

# Army crackdown on in Sindh: 33 bandits killed, over 600 held

KARACHI, Pakistan, June 16: Thirty-three bandits were killed and more than 600 people arrested during two weeks of an anti-crime military crackdown in southern Pakistan, the army said yesterday, reports Reuter.

Vice-Chief of General Staff Major-General Jamshed Mall told reporters those killed and arrested lived in forest hide-outs along the river Indus flowing in Sindh province, of which Karachi is the capital.

The crackdown, ordered by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's federal government was intended to fight crime and political violence in Sindh, which borders India.

On Sunday, the army admitted responsibility for the deaths of nine Sindh villagers and said three commanders in the area had been removed from their posts.

Malik said yesterday a

fourth commander was also removed in connection with the June 5 incident near Jamshoro in central Sindh where the authorities first said an army patrol had killed nine Indian-trained saboteurs.

Later, after protests from residents, the authorities said those killed were innocent villagers.

An army major who commanded the troops that killed the villagers has been arrested and faces an inquiry.

The Sindh provincial government paid compensation on Sunday to the bereaved families, who received a visit yesterday by opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

"Sindh has been bleeding for a long time," Bhutto told reporters in the nearby town of Hyderabad.

Malik said the crackdown followed a sharp rise in ethnic and sectarian tension, student unrest and a crime wave.



A French convoy carrying humanitarian aid for the people of Sarajevo, waits to pass through the front line area at Nemetin nearby on Monday. UNPROFOR is escorting the French convoy which was heading for the Bosnian capital via Belgrade. AFP/UNB photo

## Peace talks only solution: Ghali

# Ceasefire violated in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, June 16: A cease-fire between Bosnian and Serb forces holding since 6.00 am (0400 gmt) was breached at around 3.00 pm Monday as 20 shells exploded at Dobrinja, near Sarajevo Airport, foreign journalists on the spot said, reports AFP.

The shells, fired from Serb tanks, caused around a dozen casualties among local people, the reporters said.

Serb forces encircling the district began moving towards the nearest residence blocks.

Reuter from UN adds: Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today blamed both Serbia and Croatia for supporting combatants in Bosnia-Herzegovina and said peace talks were the only solution to stop the fighting.

In a report to the Security Council, the UN chief said Croatian authorities in Zagreb and Serb officials in Belgrade denied that any fighters in Bosnia were under their control.

"It nonetheless remains a matter of great concern that demobilised elements of both armies should have been permitted to retain control over the tanks, armoured personnel carriers, artillery, personal weapons and uniforms."

He said there was reason to

believe that both Serb and Croat combatants continued to receive at least part of their "financial and logistical" support from outside Bosnia and pointed to cluster bombs obtained by Bosnia government forces.

But compared to his report two weeks ago Boutros-Ghali refrained from saying flatly that Bosnian Serbs were not under the control of Belgrade comments that enraged some envoys.

The Security Council in late May imposed economic sanctions against the rump Yugoslav state on the assumption that Belgrade was able to stop

the fighting in Bosnia. But Boutros-Ghali so far has criticised all combatants.

The UN Chief also reminded the Council that a fragile cease-fire existed in neighbouring Croatia through persistent peace-making efforts.

"It is political negotiation which offers the only real hope of restoring peace in what were the constituent republics of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia," he said.

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## BRIEFLY

**OAU summit on June 29:** Africa's refugee crisis and conflicts will top the agenda of the June 29 summit of the Organisation of African Unity in the Senegalese capital, Dakar, the organisation's Secretary-General, Salim Ahmed Salim said late Monday, reports AFP from Addis Ababa.

He held a press conference that the OAU Secretariat had proposed that the summit should discuss setting up "mechanisms of prevention, control and resolution of conflicts in Africa," and a body that would take political decisions.

Salim recalled that the OAU had decided to break with tradition in 1990 and discuss conflicts.

He also said the summit would have to discuss the "unprecedented" refugee crisis in Africa, now swamped with six million refugees and 12 million people displaced by fighting.

**Blast wrecks a car in London:** An explosion wrecked a car in central London Tuesday in the latest of a series of blasts which have hit the capital in the past week, reports Reuter from London.

Police said the explosion occurred in a BMW car parked in St Albans Street, near Regent Street, at around midnight. Nobody was injured.

It was believed the explosive device may have been planted by the Irish Republican Army (IRA), fighting to end British rule in northern Ireland.

Police carried out a controlled explosion of a car in nearby Haymarket, where many of London's theatres are situated. But it was later believed to be not suspect.

