

## N-inspectors in Iraq withdraw to hotel

BAGHDAD, July 22: United Nations weapons inspectors keeping a vigil outside the Iraqi Agriculture Ministry in Baghdad have left their position and withdrawn to a hotel, witnesses said today, reports Reuter.

The head of the UN inspectors, Mark Silver, said on Tuesday his team could soon be in jeopardy following demonstrations outside the Ministry they have been prevented from entering to search for possible data on Iraqi weapons.

Silver also told Cable News Network (CNN) in a telephone interview from Baghdad that protests against their presence had become more aggressive and security the UN had requested had not been provided.

"I don't see the Iraqis letting us inside the building as we stand now," said Silver. The UN inspectors had held a vigil

outside the Ministry since July 5, demanding admission under Gulf War ceasefire terms.

Iraq has denied the Ministry holds military secrets and has vowed never to let the inspectors inside.

The United States, Britain and France have all warned Iraq of serious consequences if Iraq did not back down and military action has not been ruled out.

"The intensity of each demonstration keeps growing and the aggressiveness of each demonstration keeps growing," Silver told CNN, "the security is not equal to the crowds... and there would be no way they could stop them if they wanted to come to us."

Silver, an American, said his orders were to keep the team there until they were allowed access to the building but he could withdraw them to their hotel if he thought they were in danger.

# Aid to Khmer Rouge will stop if it flouts peace

UNITED NATIONS, July 22: The Security Council on Tuesday adopted a resolution cutting off development aid to the Khmer Rouge guerrillas immediately if they continue to defy a UN-sponsored peace accord to restructure Cambodia, reports Reuter.

The resolution was adopted by unanimous 15-0 vote.

The Khmer Rouge, held responsible for the deaths of one million people when they held power from 1975-1979, is the only one of four factions which has refused to disarm and re-group its forces as called for under Paris agreements which all parties signed last October.

In practice, however, most of the aid for Cambodia is still in the pipeline. Japan has organised contributors to pledge 880 million dollar for rehabili-

tating the devastated country.

Specifically the document asks UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), to make sure any assistance was denied to the guerrillas.

It says the two officials should "ensure that international assistance to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia from now on only benefits the parties which are fulfilling their obligations under the Paris agreements and cooperating fully with UNTAC."

Apparently deferring to China, the resolution never mentions the Khmer Rouge by name, although several of its provisions are clearly aimed at them.

With the exception of China and Japan, the other 10 council members who spoke denounced the Khmer Rouge directly, saying the group, called the Party of Democratic Kampuchea, was jeopardising the peace pact.

China, once the main supporter of the Khmer Rouge, characterised the controversy in Cambodia as "differences of opinion". Ambassador Li Daoyu said full participation of all parties was needed to keep up momentum in the peace process.

Japan's Ambassador Yoshio Hatano recommended a "mixture of pressure and friendly persuasion". He told reporters he thought the resolution exerted pressure on the Khmer Rouge which, however,

was not excessive enough to alienate them.

But US Ambassador Edward Perkins warned that the international community could not wait indefinitely for the Khmer Rouge's leaders to cooperate "and should be prepared to implement the Paris accord with or without them".

France's Ambassador Jean-Bernard Merimee was blunter and said the Khmer Rouge was endangering the peace accord by "persistently refusing to cooperate with the United Nations".

British Ambassador Sir David Hannay said it was in the interest of the Khmer Rouge charges that Vietnam had troops in the country, he said there was no evidence that foreign forces remained in Cambodia.

## Off the Record

### Women always have last word in their private lives

PARIS: The inventor of the abortion pill says women determined to procure the drug — legal only in France and Britain — will find loopholes despite a strictly controlled distribution system, reports AP.

Dr. Etienne-Emile Beaulieu said the case of an American woman who surreptitiously obtained 12 RU-486 pills, enough for four abortions, underscores the potential for an alternative supply route.

Such a route could make the pill available in countries that bar it, including the United States. But it could also endanger women if they use it without proper supervision. The pill cannot be used in all pregnancies, and its use must be carefully monitored.

