

PAC to intensify armed struggle in S Africa

DAKAR, June 25: The radical Pan-Africanist Congress called today for the intensification of the armed struggle against the South African government, reports Reuters.

"We must intensify the political struggle, the international isolation and the armed struggle against the apartheid regime."

PAC spokesman Gora Ibrahim told reporters in Senegal, where he was attending a preparatory meeting for the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit next week.

The campaign should continue "until the establishment of an elected constituent assembly" in South Africa, he said.

The PAC threat followed the decision by Nelson Mandela's ANC and 10 of its anti-apartheid allies to pull out of a multi-party democracy forum called the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA), charging the government with waging a terror campaign against Blacks.

Talks between African Foreign Ministers in Dakar, ahead of the June 29 - July 1 OAU Summit, have become overshadowed by the crisis in South Africa and the ANC's decision to pull out of talks

with the White-led government.

Before the crisis some African states were hoping to make rapid progress in Dakar with plans to bring South Africa into the OAU family.

But diplomats in West Africa say those hopes now appear to be dashed with few leaders ready to risk condemnation for promoting stronger links with a government in open conflict with major Black movements and ANC President Nelson Mandela.

The PAC has long taken a harder stand than the ANC on contacts with White President F W De Klerk's minority government.

It failed at last year's OAU summit to prevent Africa from softening its approach to Pretoria, in a radical shift which allowed the international community to lift or relax economic, political and sporting sanctions.

The outgoing OAU chairman, Nigeria's Ibrahim Babangida, completed a u-turn on South Africa when he received De Klerk with full honours last April. In a speech which diplomats said he must be regretting, Babangida compared De Klerk to Black consciousness leader Steve Biko, who was killed by South African police.

Israelis vote against war, terrorism of Shamir: Arafat

CAIRO, June 25: PLO Leader Yasser Arafat hailed the election defeat of hardline Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir on Wednesday saying Israelis had voted against war, reports Reuters.

"The Israeli public voted against war and the terrorism of Shamir," Arafat cheerfully told reporters as he arrived in Cairo.

Arafat was making his first official visit since undergoing successful surgery in Jordan earlier this month to remove a blood clot on the brain.

He was expected to discuss the impact of the Israeli election on the Arab-Israeli peace process with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Arafat reminded journalists at the airport that a labour government was in power in 1967 when Israel seized the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Egypt's Sinai peninsula and the Syrian Golan heights.

Nabil Sha'ath, the Palestine Liberation Organisation's chief political strategist, said a labour-leftist coalition government was the best possible outcome of the Israeli elections.

"This is the best scenario, a labour coalition with the leftist power which is a driving force for peace and supports the two-state solution," Sha'ath told Reuters.

Sha'ath said last month such an outcome would be the best for achieving progress in Arab-Israeli peace talks but was far-fetched.

"Is there anyone who hears that Shamir lost and is not happy of course we are happy," Sha'ath said, adding that victorious Labour Party leader Yitzhak Rabin had to move quickly to prove he wanted a Middle East solution.

meanwhile, Arab countries failed Wednesday to get the needed international backing for an emergency UN session to discuss human rights in the Israeli-occupied territories, a United Nations spokesman said, reports AP.

Only 24 countries, three less than necessary, backed the meeting by 6 pm Geneva time (1600 GMT) Wednesday, the deadline set by officials at the UN Human Rights Commission, UN spokesman Pierre Mehu said.

The 21-nation Arab League officially demanded the special commission meeting last



week, saying shortages of food and medical supplies put the lives of more than 700,000

Palestinians at risk.

Procedures agreed last year provide for the commission to call a special session if a majority of its 53 member countries agree.

The panel, which has a Third World majority, usually meets once a year in spring. The United States and Canada voted against the Arab request and Kenya abstained, diplomatic sources said on condition of anonymity.

Those voting in favour were believed to be Arab and other Third World nations. Tunisia, Somalia, Mauritania, Libya, Syria and Iraq are the commission's Arab members.

Twenty-six members did not send replies to the Geneva-based administration of the human rights commission.

The Arab League's letter to the UN body cited a "dangerous deterioration of the human rights situation" in the occupied territories.

