

### UN Cambodia operation faces staffing problem

PHNOM PENH, June 27: The critical phase of the UN peacekeeping operation will be seriously understaffed in its start-up period, the head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) said yesterday, reports AFP.

While 157 experts in civil administration are called for, only 40 per cent will be here by July 1 the day UNTAC has set for taking over the five key administrative areas of the existing Cambodian government.

The phase also clocks so far the participation of the Khmer Rouge, the radical faction that has refused to cooperate with UNTAC, Yasushi Akashi said.

No reliable information has been furnished on the Khmer Rouge's administrative or financial structures, he told a press conference.

"We have visited the areas, under (Khmer Rouge) control, but it was just a first contact visit," said Gerard Porcell, the UN official in the charge of

# ANC puts forth 14 points for resumption of talks

JOHANNESBURG, June 27: The African National Congress (ANC) submitted conditions for resuming democracy talks with the South African government in a memorandum to President PW De Klerk on Friday, reports Reuter.

The detailed 16-page document asked De Klerk to quickly take measures to stop township political violence so that the crumbled talks could resume.

"We are of the view that the response and concrete steps by your government to these demands will play a critical role in determining the direction and pace with which bona fide negotiations can take place," the memorandum said.

The memorandum contained up to 14 demands, including the prosecution of security force personnel involved

in township violence and closure of migrant worker hostels which the ANC says are used for launching death raids. One condition calls for an international inquiry into the massacre in Bhopatong township south of Johannesburg.

The ANC last week pulled out of constitutional negotiations with the government and other parties, charging the government was waging a terror campaign against Blacks.

It cited the Bopatong massacre of at least 41 people, including children and a pregnant woman last week as the main reason for quieting democracy talks.

The move in effect halted the negotiating forum, in which 19 political groups have been debating transition to non-racial democracy from

300 years of white minority domination.

Nelson Mandela's ANC has long accused security forces of being behind the violence in which nearly 12,000 Blacks have died in eight years, a charge which De Klerk vehemently rejected at a news conference on Wednesday night.

"None of us can escape the gravity of the crisis facing our country," the latter to De Klerk said.

The point has been reached where your responses will be looked at by us to determine whether you are taking concrete measures to terminate forthwith the involvement of the National Party Government, the State Security Forces and the police in the violence," it added.

Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer said the

government would study the ANC memorandum and respond before the end of next week.

"The government does not want to cling to power, and therefore wishes to bring a transitional constitution into being through peaceful negotiation as soon as possible," Meyer said.

In the memorandum, the ANC also accused De Klerk's party of dragging the country to the brink of disaster by refusing to recognise basic democratic principles at the negotiation forum called the Convention for a Democratic South Africa.

Negotiations on transition to democracy deadlocked in May over a row between the government and the ANC about guaranteed minority rights.



TAIPEI: The Rafflesia, one of the largest flowers in the world, is on display at the provincial Taiwan museum beginning June 27. The flower, with a diameter of one meter and a weight of five kilograms, is large enough to allow a child to sit on it. The flower originates from Indonesia. — AFP/UNB photo

## BRIEFLY

**Zaire Confce chief meets Baker:** The Catholic Archbishop who heads Zaire's National Conference, set up to establish democracy, met with US Secretary of State James A Baker III Friday and said he received strong support for his efforts, AP reports from Washington.

If it does not succeed, Archbishop Monsengwo Pasinya said at a news conference, "we could have an apocalypse there".

Carefully avoiding any criticism of longtime President Mobutu Sese Seko, Monsengwo said he was hopeful that Mobutu and the army would cooperate with decisions the conference is to make in setting up transition government.

Speaking in English at the news conference, Monsengwo said the mission of the conference "is to lead the sons and daughters of our country to a reconciliation amongst themselves and... to establish democratic institutions".

**OUA renews support for Palestine:** Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of African Unity have renewed the OUA's traditional support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation ahead of the group's 28th summit here next week, AFP reports from Dakar.

They also called for the creation of an independent Palestinian state and urged African participation in the Middle East peace conference at a meeting here Thursday.

The OUA's council of ministers also drafted two resolutions on Palestine and the Middle East that will be submitted to African heads of state and government who will gather here next week.

The head of the PLO delegation, Jamal Sourani, meanwhile told the council of ministers he hoped Yitzhak Rabin's victory in Israel's general elections Tuesday would bolster the peace process.

**70 Somali refugees murdered:** Seventy Somali refugees were murdered by an armed gang on board a ship which later ran around off Yemen, a Yemeni security official said on Friday, reports Reuter from Aden.

Gassem Muqbel Gassem, the top port security officer at Aden, told reporters the Somali gang was arrested after the evacuation of more than 3,000 refugees from the ship, most of the victims were women and children.

