

International

Germany tops list of suppliers

Iran, Syria, Libya using western technology to develop N-arms

LOS ANGELES, Aug 4: Iran, Syria and Libya are using technology and equipment supplied by hundreds of western firms to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and ballistic missiles, the Simon Wiesenthal centre said on Monday, reports Reuters.

In a report, the Not-For-Profit Group devoted to Nazi holocaust studies and human rights causes said that so-called dual-use technology meant for civilian purposes is being diverted into weapons programmes.

This includes an aggressive programme in Iran to develop nuclear weapons, the study's author, Kenneth Timmerman, told a news conference.

"We risk facing a nuclear-armed Iran in five-year, Timmerman said.

"In Iran, we discovered evidence that the Iranians have 10 major nuclear weapons facilities that had not been known about before," he added.

The report listed about 300 western companies that the

centre said it believed had "played a significant role in the unconventional weapons programmes in Iran, Syria and Libya."

Among western countries, Germany topped the list of suppliers with 100, the report said. It said there were 43 United States suppliers, 29 French, 22 British, 13 Italian and 13 Swiss.

The sales and contracts ranged from enriched uranium to chemical weapon precursors, pharmaceutical plants, computers and aerial photography equipment, the report said.

Many companies believed they had been contracted to work on legitimate civilian programmes," the report said.

Timmerman said the centre was not claiming that the companies named had violated western export regulations.

"What we are saying is these companies certainly have committed a moral wrong and they have committed a strategic error," he said.

"German companies have played a crucial role in helping Iran to build a chemical weapons industry and have illegally supplied nerve gas precursor chemicals," the report said, but added that Germany now has strict export controls.

The report said Syria is now capable of producing several hundred tons chemical warfare agents annually at four production sites. Syria is also building two underground missile factories and has been secretly purchasing equipment for nuclear weapons research, the report said.

It said France had played a "crucial role in helping Syria to develop both a (chemical weapons) and a biological weapons capability."

The report said Libya has moved its chemical weapons production equipment from Rabta to a new partially underground plant, 400 miles (650 km) south of Tripoli.

It also said Libya is seeking to buy North Korean ballistic missiles while developing its own with the help of German rocket engineers.



DALTON, Georgia: While visiting a carpet plant in this north Georgia town, US President George Bush lifts a child August 03. President Bush was here visiting a large carpet factory and speaking to the employees on free trade. — AFP/UNB photo

Pentagon proposed training Iraqi troops before Gulf War

WASHINGTON, Aug 4: The Pentagon proposed training Iraqi soldiers and arranging reciprocal visits to war colleges shortly before the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, documents obtained by a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee show, reports AP.

Rep Sam Gejdenson, D-Conn subcommittee chairman, said Monday night that the documents were obtained from the administration as part of a probe of US policy toward Iraq before the Gulf War.

Three months before Iraq's armed forces invaded Kuwait on Aug 2, 1990, the Defence Department and the Joint Chiefs of Staff proposed to train Iraqi soldiers in Land mine countermeasures, aerial reconnaissance and field operations, an aide to Gejdenson said the documents showed.

The documents also mention arranging reciprocal visits to war colleges and other exchange, said John Scheibel, staff director of the international economic policy and trade subcommittee chaired by Gejdenson.

The Washington Post reported in Tuesday editions that the stated aim of the exchanges was to increase US "access and influence" with the Iraqi military.

Scheibel said the documents first were requested in April 1991, and a subpoena resulted in Democratic legislators receiving most of the material by July 1991. However, those documents referred to two others that the panel obtained just two weeks ago.

The documents have been declassified, said Scheibel.

President Bush in October 1989 secretly ordered consideration "on a case-by-case basis" of non-lethal, military assistance to Iraq, the Post said the documents showed. The Joint Chiefs suggested starting the exchanges in response to Bush's secret directive.

Spokesmen for the Pentagon could not be reached by telephone for comment Monday night.

Scheibel said the subcommittee "will continue to look" at the documents because "you see references to others."

"It's like putting pieces of a puzzle together, to a certain extent," he said, adding hearings probably will be held on "why the United States was helping out Iraq."

Fahd urges world bodies to help end 'massacre' in Bosnia

RIYADH, Aug 4: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia on Monday urged, the international community to intervene and end the "massacre" of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports AP.

King Fahd said during a weekly cabinet meeting here that he was following "very closely the acts of violence and the massacre perpetrated against the people of Bosnia, particularly women and children."

"This requires a firm position from all international bodies to stop this tragedy," he said.