**China stops arms shipments to ME:** China respects its commitments on transfers of military technology but it still has much progress to make in respecting human rights, Secretary of State James Baker said Monday, AFP reports from Washington.

On trade and missile technology, the Chinese are living up to their commitments baker said when asked about it at a White House news conference, on human rights, there is still a lot of room for improvement, he said.

China pledged several months ago to stop shipments of medium-range missiles to several Middle Eastern countries.

Baker said he was not aware of suggesting that North Korea might be acting as a front for China in the areas of arms transfers. "I have not heard this suggestion made," he said.

**Kabul appeals for int'l aid:** Afghanistan's new government appealed Monday for international aid to rebuild the country devastated by 14 years of civil war, reports Reuter from Islamabad.

The appeal by the Foreign Ministry was broadcast by official Kabul Radio, monitored in Islamabad.

"In order to meet the people's urgent needs and to pave the ground for the return of refugees and the reconstruction of the war-hit country, the Islamic State of Afghanistan appeals to all the states of the world and international organisations to render assistance," the broadcast said.

More than five million Afghan war refugees live in Pakistan and Iran.

**Army kills four in Manila:** Soldiers have raided a Communist rebel hideout, killing four guerrillas, an army commander said Tuesday, reports AP from Philippines.

Col Emilio de Leon, commander of the army's 101st Brigade, said one civilian was killed in the crossfire during the early Monday raid on a rebel safehouse in a remote village of Zamboanga del Sur province, about 765 kilometers (480 miles) south of Manila.

Soldiers recovered two assault rifles, a grenade launcher, radios and a medical kit from the slain New People's Army guerrillas, de Leon said.

**Milosevic's resignation demanded:** Thousand of students barricaded themselves in Belgrade University on Monday and refused to come out until Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic resigned, reports Reuter from Belgrade.

The Deans of 29 faculties joined more than 10,000 students, angered by UN sanctions and the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, who were demanding Milosevic's resignation and the creation of a government of national salvation.

As the students at the central Belgrade campus chanted "Milosevic must go," university Rector Rajko Vracaric told them that the board of Deans supported their demands.

## Israel's air chief slates US

TEL AVIV, June 16: Israel's Airforce Chief, General Herzl Bodinger, criticised the United States on Monday for not doing enough to prevent his country's enemies from acquiring Nuclear Weapons, reports AFP.

"According to intelligence information, these countries — Iran, Iraq and Syria — are trying to get a Nuclear capability and if nothing is done, Iran will get it," he told a press conference near Tel Aviv.

"The United States could do something and they should do it, but I don't think they are doing it," he said.

He repeated an earlier statement that Israel should act — diplomatically at first — to stop Iran from acquiring Nuclear Weapons.

"Iran is going to be a threat," he said.

# Middle East hostage saga ends with release of 2 Germans

BEIRUT, June 16: Germans Heinrich Struebzig and Thomas Kemptner, Lebanon's last western hostages, spent their first night of freedom guarded by Lebanese and Syrian security officials in Beirut after 1,127 days in captivity, reports Reuter.

The Germans' release ended the 10-year Middle East hostage saga. They were the last of 80 westerners snatched in Lebanon pro-Iranian militants who unleashed an epidemic of kidnappings in 1982 to force political concessions from the west.

Lebanese officials said Struebzig, 51, and Kemptner, 31, would be handed over to German envoy Bernd Schmidbauer and to Ambassador Peter Kiewitt at an official ceremony today.

They said Struebzig and Kemptner spent the night at a secret location in Beirut under tight security measures. The sources refused to give any further details but said both men appeared in good shape and spirit.

A statement by the Tehran-backed freedom strugglers which held the Germans for 38 months said on Monday "the release will take place within the next 48 hours at the head-

quarters of Lebanese President (Elias Hrawi)".

Schmidbauer said he was coming to Beirut to collect Struebzig and Kemptner who were seized in south Lebanon in May 1989.

The kidnappers called on envoys of Syrian President Hafez Assad, the United Nations and the German government to come to Hrawi's headquarters in Beirut's Posh Ramlet Al-Baida district to meet the freed hostages.

The official sources said the handover of Kemptner and Struebzig took place shortly after the kidnappers said the two would be freed within 48 hours.

A colour photograph sent with the Arabic-language statement showed the German aid workers in good health and standing suitclad, clean-shaven and smiling.

The officials said the kidnappers decided to free the Germans after receiving assurances from Bonn on two Lebanese brothers jailed in Germany for kidnapping, hijacking and murder.