Some anti-abortion activists claim the July 1 exploit by Leona Bente of Berkeley, Calif. who brought the pills back from England, offers evidence of a black market in the United States. But the manufacturer and other health experts say a security system keeps close track of the pills.

"We are just watching the beginning," Beaulieu said Tuesday. "There is a new drug. It is needed by women, and women always have the last word in their private lives."

"If RU-486 enters a black market, these women will not see a doctor," he said. "They will do it behind the back of official medicine."

### 20 volumes dictionary

NEW YORK: The Oxford English Dictionary's second edition, which in print fills 20 volumes, takes up four feet (more than a meter) of shelf space, weighs 137 pounds (62 kilograms) and costs 2,750 dollar is now available on a single compact disc for personal computers at 895 dollar.

"It's a luxury item for an individual user," Andrew Rosenheim, director of electronic publishing at Oxford University Press, said at a news conference Tuesday. "It's certainly not a casual buy".

The new CD contains all the information in the OED2, which was published in 1989, and about a third more than a 950 dollar two-disc set issued four years ago. That set contained everything in the dictionary's 12-volume first edition, published in 1933.

The CD version of OED2 has 60 million words, compared to 44 million in the 1988 edition. But the new CD is much faster — a search that took OED1 a minute takes OED2 about 10 seconds — and capable of more complex searches, such as the location and identification of suffixes, a virtual impossibility in the alphabetically organized print dictionary.

The CD contains everything that it is in the print version of OED2: 616,500 words and terms from "a" to "zyxt," an obsolete form of "see" from Kent, England; 137,000 pronunciations; 577,000 cross-references; and 2.4 million illustrative quotations.

There are 33,150 quotations from Shakespeare, as well as dozens of different spellings of the Bard's name.

The CD can be used on IBM and IBM-compatible personal computers; a version for Apple's Macintosh computer is due out next year.

### Shakespeare on sale

LONDON: One of the rare portraits of William Shakespeare sold for 66,000 pounds (120,000 dollar) Tuesday at Sotheby's auctioneers in London, reports AP.

The mid-17th century portrait is a version of one hanging in the writer's birthplace in Stratford-Upon-Avon. Book publishers Quaritch bought the painting along with an annotated copy of the "universal arithmetic" by Isaac Newton, which sold for 29,700 pounds (60,000 dollars) during the sale of literary manuscripts and souvenirs at the London auctioneers.

Ernest Hemingway's letters sold for 33,000 pounds (66,000 dollars) and correspondence between Marlene Dietrich and her agent Michael Benedict for 2,330 pounds (5,000 dollars).

### Fiance buried in bridal gown

CONNELLSVILLE: A man buried his fiance in her bridal gown three days after they were to have married. A wedding band was on her finger, reports AP.

Beverly Davis, 25, and her mother, Betty Davis, 56, were remembered Tuesday by about 300 friends and family. The women were killed Friday in an auto accident as they returned from decorating a reception hall.

Miss Davis was to have married Eric Schwartz on Saturday. The minister who would have performed the wedding conducted the funeral.

The car the women were in was struck broadside by a charter bus in Bullskin Township.

## Sandinistas clash with police: 11 injured

MANAGUA, July 22: Former Sandinista militants clashed with riot police near the presidential residence during the night, wounding at least 11 people, authorities said Wednesday, reports AP.

President Violeta Chamorro had left the country hours before the shooting Tuesday night, having left for a summit of Latin American, Spanish and Portuguese leaders in Madrid.

Elite troops took up position early Wednesday around the official residence and the nearby National Assembly and reported they had imposed calm. They said the militants, estimated at about 60, had fled the area.

The 10-minute shooting melee was the second in two

## Russia-Moldova agreement to end fighting

MOSCOW, July 22: The Presidents of Russia and Moldova signed an agreement at the Kremlin Tuesday to end fighting in Moldova's troubled Trans-Dniestr region, the Interfax News Agency reported, says AP.

The agreement provides for the Russian-speaking population along the east bank of the Dniestr river to decide their own future in the case of any change in the status of Moldova, the agency said, referring to a possible merger with Romania.

It was signed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Moldovan President Mircea Snegur in the presence of Igor Smirnov, the leader of the self-proclaimed Trans-Dniestr Republic.