The Saudi monarch, quoted by the official Saudi Press Agency, added that his country "is working to save the fighting people of Bosnia."

Clinton still takes lead over Bush

WASHINGTON, Aug 4: Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton continued to hold a big lead over President George Bush among voters in a national poll released today, reports AP.

The Gallup poll released by Cable News Network showed Clinton was preferred by 57 per cent of respondents compared with 32 per cent for Bush. A similar poll released July 23 showed Clinton with a lead of 56 per cent to 26 per cent.

The survey also showed a further decline in Bush's approval rating which dropped to a historic low of 29 per cent.

Forty-four per cent of those surveyed said they were opposed to Secretary of State James Baker taking over the Bush campaign, a move the president's team is reportedly planning, with 17 per cent in favour of such a shift.

Blacks continue strike in S Africa: 12 killed

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 4: Hundreds of thousands of blacks on Tuesday continued a nationwide strike for a second day amid charges that massive intimidation was being used to enforce the action, reports AP.

More blacks appeared to be reporting for work Tuesday on the second day of the two-day strike called by the African National Congress to demand the removal of President F W de Klerk's white minority government.

Streets in Johannesburg, Cape Town and other cities were more busy than Monday, but commuter trains remained almost empty. Business and trade union figures indicated up to 4 million people took part in the strike Monday.

Government and business leaders charged militants used threats and intimidation to stop people from going to work. Militants erected barricades in some black townships and stopped buses from running.

ANC spokesman Pallo Jordan said there may have been instances of militants enforcing the strike, but violence also was used against strikers. He said the ANC would punish anyone who intimidated people to stop them working.

"Undoubtedly there were people who fell victim to the violence who were opposed to the strike," he said Tuesday.

Fresh Israeli attack on Hizbollah bases

SIDON, Lebanon, Aug 4: Israeli helicopters attacked bases of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) in Monday's second strike in South Lebanon, security sources said, reports Reuters.

The sources said four helicopter gunships fired eight missiles at Hizbollah bases in the villages of Ain Boswar and Lowalzeh in Iqim Al-Toufah mountainous ridge, 40 km (25 miles) south of Beirut.

There was no immediate word on casualties.

The air strike was the second in a few hours on Iqim Al-Toufah.

Two Israeli planes fired 10 missiles at Hizbollah positions in the villages of Arab Salim and Tallet Milta earlier on Monday, wounding two Shiite Muslim militants.

The Israeli airforce has launched five raids on Hizbollah largest in South Lebanon in as many days.

Japan sending troops to Cambodia

TOKYO, Aug 4: The Japanese government said today that a law allowing its soldiers to go abroad would be in effect from August 10, taking another step towards sending troops to Cambodia, reports AP.

Officials said that in addition to approving having the law take effect from next Monday, cabinet ministers had also approved a second ordinance that would allow some troops and civilian in the contingents to carry rifles and pistols.

A separate decision would be made on what weapons will be used by the majority of the SDF units, the officials said.

Ordinances do not need parliamentary approval.

Japan intends to send its first troops to Cambodia, where they will join other UN contingents in trying to keep a tenuous peace between warring factions.

The controversial law, which passed parliament in June, authorizes Japan's Self Defence Forces (SDF), the military, to operate abroad for the first time since World War II.

The law was harshly attacked by liberals, who argued that it violated the country's pacifist constitution.

Off the Record

'She belonged to the world, not enough to herself'

PARIS: Three decades after Marilyn Monroe died of an apparent drug overdose, playwright Arthur Miller says that his former wife was "highly self-destructive" and addicted to sleeping pills, reports AP.

Miller, 77, was quoted as saying in an interview published Monday in the French newspaper Le Figaro that he put his career on hold after marrying Monroe in 1956.

"All my energy and attention were devoted to trying to help her solve her problems," Miller was quoted as saying. "Unfortunately, I didn't have much success."

Monroe, born Norma Jean Mortenson, became Hollywood's sex symbol incarnate in films like "Bus Stop," "Some Like It Hot," and "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes."

She was found dead Aug 5, 1962, at the age of 36, an event that propelled her from film star to myth.

"Marilyn was sick; the public knew nothing," Miller was quoted as saying. "She was totally dependent on sleeping pills, and they destroyed her bit by bit."

Miller, whose "Death of a Salesman" is one of America's greatest plays, described Monroe as "the most poetic being I ever met... She expressed marvelous things about life."

But rather than inspiring him, Monroe gave Miller some of the worst moments of his life, he said. Their marriage ended in divorce after four years.

"...She was highly self-destructive... I think she was looking for stability. She was practically an orphan," Le Figaro quoted Miller as saying.

