisted between rebel Serbs surrounding the Bosnian capital and the city's Muslim and Croat defenders, reports Reuters.

The UN team will try to get Sarajevo Airport open so that an emergency aid airlift can begin for 300,000 trapped city residents.



EREZ CHECKPOINT: A Gaza resident and her children pass through the Erez checkpoint on Tuesday, on the second day after the two-week closure of the Gaza Strip was lifted. Only a few hundred workers from Gaza, who have obtained the new work passes for Israel, crossed into Israel, because of a half-day strike which has been widely observed in the occupied territories. — AFP/UNB photo.

BRIEFLY

Quake jolts Indonesia: A strong earthquake has jolted Indonesia's province of North Sulawesi, but there were no immediate reports of damages or casualties, the official Antara news agency reported Wednesday. AP reports from Jakarta.

Antara said the quake measured 4.8 on the Richter scale and shook several cities in the province at 10.44 pm Tuesday (1444). It was followed by at least nine aftershocks.

The epicentre was in the Sulawesi sea, about 120 kilometres (75 miles) southwest of the provincial capital of Manado, it said. Manado is 2,133 kilometres (1,333 miles) northeast of Jakarta.

The Richter scale is a gauge of the energy released by an earthquake, as measured by the ground motion recorded on a seismograph. Every increase of one means that the ground motion is 10 times greater.

Major in Colombia: Britain's Prime Minister John Major arrived Tuesday at Caribbean port city of Cartagena where he was welcomed by Colombia's President Cesar Gaviria, AFP reports from Colombia.

Major will stay two days in Colombia, visiting the oil fields of Cusiana in northeastern Colombia, before travelling to Rio de Janeiro to attend the UN conference on environment and development.

The British Prime Minister went from the airport to the Manzanillo fort where he and Gaviria held a private meeting.

Volcano erupts in Philippines: A volcano in the central Philippines erupted on Wednesday spewing ash one km (half a mile) into the air, officials said, Reuters reports from Manila.

The 2,435-metre (7,800-foot) Mount Kanlaon, on Negros island, showered foothill towns with dust, Manila Radio said. Government officials said the eruption coincided with a minor earthquake, but there were no reports of injuries.

Kanlaon, 530 km (330 miles) southeast of Manila, is one of the Philippines' 21 active volcanoes. It last erupted in January 1991.

'RIMPAC 92' starts June 19: Japan, South Korea, Australia, Canada and the United States will take part in a major joint military exercise in the Pacific Ocean June through August, the Pentagon announced Tuesday, AFP reports from Washington.

The exercise, known as 'RIMPAC 92' will involve around 45 ships, 200 aircraft and 20,000 servicemen and women from the five Pacific nations from June 19 to August 2.

The units will make port visits to San Diego, California and Pearl Harbour in Hawaii before training off the coast of Hawaii and Southern California, the announcement said.

It will be the 13th in a series of military exercises dating back to 1971, the Pentagon said.

US may cut food aid to Somalia: The United States threatened Tuesday to cut off emergency food and medical aid to Somalia if the authorities there did not manage to put a stop to looting of cargoes as they arrived in Mogadishu, AFP reports from Washington.

"If Somalis do not stop looting, robbing and killing people who come to their help, the help will go elsewhere," the State Department said in a statement, noting that the international community was coping with simultaneous disasters in the horn of Africa, southern Africa and Yugoslavia.

In one recent incident, a tonne of medical supplies and six tonnes of baby food were stolen as soon as the planes carrying them landed at Mogadishu airport, said James Kunder, head of the US office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

The State Department statement said that "those responsible for security at Mogadishu airport must return the stolen supplies to the donors for distribution to the needy."

Pope's appeal to aid Africans

LUANDA, June 10: Pope John Paul II ended a seven day visit to Angola Wednesday with an appeal for peace and a plea to the international community to aid African nations and respect their independence, reports AP.

"Do not delay or desist on the path leading to unity and a truly fraternal reconciliation," John Paul told Angolans at Luanda's February 4 airport.

The pope said he hoped wealthy nations would support African development, but said they must respect "the independence and identity of each nation."

Angola was torn by a civil war for 16 years until a May 1991 cease-fire.

The Soviet Union pumped in weapons and Cuba dispatched 50,000 troops to support the government against the UNITA rebel movement.

BRATISLAVA, June 10: Take a proud Central European country bridging the geographic cultural and economic gap separating the German powerhouse from the chaos of post-communist Ukraine, reports AP.

Divide that country, Czechoslovakia, in two along a faint but distinct ethnic and linguistic line. What would you get?