**16 executed in China:** Sixteen people were executed in southwestern China's Sichuan province for compromising military research, a report received in Beijing said, reports AFP from Beijing.

Authorities in the provincial capital Chengdu announced the death sentences at public meeting June 9 and 10 and the convicts were taken immediately afterward to execution grounds, the Sichuan Legal News said.

Capital punishment was handed down to ensure the smooth implementation of National Defense Research "and to protect important state telecommunication lines," The newspaper said without providing further details.

Sichuan is a major base for military production and research and is the site of China's commercial satellite launch centre.

**Cuban exiles meet US officials:** A group of Cuban exiles met with US officials in Washington Friday to discuss what the Cubans called the "The reconstruction of post-Castro Cuba," reports AFP from Washington.

A State Department source confirmed that the meeting took place but refused to give any details.

A Cuban source told AFP, however, that "This was just another meeting on the subject" in which exiles living in Miami expressed their "Concerns over their rights to recover land or property that they had to abandon when they fled the island after Fidel Castro took power" in 1959.

"There has been more than one contact between the exiles and the US government," the Cuban source added.

**Rebels kill 16 in Mozambique:** A rebel attack near the capital killed 16 people and wounded 10, government radio reported Friday, says AP from Mozambique.

The attack occurred Thursday, when Mozambique celebrated the anniversary of its independence from Portugal in 1975. A civil war erupted two years later.

Radio Mozambique said the rebels, known by their Portuguese acronym RENAMO, struck in a village 12 kilometers (seven miles) from downtown Maputo. There was no way to independently verify the report.

A new round of peace talks between the rebels and government began this week in Rome in a bid to end the 15-year-old civil war that has killed more than 600,000 people and devastated the nation's economy.

**7 stabbed to death in NZ:** Seven people, including five children aged between 2 and 13, were stabbed or bludgeoned to death in a house in the North Island town of Masterton, police said Saturday, reports AP from Wellington.

A 25-year-old Masterton man was due to appear in the District Court on Saturday morning charged with murder following the discovery of the seven bodies in a house late Friday night.

Police said the victims were from two families. The town is about 80 kilometers (50 miles) north of the New Zealand capital of Wellington.

They said the victims were Piripi Ratima, 7, his brothers Barney, 5, and Stacey 2; Philip Fergusson, 13, his sister Nicola, 21, her partner Bevan Tepu, 21, and the couple's son Steven Tepu, 3.

**Plane collision leaves one dead:** One person was killed and seven injured in a midair collision Saturday between a helicopter and a small plane on the west coast of New Zealand's south island, reports Reuter from Wellington.

The collision occurred in clear weather at the bottom of the for glacier, a popular tourist sport, Sergeant Brian McGurk of Hokitika Police told the New Zealand Press Association.

The helicopter was carrying seven Australian schoolboys on a scenic flight. They were not seriously injured.

The pilot of the mount cook airlines Cessna was killed. His aircraft had no passengers.

### Sharif leaves for Tashkent

ISLAMABAD, June 27: Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif left here today for Tashkent to hold formal talks with Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov, the official Associated Press of Pakistan reported, says AFP.

The talks will focus on "increasing bilateral relations in a variety of fields," the news agency said.

Sharif is accompanied by Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz, Interior Minister Shujaat Hussain, Foreign Minister Siddique Kanju and Secretary-General of Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki, it said.

He will also visit Samarkand and Bukhara during his two-day official visit to Uzbekistan, it added.

### Ghali in Nigeria for talks on S Africa

LAGOS, Nigeria, June 27: UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali flew to this West African nation to discuss South Africa's political impasse with Nigerian President Gen Ibrahim Babangida, reports AP.

Babangida also is president of the Organisation of African Unity, which begins its annual summit Monday in Dakar, Senegal.

The Nigerian government announced Friday that South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha and ANC President Nelson Mandela would meet with Boutros-Ghali on Saturday in the capital of Abuja.

The ANC later denied Mandela would visit Nigeria before the OAU summit.

Boutros-Ghali said, "I hope to see President Nelson Mandela in Abuja or in Dakar to discuss the issues with President Babangida."

Roelf Meyer, South Africa's constitutional development minister, said he tried without success to arrange a meeting between President FW de Klerk and Mandela. Mandela planned to leave for the OAU meeting and was unavailable.

## China has no expansionist design: Li Peng

BEIJING, June 27: A senior Chinese leader has confirmed to a foreign delegation that the country's 3.2 million strong army is making cuts and will continue to do so state-run media reported today, says AFP.

Foreign Minister Qian Qichen made the disclosure Friday to top legislators from the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nation (ASEAN), which is fearful of possible Chinese expansion in the region.