"She belonged to the world, and not enough to herself. Since she didn't have any confidence in herself, she constantly needed to be reassured by success in the cinema," Miller said.

"She was the reflection of a divine image. She incarnated, at the same time, power and vulnerability, the hope of America and its self-destruction."

All for the sake of rare violin

VERNON, Conn: A 224-year-old, handcrafted violin is at the center of a custody dispute between a concert violinist and her mother and sister, reports AP.

Ann Rylands said she received the violin as a gift 30 years ago from her father, who died within the past two years. Her mother and sister say the violin was never a gift — that it had been loaned.

The violin, valued at close to \$200,000, was made by Italian master Joannes Baptista Guadagnini in 1768. It is one of only about 500 left in the world.

"This violin has been my companion since 1963," said Rylands, of Tennessee, who has used the instrument in symphony concerts around the country. "It's been my whole life. It's my instrument."

The Vernon Superior Court will decide who keeps the instrument, which officials are holding.

The dispute began last year after Rylands was admitted into an alcohol abuse treatment center. She asked her mother, Virginia Rylands, to safeguard the violin.

Instead, Rylands' sister, Mary Lou Rylands, a cellist and music professor, brought it home.

After Ann Rylands out of the treatment center, she asked her mother and sister to return the violin. They refused, saying she had not taken care of it.

Newsman suspended for airing cucumber-condom relationship

BOSTON: Two newsmen were suspended by the Christian Science Church's radio service for refusing to air an apology for a frank report on AIDS, reports AP.

The report described how AIDS prevention workers in Thailand use cucumbers to demonstrate how to put on condoms. It also mentioned a Bangkok gay bar where dancers wore gold lame jockstraps.

It was broadcast nationally July 24 on Monitor Radio's "Early Edition" programme.

Monitor Radio executives said they received many calls from offended church members and a call from a member of the church's board. They produced an apology that ran two days later.

Ken Bader, producer of "Early Edition," and Dale Willman, its host, refused to edit and deliver the apology.

Any 5-year-old knows what a condom is, and any 12-year-old knows what a condom is," Willman said. "Given the time the piece aired these terms are not offensive."

Ghali earns high marks for ideas, but scores low for diplomacy

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 4: After seven months as the world's top diplomat, UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has earned high marks for firmness and ideas — but low marks for diplomacy, reports AP.

He has been given credit for telling it like it is: that the financially strapped United Nations can't solve all the world's problems and needs more money and manpower if it is to be effective.

But the way he tells it is more assertive than any of his predecessors except the legendary Dag Hammarskjöld.

Unlike the man he replaced, the mild-mannered Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru, Boutros-Ghali is a charmer when he chooses. But consultation and cooperation do not appear to be his strengths.

Asked in an interview with The Associated Press last week if he had a unique style, Boutros-Ghali demurred: "It's too early... You must consult my friends and enemies."

But he already appears to be remarking the secretary-general's traditional role as a humble servant of the Security Council, which is dominated by the five permanent members: United States, Britain, China, France and Russia.

This was underscored in a

recent spat over UN peace-keeping efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina. His blunt refusal to do the council's bidding astounded many diplomats — and led others to secretly applaud his gutsy resolve.

In a scathing letter and a published report, the secretary-general complained that he had not been consulted by the council and the European Community about plans for a drastic increase in UN peace-keeping operations in Bosnia.

Boutros-Ghali said UN resources were already stretched "to the breaking point" in strife-torn former Yugoslavia. He also rebuked the council for spending so much on a "rich man's war" in the Balkans and not enough in Somalia, where more than a million people are starving and anarchy rules.

He subsequently proposed a major initiative to help Somalia by dividing it into four UN

zones of administration, security, humanitarian aid and political negotiations to restore order and government.

Ed Luck, president of the UN Association, an American pro-UN lobbying and research group, praised Boutros-Ghali for conveying the bitter truth early in his tenure: "The UN has to learn to say 'no' and cannot automatically accept all requests placed at its doorstep without new resources."

He acknowledged that the new secretary-general could use "a bit more tact and diplomacy," but added: "Maybe a little abrasiveness is not such a bad thing at the moment. Sometimes diplomacy is not needed in leadership."