The situation in the Gaza Strip, "which the Israeli authorities have blockaded and considered as a closed military area," was especially serious, it said.

Shelling rends Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, June 25: Serb irregulars bombarded Sarajevo and tried unsuccessfully to capture a key district in pitched fighting with mostly Muslim and Croat forces early today, local journalists said, reports Reuters.

Ethnic war in the Serb-besieged Bosnian capital flared overnight after a relatively quiet Wednesday that prompted UN officials to restart the clock for a 48-hour truce needed to resume preparations for an airlift for starving civilians.

Sarajevo radio said the risk of epidemic was growing because bodies of civilians killed by shelling or snipers were lying uncollected in streets as summer temperatures soared.

Serb artillery batteries in hills overlooking Sarajevo pounded the city centre, mediaeval quarter and outlying Muslim-held districts of Dobrinja and Mojilo before day break, radio editor Miroslav Simovic said.

Local journalists said Serb militia forces tried to overrun the key neighbourhood of Hrasno but were beaten back by Muslim territorial defenders, who later shelled Serb bastions outside the city from one of their garrisons.

Rocket attack on Afghan refugee camp: 3 killed

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, June 25: Some nine rockets struck an Afghan refugee camp today, killing at least three people and injuring seven, police said, reports AFP.

The number of casualties could rise as details were still awaited, a police official said.

The Shamshat refugee camp is located about 35 kilometres (22 miles) from this northwestern city, which is near the border with Afghanistan.

The official said it was not yet known from where the rockets had been fired.

US reaffirms support for Shevardnadze

WASHINGTON, June 25: The United States on Wednesday reaffirmed its support for Georgia State Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze following an aborted coup in the former Soviet republic, reports Reuters.

"We are obviously concerned by this outbreak of violence. We strongly support Chairman Shevardnadze and the State Council of Georgia in their efforts to bring democracy and free markets to Georgia," State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters.

"The United States condemns the type of violence that we saw that took place last night by these bands of people," she added.

Tutwiler also reiterated the US view that the government headed by Shevardnadze is a legitimate one.

"You know we consider it a legitimate government... All factions in Georgia participated in asking for Chairman Shevardnadze to come back at the creation and formation of what's called a State Council," she said.



Tbilisi, Georgia: Chairman of State Council of Georgia Eduard Shevardnadze (2nd R), surrounded by bodyguards with machine guns, walks among people on Wednesday. Shevardnadze left the State Council building shortly after the liberation of a TV tower seized at dawn. — AFP/UNB photo

Japanese troops asked to get ready for new role as UN peace-keepers

TOKYO, June 25: Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told generals and admirals of Japan's self-defence forces today to get ready for their new overseas role as UN peace-keepers, reports Reuters.

"The self-defence forces will be taking on a new role of international contribution through peace-keeping activities," Miyazawa told a meeting of about 200 divisional commanders, admirals and air force chiefs.

The Prime Minister told Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk on

Oxfam nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

LONDON, June 25: The British charity Oxfam, which has worked to relieve poverty and help development in the Third World for 50 years, has been nominated for the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize, reports Reuters.

English politician Lord Jenkins of Hillhead said on Wednesday that a group of nine people, including former Nobel winners Mother Teresa of Calcutta and the Dalai Lama, had written to the Nobel committee nominating Oxfam for the award.

Mojaddedi, who earlier in the day vowed to quit Thursday instead of transferring power as scheduled on Sunday when his two-month tenure ends, said many members could not attend a meeting of his ruling council, forcing the deferment.

Transfer of power to the

Monday he hoped that a Japanese contingent would head for his war-ravaged country soon to help with reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

"It is needless to say that the mission, to take part in nations peace-keeping forces is in harmony with our nation's peace principles (as set out) in the constitution," Miyazawa told the top brass and civilian officials assembled at the defence ministry.

Last week, Miyazawa's controversial Peace-Keeping Operations (PKO) bill became law after an epic 20-month parliamentary battle, it allows Japan to send troops abroad on active service for the first time since 1945.

In his address today, the Prime Minister made only an oblique reference to fears over the new law expressed in some Asian countries overrun by Japanese imperial troops during World War Two.