The freedom strugglers said the release was in response to efforts and mediation by Lebanon, Syria and Iran to solve the issue of the Germans and the Lebanese brothers Moham-

mad Ali and Abbas Hamadi, who they want freed from German prisons.

"Positive results have been reached," said the statement, Hamadi, security chief for the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (party of God), believed to be the cover for Lebanese kidnap groups. He wanted to swap the Germans for his brothers but Bonn refused.

The Shi'ite Zealots warned Germany of repeating "previous experiences" when Bonn failed to make good its promises of freeing the Hamadi brothers after they free two German businessmen in 1987 and 1988.

Renewing its warning to Bonn, the kidnappers said: "as we release the last of the spies and positively close this file, we warn of a repetition of previous experiences..."

"Last, we renew our vow that we will not calm down until our brothers regain their freedom and this will be the last chance."

"We have started the countdown for happiness for everyone, otherwise no one would taste happiness if our brothers are not released."

German officials have said Bonn will not seek to prosecute the kidnappers after its na-

tionals are freed and would probably make easier terms for the Hamadi family to visit the prisoners.

Mohammad Ali Hamadi is serving a life sentence for hijacking a TWA airliner in 1985 and killing a US passenger. Abbas Hamadi was sentenced to 13 years for kidnapping two German businessmen in a failed attempt to win his brother's release.

Monday's breakthrough followed two days of intensive talks between the Hamadis and UN hostage envoy Giandomenico Picco, who last year helped free nine US and British hostages.

Syria, Lebanon's main power broker, encouraged the release to take place in Lebanon unlike previous times when the freed captives were whisked to Damascus and handed over to their government envoys there.

Lebanese political sources said Damascus' offer was aimed at boosting the image of the Beirut government it backs.

Lebanon, which set up a committee to seek the Germans' freedom, hopes their release will attract western aid to help its economy recover from 15 years of civil war.

## Japanese press divided over peace troops bill

TOKYO, June 16: The Japanese press was divided today over parliament's decision to authorise troops to serve in UN peace-keeping forces overseas, reports AFP.

The decision, fought every inch of the way through parliament by opposition groups claiming the move violated Japan's pacifist constitution, was approved late Monday.

It allows the military to take part in UN peace-keeping op-

erations overseas for the first time since World War II.

The Daily Yomiuri endorsed the decision saying it would boost Japan's international contribution. But both the Asahi and Mainichi newspapers accused the ruling Liberal Democratic Party of steamrolling the bill through parliament and failing to consult the Japanese people on such a key issue.

The bill was drafted follow-

ing the 1990 Gulf crisis when Japan drew international criticism for failing to contribute personnel to allied forces that forced Iraqi troops out of Kuwait. The widely respected Asahi Shimbun said in an editorial: "It was an abnormal, intolerable session of the House of Representatives."

It regretted the bill was passed in the absence of opposition socialists who boycotted the final session to protest the measure.

## Sunday Times report inaccurate: India

NEW DELHI, June 16: India Monday described a London Sunday Times report that the British firm Gec-Marconi had secretly sold missile and nuclear components to India as "inaccurate" and "malicious", reports AFP.

"We fully deny any insinuation that any clandestine transaction in this area has taken place," a Foreign Ministry spokesman told a press briefing here.

## Imelda's shoes no longer on display

MANILA, June 16: The visitors have been shoed away as the government prepares to return Imelda Marcos' world-famous footwear collection if the previous owner still wants them, reports AP.

The Malacanang Museum, which featured Marcos' 1,200

pairs of shoes and other personal effects of the former first family, was closed Monday as President Corason Aquino prepares to leave office June 30.

It will be up to her probable successor, Fidel Ramos, to decide whether to reopen it.

Aquino opened the museum

in the presidential palace shortly after taking office in the February 1986 uprising.

The museum was supposed to be a monument to the excesses of the Marcos Administration. Its centerpiece was the collection of shoes, gowns and other luxuries which the

Marcoses accumulated with money which the new government said they embezzled from the Filipino people.

Museum guides made no distinction between items which the Marcoses "stole" and those which they may have purchased with their own money. Marcos claims her husband was already wealthy when he was first elected president in 1965.

Visitors to the museum "dropped sharply after a coup attempt in December 1989. More than 18,000 people visited the museum during its last week in operation."

Meantime, the former first lady has asked that her personal effects be returned to her. Two months ago, the government decided to close the museum before the end of the administration and let the next president decide whether to reopen it.

Museum Director Mariel Tolentino said she hoped the exhibits could be reopened to focus on the history of Filipino presidents and not simply as a vendetta against the Marcoses.

"The sense I get is that people want to move on," Tolentino said.