Boutros-Ghali emphasized

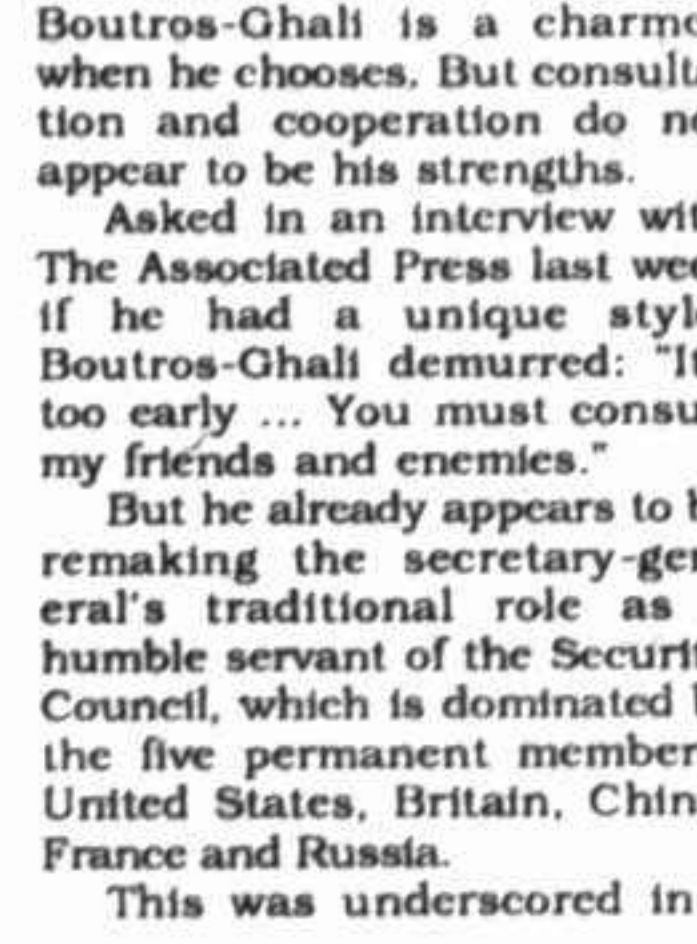
in the AP interview that the council represents 15 different national interests and that his job involves "trying to defend the house, the institution."

His assertiveness came as an unpleasant surprise to those who expected a "yes-man." But Western nations also wanted a decisive manager and reformer who would streamline the sprawling bureaucracy and cut costs.

Boutros-Ghali, 69, was chosen by the council as a transitional, compromise figure and is expected to serve only one five-year term. That limit is a source of freedom: He is beholden to no one and won't have to appease anyone to campaign for re-election.

"Pieces of bodies were strewn about 300 metres (yards) from where the car was ambushed," Interior Ministry official Pedro Maguina told Reuters. "We had to pick up arms and legs to trace the number of dead."

He said the guerillas, who had threatened the judge, lured him into ambush by killing a peasant on Saturday.



Boutros-Ghali, UN Secretary-General, is seen in a portrait.

BRIEFLY

**2 infants killed in Bosnia:** A bus carrying some 40 children in a controversial rescue operation in which two infants were killed crossed the border from Bosnia-Herzegovina into Croatia on Monday, witnesses said, Reuters reports from Zagreb.

The two children were killed by sniper fire when the unescorted bus, taking the children from a Sarajevo orphanage, drove down one of the Bosnian capital's most dangerous roads, known as "Sniper Alley", on Saturday.

A camerawoman from Croatian television in the Adriatic port of split said she saw the bus cross the border at Posusje, in eastern Herzegovina.

**IRA kills British soldier:** The Irish Republican Army (IRA) shot dead a British soldier in an ambush in northern Ireland on Monday night, Reuters reports from Belfast.

Police said the soldier was member of a joint army and police patrol which came under attack from automatic weapons in a republican area of Belfast.

The IRA, fighting to end British rule in northern Ireland, said it carried out the attack.

In a separate incident in Pomeroy, county Tyrone, west of Belfast, another soldier suffered slight injuries when an army patrol was ambushed by IRA gunmen.

**Yeltsin to visit Japan:** Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit Japan in mid-September as expected, a presidential spokesman said Monday, AFP reports from Moscow.

Referring to the visit, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said in a television late Sunday that his ministry favoured the "restoration of the legal order and norms of international law" over the Kuril islands.

The four disputed islands north of Japan have been occupied by the Soviet Union since World War II and are claimed by Japan.

The president's visit will mean a decisive step in finding a valid and just solution to this problem," said Kozyrev.

**Six shot dead in Gujarat:** Unidentified gunmen shot dead at least six people in a city in the western state of Gujarat late Monday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, AFP reports from New Delhi.

A group of men arrived in a car and opened fire with sten guns fatally injuring six people in Gujarat's Ahmedabad town, police were quoted as saying.

All the six injured died on the way to hospital, the news agency said.