"Over the past few years China has reduced its armed forces and will continue to do so," Qian was quoted as saying.

Qian provided no further detail. Analysts expect a formal announcement of the reductions later this year and expect cuts in personnel to range

between 300,000 and 500,000, with the largest in China's northeast.

Senior leader Deng Xiaoping trimmed the People's Liberation Army (PLA) by one million troops during the late 1980s as part of a drive to make the armed forces more professional.

Premier Li Peng met separately with the ASEAN visitors and tried to assure them that Beijing did not have expansionist aspirations.

China neither practices hegemonism now nor will she in the future when she becomes stronger," Li was quoted as saying.

It is well-known to the world that China's per capita defence expenditure is low. Its defence forces are wholly for self-defence and will not constitute a threat to any other country," the premier said.

Tensions in the region have increased recently over a territorial dispute concerning the Spratly islands in the south China sea.

The Chinese navy has warned it will protect Beijing's claim over the islands, which straddle strategic sea lanes and are believed to be rich in oil and natural gas.

Already China and Vietnam have exchanged hostile words over contracts with foreign companies to develop oil resources in the area.

The Spratlys are also claimed in whole or in part by Taiwan and ASEAN members Brunei, Malaysia and the Philippines. ASEAN also includes Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand.



BENDERY (Moldova): Two Moldovan residents watch as the dead bodies of two Nationalist guards killed in Bendery on Friday are taken away after heavy clashes between Russian-speaking separatists and Moldovan forces. At least 16 people died in the fighting. — AFP/UNB photo

### Man at the centre of LA riots arrested

LOS ANGELES, June 27: Rodney King, the man at the centre of the Los Angeles riots was arrested Friday after a domestic dispute but police said they would not pursue charges against him, reports AFP.

King, 27, was arrested at his apartment in the city's studio city area after his wife said he injured her during a fight, said Deputy Police Chief Mark Koreker.

King's wife, Crystal Waters, suffered minor cuts, he said.

King was taken into custody on suspicion of spousal abuse. But after questioning him, police decided not to file charges and he was released Friday

evening.

"We have concluded there is insufficient evidence to record a booking," Koreker said, adding that King's wife did not wish to prosecute.

The Deputy Police Chief said King was upset when first placed under arrest but cooperated as police officers handcuffed him and took him to the north Hollywood police station.

"He settled down and he's smiling and talking to officers now", Koreker said.

Four White policemen were videotaped beating King mercilessly in March 1991 after stopping him for speeding.

### Czech govt resigns

PRAGUE, June 27: The Czechoslovak government resigned on Friday, paving the way for a new administration that could oversee the country's break up, reports Reuter.

President Vaclav Havel accepted the resignations of Prime Minister Marian Calfa and his cabinet, most of whom lost their parliamentary seats in a general election three weeks ago which polarised Czechoslovakia.

But Havel postponed the resignations coming into effect, asking Calfa and his colleagues to stay in office until a new government can be formed in a few days, the government was formed two years ago after Czechoslovakia's first free elections.

Czech and Slovak leaders Vaclav Klaus and Vladimir Meciar agreed last week on forming a new bare bones administration which would have as one of its prime duties the preparation of plans to divide Czechoslovakia into two independent republics.

The members of the new 10 strong federal government have not yet been agreed between Klaus and Meciar's parties, which won the elections in their respective parts of the country.

A new Prime Minister, widely tipped to be Jan Stresky of Klaus Civic Democratic Party (CDS) is expected to be proposed to Havel early next week.

# US Navy secretary resigns over sex abuse scandal

WASHINGTON, June 27: Navy Secretary H Lawrence Garrett III resigned Friday, accepting responsibility for a "leadership failure" demonstrated by the reported sexual assault of 26 women at an aviators' convention, reports AP.

In a letter to President Bush, Garrett insisted that he "neither saw nor engaged in any offensive conduct" at the 1991 Tailhook Association convention in Las Vegas.

Nevertheless, he wrote: "I hereby tender my resignation as Secretary of the Navy, effective immediately. In doing so, I accept full responsibility for the post-Tailhook management of my department."

Garrett, 53 and the Navy's top civilian, said he also took responsibility "for the leadership failure which allowed the egregious conduct at Tailhook to occur in the first instance."

President Bush accepted

the resignation in a statement emphasizing that "sexual harassment will not be tolerated." The usual expression of regret was absent in the statement, which was issued at the white House by press secretary Marlin Fitzwater.

Fitzwater described Bush as "very upset" by the Tailhook incident and concerned "both for the integrity and conduct of the Navy, as well as by sexual harassment in the Navy."

In reply to a reporter's question, however, Fitzwater said as far as he knew Garrett's resignation was voluntary.