Imelda with her shoes

## Off the Record

**They breed 300 in 10 years**

CANADA: Police called to investigate complaints by a house-hunting couple that there was a nasty smell near their potential new home found 300 dogs crammed into two houses and a barn, police said yesterday, reports AP.

The woman who owned the building said she had bought two dogs about 10 years ago and had allowed them to breed freely.

Fifty of the dogs had to be destroyed, and police said they were considering filing charges of cruelty to animals against the woman and her husband.

**Potato or potato this is the question**

TRENTON: Vice President Dan Quayle puzzled elementary school students at a spelling be he held for them during a visit Monday when he misspelled the word potato, reports AP.

He could however, spell president.

On his second word, Quayle made a young boy misspell the word potato.

The boy went to the blackboard in a classroom at Rivera Elementary School, wrote "potato" and then was told by Quayle he was missing a letter. When the puzzled boy added an "e", making the word "potatoe." Quayle praised him to the amazement of a crowd of reporters.

The vice president was reading an incorrect spelling on a handwritten flash card he was using.

The blunder followed the correct spelling of the first word Quayle chose from the set of flash cards: president.

Quayle drew chuckles as he gave students an example of how the word is used while one of them wrote on the board.

"The president always tells the vice president that to do," he said.

**Kiss lived well on charity**

MELBOURNE: Father Vincent Kerin Kiss lived well, eating in Melbourne's finest restaurants, travelling abroad and building a vacation home in the Philippines, reports AP.

How did he do it? By stealing from charity, prosecutors say dms 2.1 million (2.8 million dollars) over a six-year period.

The 59-year-old Roman Catholic priest faces 165 charges of theft. If convicted, he could receive 20 years in prison. He has been suspended from his post but has not entered a plea.

From June 1984 to April 1990, prosecutors say, he stole from an account he was paid to manage at the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Ltd.

Kiss had a "vast expenditure for a man on a modest salary," Prosecutor Gavin Silbert said Monday at a hearing in Melbourne Magistrates Court on whether the priest will stand trial. The hearing was to continue Tuesday.

The money was intended for development projects in Vanuatu, a Pacific Ocean nation of 80 islands and 240,000 people northeast of Australia. Prosecutors say none of the money went to Vanuatu, and Kiss used the trust fund as his personal account.

Kerin was paid dms 39,600 (52,660 dollars) a year to manage the charity trust account and dms 5,865 (7,800 dollars) for saying Mass.

He kept a cellar of fine wines, made 18 overseas trips and spent dms 3,400 (4,500 dollars) on a limousine to transport socialites and a politician, prosecutors said. They say he also sent five members of the Australian Ballet on a tour of the Philippines.



LONDON: Royal author Andrew Morton in London on Monday with his new book 'Diana Her True Story'. —AFP/UNB photo

**'Diana'on sale**

WELLINGTON: New Zealanders, most of them ardent royalists, rushed to buy a controversial biography of Britain's Princess Diana today when it hit bookstores ahead of Britain because of an 11-hour time difference, reports Reuter.

Central Wellington bookstores reported heavy sales of the book "Diana, Her True Story" by former tabloid journalist Andrew Morton when it went on sale at New Zealand 45 dollar (24.30 dollar).

"We had a big pile on the counter when we opened today and they've gone and they're still selling well," said a shop assistant at Whitcoulls' bookstore in Wellington.

To advertise the book, which has rocked the British monarchy, the store featured a full-length Di-lookalike dummy in its shop window, looking shyly down at a crown she is due to wear one day as the British Queen.

The Queen is the constitutional head of state of New Zealand and New Zealanders are much more pro-British than their neighbours across the Tasan sea in Australia.

"The bookshop across the road ordered 50 and sold them in half an hour," the shop assistant added.

At least one book shop in Wellington refused, like the London department store Harrods to stock the book. It says Diana's marriage to heir to the British throne Prince Charles is in ruins and that she has resorted to injuring herself to draw attention to her plight.

## Y'slav move may trigger Balkan war: Berisha

WASHINGTON, June 16: Albanian President Sali Berisha told US President George Bush on Monday that a Yugoslav move against ethnic Albanians in its Kosovo region could possibly trigger a Balkan war, reports Reuter.

Berisha emerged from his first meeting with Bush to say he approved of a tougher US stance against Serbia and Montenegro, the two republics left in Yugoslavia. The United States recently joined a UN trade embargo against Yugoslavia.

Berisha said the sanctions were necessary to clamp down on Serbia's strongman Slobodan Milosevic, who he said represented "the last dictatorship in Europe."