PTI said the attack took place at Ahmedabad's Odhav district, but did not give any other details.

**Peace accord in Surinam:** Guerrilla groups and the Surinamese government on Monday reached a peace accord designed to restore the prosperity and political stability this South American nation lost a decade ago, Reuters reports from Surinam.

Hundreds of insurgents, who first took up arms in 1986 to topple the former military regime agreed to surrender their weapons within two weeks, negotiators said.

A key element is a decision to grant amnesty to guerrillas and to the military despite human rights abuse, including executions, by soldiers against critics and suspected rebel sympathisers.

A blanket amnesty for both sides was opposed by some members of the government but it was deemed necessary to secure lasting peace with army commander colonel Desf Bouterse, who led coups in 1980 and 1990.

**Int'l experts to probe Thai airbus crash**

KATHIMANDU, Aug 4: The government on Tuesday asked international experts to investigate the crash of a Thai Airways jetliner, which smashed into a mountain during a monsoon, killing all 113 people aboard, reports AP.

A nine-member panel will record and analyze the information collected by six or seven teams of experts, said a top government official. That will include a conversation the pilot had with Kathmandu's control tower during Friday's flight in which he mentioned a technical problem.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the inquiry will take about two months. He refused to give any more details.

But the experts have a very difficult task ahead as there is not much left after the crash," the official said.

Soldiers have recovered small bits of aircraft metal and

**7 BSF men killed as Sikhs blow up truck in Punjab**

AMRITSAR, Aug 4: Sikh separatists blew up an Indian Border Security Force vehicle with an antitank mine, killing seven soldiers and wounding four others, police said Tuesday, reports AP.

Punjab Deputy Inspector General of Police RS Challa said a border security truck passed over the mine near the village of Shakarnassial, about 1 1/2 kilometers (1 mile) from the border with Pakistan.

The Punjab attack came one day after police reported that Sikh militants killed 29 Hindu villagers they had kidnapped in neighboring Uttar Pradesh state.

The bodies were found floating in a river in the forest where the villagers had gone on Friday to collect roots to sell as food. It was the worst incident this year in Uttar Pradesh, where the Sikh insurgency has been spreading.

Sikh militants, campaigning for an independent Sikh nation in Punjab, often target Hindus, the religious majority who account for 82 per cent of India's 844 million people. They also attack Indian security forces, stationed in the Punjab to contain the insurgency.

Sikh militants say they suffer cultural and political discrimination.

**Human remains from the crash site, an 11,500 feet (8,500 metre) mountain outside Kathmandu.**

The Airbus A310-300 plane carried 99 passengers and 14 crew members, including 11 Americans, on a flight from Thailand. It slammed into the face of the mountain at a cruising speed and exploded with full fuel tanks.

Soldiers have so far collected 18 kilograms of (40 pounds) of flesh and bones, but most of the other remains are scattered over a wide area on the slopes and some of it fell into deep gorges.

Army officials said special mountain troops will take at least two more days before to retrieve all the fragments, which are now decaying.

That Airways has brought in British forensic experts to identify people from the remains. The experts have previously identified people by examining bitten finger nails, pierced ears, teeth and fingerprints. But the government did not say if these experts will be on the investigating teams.

The nine-member panel will include an expert from the International Civil Aviation Organisation, officials of the French and Thai governments, and Nepalese bureaucrats and army officials.

Meanwhile, 100 relatives from several nations, including the United States, and hundreds of Nepalese are sifting through burned photographs, passports and other belongings recovered from the crash site.

The plane was carrying 31 Nepalese and people from 16 countries.

**Rebels kill 11 in Peru**

LIMA, Peru, Aug 4: Eleven people including a judge, his wife and son were killed when Maoist Shining Path guerillas detonated a land-mine on a road in Peru's central Andes, state officials said on Monday, Reuters reports.

Judge Ernesto Castro Hidalgo, his wife Sonia Sanchez and 17-year-old son died together with four policemen and four peasants when the van in which they were travelling was blown up on Sunday near the hamlet of Acopampa, 400 km (220 miles) northeast of Lima, the officials said.

"Pieces of bodies were strewn about 300 metres (yards) from where the car was ambushed," Interior Ministry official Pedro Maguina told Reuters. "We had to pick up arms and legs to trace the number of dead."

He said the guerillas, who had threatened the judge, lured him into ambush by killing a peasant on Saturday.

**28 feared drowned in Nepal**

KATHMANDU, Aug 4: At least 28 passengers of a bus were feared drowned when the vehicle fell into a monsoon-fed river in southern Nepal, the state-run news agency reported Monday, reports AP.