The statement said Bush was briefed by defence Secretary Dick Cheney on the status of investigations into the Las Vegas incident and "seeks a full, thorough, and expedited investigation that will result in actions to ensure the highest standards of equality and conduct among all members of the

Navy."

Cheney, in a separate statement, praised Garrett's "courage and loyalty to the US Navy" but also declared, "There can be no tolerance of sexual harassment in the armed forces."

The resignation stems from a meeting of the Tailhook Association in Las Vegas in 1991 where 26 women — half of them military officers — say they were sexually assaulted while being pushed down a gantry of drunken naval aviators in a hotel hallway.

Pressure had been building on Garrett, who acknowledged only last week that he had been present in one of the suites near where the abuse reportedly occurred, but he insisted that he'd only entered the room to pluck a beer from a cooler.

Following that disclosure, Garrett announced that he was

seeking the independent probe by the Defense Department's inspector general.

Adding to the pressure on Garrett, the Pentagon on Wednesday confirmed that the Navy had disciplined his son, Seaman Yeoman HL Garrett IV earlier this year in connection with the misuse and theft of credit cards.

Charges of delays and cover-up in the Tailhook incident emerged after the Navy's own investigator reported in April that senior Navy officials had known for years of the convention goings-on, but had done nothing to prevent it.

Garrett, who was not named personally in that report, asked the Pentagon inspector general to conduct an independent investigation of the incident and the Navy's handling of it.

In his resignation letter,

### He dies trying to gas rat

LANESBORO: A man died of carbon monoxide poisoning while trying to kill a rat that was living in his garage with fumes from his car's exhaust, authorities said, reports AP.

Olmsted County Coroner Paul Belau ruled the death of 37-year-old Lyle Harlos an accident.

Harlos attempted Tuesday to kill a rat that had taken up residence in his garage by gassing it with car fumes, but the fumes seeped into his house from the attached garage, Belau said.

Harlos had shut off the engine and was airing out his house when he was overcome. His wife found him collapsed in the living room that afternoon.

Carbon monoxide is especially dangerous because it is odorless and tasteless.

### Panda goes to England in search of romance

HOUSTON: A Texas-born red panda is jetting off to England in search of romance after he "just didn't click" with his mate at the Houston Zoo, reports AP.

"We would have loved to have had some little red pandas but you can't fool Mother Nature," David Ruhter, the zoo's curator of mammals said Friday.

Zoo keepers in Houston had tried to get the male panda, BJ, to have offspring with Shanghai, a female originally from a Nebraska zoo. Even though the pair seemed to get along well, they apparently preferred to remain "just friends," Ruhter said.

Shanghai left the Houston Zoo several months ago to be mated elsewhere.

"In four years, we went through three full (breeding) seasons, and nothing happened. The thought at this time is the two animals just didn't click," Ruhter said.

### He was charged with kissing a 10-year-old

MEDWAY, Mass: Veteran policeman William H Yanco was saluted at a funeral service Friday as a man who died in the line of duty, although death came by his own hand, reports AP.

Yanco, who specialized in working with children, committed suicide after a woman charged that he had kissed her 10-year-old son on the lips.

"No matter what I say, people will always be suspicious. I can't stand the way people are going to think of me," Yanco, 43, wrote in a letter to one of his two young sons.

The case, and Yanco's death Monday, stirred discussions about protecting the rights of both the accused and the accuser. Friends and family members have said that Yanco loved children and was deeply traumatized by the allegations.

"Bill was happiest when he was with kids, giving them high fives. If a person could give too much or care too much, that person was Bill," said Wellesley police Lt DC Whalen, who eulogized Yanco at a Mass at St Joseph's Church.

"Bill died in the line of duty as a police officer," Whalen said.

Yanco had been with the police department in the wealthy Boston suburb of Wellesley for 21 years, 14 as youth officers.

In May, an investigation began into allegations by a woman that Yanco kissed her son on the mouth and spanked him with his pants down. The boy was being counseled by Yanco.

The officer was still under investigation when he shot himself Monday as he talked with a fellow officer in a phone conversation recorded by police.

"To listen to that tape is heartbreaking. That poor man. The terrible pain," said Wellesley Police Chief Thomas O'Loughlin.

Christopher Jehn said the Pentagon's inspector general has told the Navy to suspend its criminal probes.

That was done because some of the officers conducting investigations at local bases might themselves be under suspicion for possibly improper conduct, Jehn told the armed services panel.

The Navy lieutenant who first spurred the investigation by coming forward to complain about her maltreatment at the convention, Paula Coughlin, said Friday in an interview that those guilty of committing the sexual assaults should admit their guilt.

"It would be the honorable thing to do. — They should take responsibility for their own actions. They know who they are," she said of those who attacked her and the other women at the convention.