"Japan will never become a military threat to other countries," he said.

During this month's last stages of the PKO debate in parliament, the socialists and communists adopted desperate tactics to delay enactment of the bill, claiming it violates the constitutional ban on set-

ting international disputes with military force.

Public opinion remains deeply split on the issue. A poll by The Daily Mainichi Shimbun released today showed 31 per cent approved the new law, 37 per cent opposed it, and the rest were undecided.

In his address, Miyazawa reminded Japan's military top brass that, under the terms of the watered-down bill which finally cleared parliament, their peace-keeping troops must use weapons only to defend themselves.

Defence Minister Sohei Miyashita said it would be an entirely new situation for them.

"The mission will not be the same as conventional ones," he told them in an address, moreover, the operational area will be in the territory of foreign countries.

"I want you, senior officers, to take this point into consideration with an international mind and be properly ready for whatever situation may arise to complete the mission."

Next week, Miyazawa's government is to send a dozen officers and senior defence ministry civil servants to Cambodia to study possible missions there for Japanese troops.

Yasushi Akashi, head of the United Nations transitional authority in Cambodia, told the Japanese military earlier this

week that his organisation needed a Japanese military earlier this week that his organisation needed a battalion of engineers for road construction and other infrastructure projects.

The make-up of Japan's first PKO unit has not been decided, but parliamentary sources said an engineering battalion of the ground self-defence force (army) could fly to Cambodia on airforce transport planes as early as September.

Navy ships would carry their heavy construction and other equipment.

Libya's offer inadequate, says US

WASHINGTON, June 25: Washington dismissed as inadequate Wednesday Libya's offer to hand over to a "just and impartial court" two Libyan agents accused in the Pan Am Bombing over Lockerbie in Scotland, reports AFP.

The Libyan offer "falls far short of meeting the requirements of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 748" which effectively requires the two men to be extradited to Scotland or the United States, said State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler.

There was no other comment available in Kabul, where fresh fighting Wednesday left several dead, communications in a shambles and a flight from Delhi cancelled.

with his Defence Minister Ahmed Shah Masood as the main cause for his decision to hand over power prematurely.

"We have no other details," said Mojaddedi's spokesman. Said Ahmad Gailani, one of the ten members of the leadership council said he had not been informed of the latest and "somewhat surprising" development.

Off the Record

100 million times a day!

GENEVA: The sexual act is performed more than 100 million times a day worldwide, the World Health Organisation (WHO) revealed in a report published today to mark the 20th anniversary of its research programme into human fecundity, reports AFP.

The report says that the daily sexual acts cause around 910,000 conceptions of which 50 per cent are unplanned and 25 per cent are "definitely unwanted."

Some 150,000 abortions are performed every day worldwide.

The WHO report, its second on the subject, stressed the importance of family planning in containing the world population explosion.

It noted that the 100 million daily acts of sexual intercourse also caused 356,000 bacterial and viral infections, and WHO director General Hiroshi Nakajima commented that "the picture of reproductive health in the world today appears to be gloomy."

The world population currently stands at 5.5 billion people, of whom 3.5 are aged between 15 and 65.

Now video to stir gorilla's libido

TOKYO: Sex therapy for a gorilla? That's what's happening at the Hamamatsu City Zoo in central Japan, where Daiko the lowland gorilla hasn't shown enough interest in her mate, Sho, reports AP.

Her handlers have decided to titillate the prudish primate with a steady diet of videos depicting mating gorillas.

"The problem is that there aren't that many videos showing gorillas having sex," says Rikio Nakazawa, a zoo veterinarian. "If there were a porno video of gorillas, we'd really like to get our hands on it."

While no one is sure the videos are having an effect, the 108-kilogram (238-pound) Daiko and Sho are having sex occasionally. To the zoo's consternation, Daiko has yet to get pregnant.

Nakazawa believes Daiko and Sho still need a little more pizzazz in their sex lives. They mate only four or five times a year even though at age 15, they are in their prime.

Since the two gorillas sleep in separate cages — to protect the male from injuring the female in a temper fit — the only place they can mate is a narrow passageway that leads to the outdoor play area.