## Vance in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, July 22: UN envoy Cyrus Vance arrived in South Africa on Tuesday at the start of a special mission to seek a way out of the country's political impasse, reports Reuter.

"It is with a sense of responsibility and hope that I come to your country today," he told reporters at Jan Smuts Airport.

South African leaders hope Vance's 10-day fact-finding mission will help find ways to address spiralling township violence which led to a breakdown in negotiations between the White government and Nelson Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) last month.

"I come at a crucial moment in your efforts to achieve the goal you have set yourselves — the peaceful transition of your country to a democratic, non-racial and united South Africa," he said.

Vance said he would meet all parties, beginning with reformist President F W De Klerk on Wednesday.

The former US Secretary of State was commissioned last week by the United Nations Security Council to seek ways to create a climate for a peaceful transition to multi-racial democracy in South Africa.

## Japanese go to elections Sunday

TOKYO, July 22: A handful of retired soldiers is challenging Japan's mainstream political parties in Sunday's national elections, reports Reuter.

Tired of swallowing their anger at being treated like old comrades have got together to form their own party, the international political federation.

J Kon said he took the step because the government refused to address the plight of the average soldier in the country's self-defence forces, despite its historic decision to send them abroad as UN peace-keepers.

The Peace Keeping Operations (PKO) law, enacted last month, is one of the key issues at stake in the upper house elections.

Under the "peace" clause in the US drafted post World War Two constitution, Japan is barred from possessing military forces and using force to settle international disputes.

During the 1950-1953 Korean War, US occupation authorities set up the Self-Defence Forces (SDF), successive Japanese governments have fought shy of revising the constitution, however, out of fear it would trigger a political upheaval.

This absence of official standing leaves SDF personnel in a socially ambiguous position.



CROATIA: President of Bosnia-Herzegovina Alija Izetbegovic (L) reviews the guard of honour on Tuesday as he is welcomed by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. — AFP/UNB photo

## Bosnia-Croatia military accord against Serbia

ZAGREB, Croatia, July 22: The leaders of Croatia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina signed on Tuesday night an agreement on military cooperation against Serbian forces if international efforts to stop the bloodshed failed, reports Reuter.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia signed the agreement after a day of talks in the Croatian capital.

"In the event that efforts of the international community continue to yield no results, (Croatia and Bosnia) will undertake all necessary forms of cooperation on the military plane and coordinate military operations in order to definitely repulse the danger which threatens them," the agreement said.

Although Bosnia's Croats and Muslims are nominal allies against Serbia, the document was the strongest statement of common cause to be issued since fighting in Bosnia began in April and the first to be signed by both leaders.

More than 15,000 people have been killed in the fighting in Croatia and Bosnia which began when the two republics declared independence and Serb forces launched offensives to seize territory in both states.

A ceasefire brokered by the United Nations managed to stop much of the fighting in Croatia last January but left about a fourth of its territory occupied by Serbian forces.

But a UN military presence in Sarajevo and European

Community peace efforts have failed to stop the war in Bosnia.

The Bosnia-Croatia agreement also appeared aimed at easing growing hostility between the mostly Muslim Bosnian Government and Territorial Defence and the Croatian Defence Council (HVO), a virtually independent force set up by Bosnian Croats.

Croats declared an autonomous region in western Herzegovina, prompting Muslims to accuse them of conspiring with Serbia to carve up the former Yugoslavia republic.

The agreement stipulated that the HVO was an integral part of Bosnia's armed forces and that its civilian leadership would be brought into harmony with the country's constitutional order.

## Major powers plan to make N-fusion reactor by 2025

WASHINGTON, July 22: Representatives of the United States, Russia, Japan and the European Community have signed an engineering design agreement aimed at developing an experimental nuclear fusion reactor by the year 2025 and a fully operational commercial plant by 2040, reports USIS.

Fusion is the process that generates the energy of the sun and other stars. It involves combining fuel, such as hydrogen, with heavier atoms, such as helium, to release energy in a controlled thermonuclear reaction.