One country, the Czech republic, bordering on Germany and with heroes like Vaclav Havel, Franz Kafka and founder Thomas G Masaryk to give it a secure sense of itself and its place in Europe; a relatively homogeneous, westward-looking country of 10 million with an industrial tradition.

A second country, Slovakia, with half the population, less of the Gross National Product, bordering Ukraine. Except for a brief and unfortunate period as a Nazi puppet state, it would have no tradition of self-rule. It would have a potential minority problem and would enter the world community with 12 per cent unemployment and large, inefficient, Soviet-style factories. At least initially, it would have to sell arms.

For the third time since the communist world fell apart, Europe faces the prospect of an essentially Slavic federation breaking up.

Czechoslovakia was formed from the ashes of World War I, like Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union. Unlike them, its potential dissolution offers neither bloodshed nor chaos. But once more, the parts appear weaker than the whole.

The sore spot here is disagreement over Slovakia's demands, voiced by Vladimir Meciar, for more sovereignty and a chance to tailor economic reform to its weaker economic. Populist leader Meciar emerged as Slovakia's most influential politician in elections Friday and Saturday. Slovakia's chosen leaders seek a loose association with their Czech neighbours. Vaclav Klaus, the tough market reformer who leads the Czech republic, doubts that this is possible.

Jozef Sucha, spokesman for Meciar's Movement for a Democratic Slovakia, says the movement basically supports market-oriented reforms, but disagrees on their implementation. Many Slovaks want a stronger social safety net than Klaus would allow, and Sucha says Slovakia's election results were a rejection of Klaus' policies.

Leaders of Meciar's movement say they want to keep a common currency, but have broad economic autonomy otherwise.

Klaus said Tuesday that that will not be possible. "We don't share the illusions about the possibility of a slow transition, a controlled separation and its zero costs," he said.

No one reckons the costs yet. Klaus' Czech lands undoubtedly would be hurt by a federation breakup, but almost certainly would fare better than Slovakia.

Czech unemployment is about one-third that in Slovakia. The Czech lands accounted for about three-fourths of last year's Czechoslovak Gross National Product — the total value of the nation's goods and services.

The vast majority of foreign investment since the end of Communist rule in 1989 has poured into the Czech lands. Volkswagen's investment in the Skoda motor works is one example.

Slovakia was saddled with much of the communists' arms industry. Meciar says Slovakia will have to continue producing weapons "until we find other sources of income." He has promised such production will gradually decrease.

Slovakia also could be burdened with a minority problem. Ethnic Hungarians, comprising about 10 per cent of the population, have looked

Off the Record

I didn't know he was crazy

SAN DIEGO, A man was hospitalized in serious condition after being shot in the head with an arrow by his crossbow-wielding former roommate, authorities said, reports AP.

"I was sleeping and then I just felt an incredible explosion in my head. I thought I had an aneurysm," Arthur Ekvall, said Tuesday from his bed at Mercy Hospital a day after surgeons removed the arrow.

"I knew he had a hot temper. I didn't know he was crazy," Ekvall, 29, added.

His former roommate, Jesse Solis, 25, was arrested about two hours after the shooting. He was being held for investigation of attempted murder and auto theft, authorities said. He was scheduled to appear in court on Wednesday.

Solis told police he acted in self-defense during a struggle, police spokesman Bill Robinson said.

Robinson described the incident as apparently stemming from a lovers' quarrel, saying officers had responded previously to arguments involving the two men.

Ekvall said Solis beat him last fall in a parking lot after he told Solis that he planned to move out of the apartment they had shared. Ekvall said he moved out in December. The two had lived together for six months, he said.

The arrow had entered the base of Ekvall's neck and traveled up through his head until it protruded from the side of his forehead near his left eye.

Maintenance for estranged husband

NEW YORK, Television Star Joan Lunden, who is said to earn about 2 million dollar a year, must pay her estranged husband 10,000 dollar a month in temporary maintenance, a judge has ruled, reports Reuters.

Judge Nicholas Colabella said in the ruling on Monday that Lunden must remain the sole support of her family despite her separation from husband Michael Krauss, 52.

Lunden, 41, co-host of the popular "Good Morning America" breakfast show, will continue to share custody of the couple's three children under the judge's order. She and Krauss were married for 14 years.

In a statement, Lunden called the decision a deplorable and shameful statement on how working women are treated today.

"Why the courts don't tell a husband who has been living off his wife to go out and get a job is beyond my comprehension," she said.

Homosexuality is no wrong?

MILWAUKEE, The Presbyterian Church (USA) rejected a move Tuesday to kick Boy Scout troops out of church basements if they exclude homosexual Scout leaders, reports AP.