Gorillas, being sophisticated and sensitive animals, generally do not engage in sex before a crowd of gawking spectators, Nakazawa says.

Nakazawa says the idea to use videos goes back a decade, when a Kyoto Zoo used them to "educate" a pregnant gorilla, Ilmorog, about childbirth and childcare.

Rushdie hopes 'Satanic Verses' can fade away

LONDON: Salman Rushdie said Wednesday that "The Satanic Verses" has completed its publication process and he hopes that the novel, which drew a death threat from Iran, can now fade from prominence, reports AP.

But Rushdie, making his first appearance at a publicly announced event since going into hiding in 1989, called for continued government and public pressure on Iran to rescind the 'fatwa' pronounced by the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

"Silence doesn't help me. Noise does," Rushdie told a news conference following his meeting with members of the House of Commons.

"Therefore, what I have been trying to do is to encourage people to make as much of a racket as they can."

Unlike other recent public appearances by Rushdie, reporters had been told several days in advance of the news conference at the Houses of Parliament. Rushdie had just returned from Denmark, where he had also appeared at a news conference on Monday.

"Quite clearly, there is going to be for a long time a risk from individual fanatics. That's a very different order of threat to the risk from organized, highly financed, highly professional terrorist groups," Rushdie said.

"That's to say, my view is that until we can get the issue of state-sponsored terrorism off the agenda, there is really no way in which one can construct an acceptable and ordinary life."

"Once that happens, I have to watch my back for a while, but so do a lot of other people. As I have sometimes said, I suspect that Madonna probably has more trouble than me in that respect."

Diana visits marriage guidance centre

HULL, England: Princess Diana paid an official visit to a marriage guidance centre on Wednesday, a week after publication of a biography saying she attempted suicide because of her own marital difficulties, reports Reuters.

The princess, wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles, appeared composed and relaxed. She waved and smiled at crowd of well-wishers before watching counsellors of the relate organisation, of which she is patron, at work.

A group of press photographers following the 30-year-old princess around the advice centre in Hull, northern England.

Staff said there had been mention of the alleged problems in the 11-year-old marriage between Diana and Charles or of the biography by former tabloid journalist Andrew Morton.

The book, which sold out in many shops within days of publication, portrays Charles, 42, as a cold, unfeeling husband. Diana is reported to have suffered from the slimmer's disease Bulimia Nervosa and the couple are said to be leading separate lives.



Corazon bids farewell to armed forces

MANILA, June 25: Outgoing President Corazon Aquino bade farewell Thursday to the armed forces, some of whose members helped install her in office and then tried seven times to overthrow her, reports AP.

"I shall remember only the loyalty, honour and courage of those who fought on our side," Mrs Aquino told troops during a ceremony at the armed forces headquarters at Camp Aguinaldo. "It is fitting and proper that I should come here and as one of my last acts of office, be here among soldiers."

130 die of small pox in Laos

HANOI, June 25: Small pox, a disease that the World Health Organization (WHO) declared eradicated in 1980, has killed 130 people in a remote area of Laos, the Laotian news agency KPL reported today, says AFP.

Most victims of the epidemic that broke out three months ago in the mountainous Duck Chung district of Sekong province were children under 14.

"Duck Chung district is a very remote area where the population, mostly ethnic minorities, still stick to their old customs in leading their life."

Mojaddedi to transfer power Monday

KABUL, June 25: Interim Afghan President Sibgatullah Mojaddedi late Wednesday postponed the transfer of power in Kabul by three days, saying not enough Afghan leaders were present to take charge, state radio and television said, reports AFP.

Mojaddedi, who earlier in the day vowed to quit Thursday instead of transferring power as scheduled on Sunday when his two-month tenure ends, said many members could not attend a meeting of his ruling council, forcing the deferment.

Interim council and leadership Mujahideen council will be on Monday because most leaders are not in Kabul," state radio and television said after officials announced that the 70-year-old president was postponing his decision to step down Thursday.

Mojaddedi was to have handed over power to his multi-party interim 56-member council as well as to the 10-member Mujahideen leadership council, but both the forums have reported that a majority of their members were either in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia or in the provinces of

Afghanistan. Earlier in the day, Mo-



jaddedi had cited serious political and military differences