Signing the historic accord July 21 were US Secretary of Energy James Watkins; Professor Viktor Mikhailov, minister of the Russian Federation for Atomic Energy; Minister Hiroshi Hirabayashi, deputy chief of mission, Embassy of Japan; and Ambassador Andreas van der Stoep, head of delegation, of the Commission of the European Communities (EC).

Dr Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), conducted the signing ceremony. The IAEA is the United Nations agency under whose auspices the engineering de-

sign activities will take place.

Blix said the agreement provides for an ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) council made up of two members from each signatory party. Moscow has been designated as the headquarters of the council, which will be chaired by the Russian Federation and co-chaired by Japan.

Supporting the council will be a technical advisory committee chaired by the United States and a management advisory committee chaired by Japan.

## BRIEFLY

**US may buy uranium from Russia:** The United States may buy weapons-grade uranium from Russia to use in US nuclear power plants, AP reports from Washington.

Dr Thomas B Cochran, a senior scientist with the private Natural Resources Defence Council, said late Tuesday that Victor N Mikhailov, head of Russia's Ministry of Atomic Energy, discussed the potential sale of Russian uranium with top officials of the Energy Department earlier in the day.

The department oversees the nation's production of nuclear arms and civilian reactor fuel.

"The Russians are serious definitely," Cochran said in a telephone interview. He said a memorandum of understanding was signed and details were being worked out.

**Russia may sell arms to ROK:** Russia is considering selling sophisticated military technology to South Korea to overcome its worsening economic situation, the Yonhap news agency reported yesterday. Reports Zinhua from Beijing.

General Dmitri Volkognov, military adviser to Russian President Boris Yeltsin was quoted by the Dong A Ilbo newspaper as saying that military cooperation between Russia and South Korea might be discussed during Yeltsin's September visit to Seoul, Yonhap said.

Russian current economic difficulties have forced it to consider selling weapons and military technology Volkognov said. Volkognov also said the defence industry was the most developed of all Russian industries.

**90 Haitian refugees drowned:** The estimated death toll from the capsizing of a sailboat crammed with Haitian refugees has risen to about 90, a government official said yesterday, reports Reuter from Haiti.

Carline Latouche of the permanent secretariat for refugees said all of the estimated 90 refugees aboard are thought to have drowned when the boat sank north of the Haitian capital in a squall minutes after setting off early on Sunday.

She said the estimate of the number of refugees aboard the boat came from some of the nine people who were forced to get out shortly before its departure because it was overcrowded and low in the water.

**Rebels continue attack on Lima:** President Alberto Fujimori scrubbed plans to attend a meeting in Madrid and sent army patrols into the capital as the Shining Path rebels continued bombing attacks Tuesday on the eve of a two-day rebel-called armed strike, reports AP from Lima.

Three explosions were heard in different districts of Lima on Tuesday night, and police said a powerful bomb exploded outside the Bolivian Embassy. There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries.

Earlier Tuesday, the rebels pursued their week-long offensive in preparation for the strike, bombing an air force club and two schools in central Lima and a police checkpoint at the Conchan oil refinery outside Lima.

**Priest killed in Lanka:** The chief priest of Buddhist temple in north central Sri Lanka was killed when a grenade exploded in his home, military officials said Wednesday, reports AP from Colombo.

The officials said police was investigating into the explosion. They suspect the grenade exploded accidentally killing Kuda Kongaskada Wimalagnana at Thanthrimale temple in north central Anuradhapura district late Tuesday.

It was not immediately known how the grenade into the priest's home. Wimalagnana had encouraged over 300 Sinhalese families to return to the village, after they fled following the outbreak of Tamil ethnic violence in 1983.

Thanthrimale borders the northern Vavuniya district where Tamil rebels are fighting for an independent homeland.

**Talks on Black Sea Fleet:** Ukrainian and Russian naval authorities held talks Wednesday over the fate of a Black Sea Fleet frigate and its rebel crew who fled their home port and sailed to Odessa, reports AP from Kiev.

The renegade vessel bolted from training maneuvers Tuesday, hoisted Ukraine's blue and yellow flag and ignored orders to return to its base at Donuzlav on the Crimean peninsula, about 140 miles (225 kms) from Odessa.