Delegates to the 204th General Assembly voted 368-165 against a resolution urging congregations to find out whether their local Scout troops ban homosexuals and to bar them from using church facilities if they continue to do so.

"When we don't speak out, we are guilty of the sin of silence and contribute to the isolation of these individuals," argued Judith Menk of the Pittsburgh Presbytery.

But Jack Willard of the Lake Michigan Presbytery said that a vote for the resolution would be perceived as "an unwarranted and thoughtless attack," on the Scouts. "I beg of you, let's not shoot ourselves in the foot," he said.

The resolution, recommended by a church committee, says the 2.8 million-member denomination must do everything in its power to prevent society from discriminating against homosexuals.

But Scout leaders and gay activists said it would be a hypocritical stand for a church that bans gay clergy and declares homosexuality to be wrong.

Of all the organizations that could lecture the Scouts, "I don't think the Presbyterian Church should be telling the Boy Scouts what to do about it," said Truman Hunter of Oxford, Ohio, a member of the National Association of Presbyterian Scouts.

The Presbyterian proposal is one of a number of recent challenges to the Boy Scout practice of excluding homosexuals.

In April, the United Way of the San Francisco Bay area halted funding for Scout troops because of the anti-homosexual policy, and the Berkeley school district recently closed its doors to the Scouts.

Accused of abandoning her ailing father

HILLSBORO, Ore: A woman accused of abandoning her elderly father at an Idaho race track appeared in court Tuesday to face charges of kidnapping and perjury, reports AP.

Sue Gifford, 41, was accused on Monday of taking 82-year-old John Kingery from an Oregon nursing home and driving him to Idaho without his consent. At Tuesday's hearing, she told Washington County Circuit Judge Hollie Pihl she didn't have an attorney. Pihl said he would ask a public defender to represent her. He ordered her back to court next Monday.

Kingery suffers from Alzheimer's disease and can't remember who he is. He was found March 21 at a dog racing track in Coeur d'Alene, the labels cut from his clothes and a note mis-identifying him tapped to his wheelchair.

Gifford has been jailed in lieu of \$30,000 bail since her arrest Monday at a Portland ink company where she works as a receptionist.

She faces up to 15 years in prison if convicted of second-degree kidnapping and perjury. The perjury indictment accuses Gifford of lying about Kingery's financial resources on an application for guardianship.

Gifford already has pleaded innocent to charges she stole nearly \$10,000 by cashing pension checks that were supposed to pay for her father's nursing home care. Trial on those charges is scheduled for June 18.

After Kingery was found, he was recognized on television by nursing home workers in Oregon and children from his first marriage who live in Kentucky and Tennessee. Gifford is Kingery's daughter from his second marriage.

'Big' Miller dead

EDMONTON, ALBERTA: Clarence "Big" Miller, a Jazz and Blues singer who performed with such Jazz legends as Count Basie and Duke Ellington, died on Tuesday in Edmonton, Alberta of a heart attack, reports Reuters.

Miller, who was born in Sioux City, Iowa in 1922 had lived in Edmonton for about 30 years.

The 300-pound (140-kg) musician received a Juno Award, the Canadian equivalent of a US Grammy Award, in 1979 for the best Jazz recording of the year.

Czechoslovakia: Tale of a lost federation

No alternative to Gaidar's team: Yeltsin

MOSCOW, June 10: Russian President Boris Yeltsin today dismissed fears of a conservative backlash by saying there could be no replacement of his reform government, effectively headed by first Deputy-Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar, reports Reuters.

"There is no alternative to Gaidar's team," Interfax News Agency quoted Yeltsin as telling a meeting of Russian to top military officers in Moscow.

Over the last few weeks Yeltsin has brought three former Soviet officials closely linked to the former Soviet Union's military industrial complex into the government, sparking accusations by liberal critics he was retreating from reforms.

to the federation to guarantee their rights. The relationship is compounded by Slovakia's centuries of domination by Hungary in the Austro-Hungarian Empire. Ladislav Gyurovsky, a spokesman for the Hungarian Civic Party, says Hungarians cannot count on Meciar to respect their rights.

Slovakia also would labour under an historical and geographic handicap in attracting the West's interests.

The Czech lands border Germany on the west. Slovakia's eastern neighbour is Ukraine. Prague, the federal and Czech capital, is rapidly gaining a reputation as a tourist and business center. Bratislava is much smaller and not as well-known.

At least initially, there is little to distinguish Slovakia from the poor republics emerging from the breakup of Yugoslavia or the Soviet Union — all clamoring for western assistance.

Dating back 600 years, when Prague was the center of the Holy Roman Empire, Czechs are well-established in European consciousness.

The more rural Slovaks knew Hungarian domination and have few figures who draw the world's attention.