Several Russian warships pursued the frigate. It was the most serious incident in the months-long struggle between Russia and Ukraine over the Black Sea Fleet, the former Soviet Union's counterbalance to the US 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean.

## China will strengthen ties with UNHCR

BEIJING, July 22: Chinese Vice-Premier Wu Xueqian yesterday exchanged views with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata, on strengthening cooperation between China and the Commission (UNHCR), reports Xinhua.

Wu said that China appreciates the commission's unremitting efforts to resolve the problems related to the growing numbers of world refugees.

The Chinese government gives its support to the commission's work and will, as always, enhance its cooperation with the UNHCR, he said.

Wu stressed that the fundamental way to solve the world refugee problem is to safeguard world peace and boost the economies of the developing countries.

# Bush takes a veiled swipe at Clinton and his wife

WASHINGTON, July 22: US President George Bush took a veiled swipe at Democratic rival Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary on Tuesday as Clinton and running mate Al Gore neared the end of the six day bus trip launching their campaign for the White House, reports Reuter.

Bush said the November 3 Presidential election represented a choice between "Advocates of the liberal agenda" and his belief in traditional family values.

Without mentioning their names, the President painted his Democratic rivals as liberals who would replace families with "Big Brother Bureaucracy."

"They want to tighten the monopoly on our kids' education," Bush said referring to unnamed "Advocates of the lib-

eral agenda." "They want public schools to hand out birth control pills and devices to teen-age kids and they believe it's no business of the parents and that it's strictly a matter between our children and the government."

They even encourage kids to hire lawyers and haul their parents into court. And I believe kids need mothers and fathers, not Big Brother Bureaucracy," Bush told a crowd of 5,000 outside the orthodox church in Garfield, New Jersey.

His comment on children hiring lawyers was directed at the Democratic nominee's wife Hillary, a lawyer who has advocated legal rights for children.

An article in the August "American Spectator," a con-

servative magazine, brands Clinton as "The Winnie Mandela of American politics" — a doctrinaire feminist and liberal who has argued repeatedly that children should have standing to sue their parents.

Mrs Clinton chaired the children's defence fund, an advocacy group for children, and is a longtime advocate of children's rights.

Clinton spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said Bush was trying to divert voters from a debate on the issues.

"The only way he can win is to attack Clinton and make false charges," Myers told Reuters.

"The truth is, Republicans talk about family values but their policies don't value families."

of Republican vice President Dan Quayle, attacking Bush's economic record and contrasting Quayle with Gore.

"If ever there was an expert on smoke and mirrors," Clinton told supporters at a roadside rest stop in Quayle's home state of Indiana referring to Bush who on Monday attacked Clinton's economic programme as "smoke and mirrors."

"My answer to you (Bush) is this: This administration has the worst economic record since Herbert Hoover," Clinton said, referring to the Republican President blamed by many for prolonging the great depression.

"This administration has let the top one per cent of the American people control more wealth than the bottom 90 per cent for the first time

since the roaring 20s," he added.

The campaign bus caravan was headed into the home stretch, scheduled to reach St Louis, its final stop late on Tuesday, where a rally was scheduled for Wednesday.

But Clinton planned no let-up scheduling a trip to Houston, Texas, and the west coast after an overnight stop in the Arkansas capital of Little Rock on Wednesday night.

Mrs Clinton was with her husband, Senator Gore and Gore's wife tipper on the bus trip.

Quayle, under fire as a drag on the Republican ticket, got some encouraging news: fully 30 per cent of voters can't spell "potato" correctly, an ABC news-Washington Post poll found.

Just two-thirds of registered voters were able to spell

the world properly, the poll found. Four per cent said they did not know or had no opinion.

Quayle has come under renewed attack from late night television chat show hosts and comedians after he encouraged a 12-year-old boy in Trenton, New Jersey, to put an "E" on the end when spelling the word "Potato."

Quayle blamed the error on a flash card.

The poll of 714 registered voters taken over the weekend found that 46 per cent think President Bush should drop Quayle from the Republican ticket while 40 per cent say he should run with him again.

If Bush did drop Quayle, 60 per cent of voters — including 58 per cent of those identifying themselves as republicans — said they would approve of the decision, the polls said.