

IAEA team destroys 8 N-installations in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 20: International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors destroyed eight nuclear installations during a mission in Iraq in July, according to a report by the UN agency issued Wednesday, reports AFP.

As on previous missions, Iraq "provided all equipment, materials and manpower necessary for the efficient implementation of the destruction plan" under IAEA supervision, Acting IAEA Director Suco Machi said in a statement.

Work begun during the 12th mission to destroy key installations at the Tarmiya and Ash Sharaqat sites was largely completed during the 13th mission, it said, adding that four buildings at each site were destroyed.

Baghdad was asked to "complete the few remaining

activities before the end of August for verification by the 14th IAEA team," the statement said.

The statement followed reports that the Gulf War allies were moving ahead with plans to mount an aerial exclusion zone over southern Iraq to relieve pressure by President Saddam Hussein's forces on Shiite Rebels.

The IAEA on May 15 sent Iraq a list of steps toward executing UN Security Council resolution 687, which came under the Gulf War ceasefire, including destruction of facilities at the Tarmiya and Ash Sharaqat sites.

The statement said the IAEA inspection team had received a "final and complete" English version of a report on all of Baghdad's nuclear activities.



SARAJEVO: Young boys play war games in front of a burned building in Sarajevo on Wednesday. For the first time since the siege of the Bosnian capital began, civilians had been evacuated on August 18, to Belgrade aboard 17 buses escorted by UN armoured vehicles. — AFP/UNB photo

UN relief flights to Sarajevo resume

SARAJEVO, Aug 20: UN relief flights to embattled Sarajevo are resuming after a halt caused by a threat to a British plane, reports Reuter.

General Satish Nambiar, Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), said on Wednesday he had given a clear for the international air bridge to start up again.

The flights, bringing food and medicines to the 380,000 population trapped in the Bosnian capital by besieging Serbs — were stopped temporarily on Tuesday when a British Royal Air Force Hercules had to dodge what they thought was cannon fire.

UN sources said they suspected Serb gunners but there was no final verdict on who the culprits were, and Nambiar avoided making direct accusations when he visited the scene afterwards.

Coup inevitable in Russia?

MOSCOW, Aug 20: With prices skyrocketing and unemployment looming, some Russians believe President Boris N. Yeltsin could soon face another coup — this time with broad public support, reports AP.

"It's inevitable," retired Colonel Victor Alksnis, one of the best-known hard-line Communists remaining in the former Soviet Union, said Wednesday.

Lenin long ago said the 1905 Revolution was a rehearsal for the 1917 Revolution. I think the putsch of 1991 will turn out to have been just a rehearsal for some new events against the current powers, he said.

This week, Russians are commemorating the first anniversary of the defeat of last August's coup by hard-liners in the Communist Party KOB and army.

In cafeterias and on street corners, a frequent topic of

debate is whether another putsch is possible.

"There won't be a second coup. I personally guarantee it," said Army Captain Valery Gaidyat, 41, flexing his bicep under the blue striped T-shirt of a Soviet paratrooper.

Gaidyat went to the Russian Parliament building, or "White House," on Wednesday to commemorate the defence of the building on August 19-21, 1991, by tens of thousands of ordinary Russians.

He and others said the desire of Russians for freedom has not waned in the past year, despite the country's economic difficulties.

"We are ready to go to the barricades again, 100 per cent," Gaidyat said.

Yeltsin argued in a television address Wednesday on the coup anniversary that his economic reforms were slowly moving forward, despite some stumbling.

Hard as it is, the majority of people realise that there is no return. Under no circumstance, Russia will simply not survive another Communist era, he said.

Yeltsin was angered earlier this summer when his Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev, suggested that another coup was possible.

In a recent poll, 42 per cent of the 1,305 people questioned said Russia was threatened by a possible alliance of pro-Communists and fascists, or the "red-and-brown" forces, as they are sometimes called here.

Only 37 per cent answered "No" to the question, "Do you think Russian society is threatened by a Bolshevik-Fascist conspiracy?" while 21 per cent said they did not know. No margin of error was given for the poll, published by the weekly Moscow News in late July.

"The public is paralyzed

with fear of another putsch," Alexander Yakovlev, a onetime adviser to former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, wrote in the same issue of Moscow News.

Alksnis, one of the so-called "black colonels" who pushed Gorbachev to crack down on Baltic independence movements in January 1991, predicted that the next coup would be sparked by "social uprisings, connected first of all with massive unemployment."

Belyaev, dressed in an expensive suit and imported shoes, said he once worked as a party "apparatchik" and remains a devoted Marxist. "But I don't want a return to our old system, because it was inhuman, to put it mildly," he said.

"Who would replace Yeltsin?" he asked. "Not the Communists the people won't back them. I am a Communist, but the people won't follow us, that's a fact."

Narayanan new Vice President of India

NEW DELHI, Aug 20: Kocheril Raman Narayanan, a diplomat-turned-politician, was elected India's new Vice President on Wednesday, the first lower-caste Hindu to hold that post, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports Reuter.

Narayanan, 71, was sponsored by the ruling Congress Party but emerged as a consensus candidate of all major political parties in Parliament for the largely ceremonial position.

He won 700 of the total 711 votes in the election among members of both Houses of Parliament, PTI said.

Narayanan succeeds Shankarday Sharma, who was elected President last month for a five-year term.

The Vice President presides over the Upper House of Parliament when in session.

Social justice for the lower castes, who form bulk of India's 850 million people, became a major issue in recent years.

Baltic states ask UN to take up former Soviet troops issue

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 20: Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania formally asked the United Nations Wednesday to take up the issue of former Soviet troops left in the Baltics after the breakup of the Soviet Union, reports AFP.

In a letter to UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Baltic representatives asked the matter of foreign troops be discussed at the 47th General Assembly meeting set to begin in September.

The discussion at the general meeting "would constitute a timely application of preventive diplomacy in a region where the maintenance of international peace and security may be threatened," they wrote.

The three Baltic governments noted that regional organizations like the conference

Cuba delays revolution day celebration

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico, Aug 20: Celebrations marking the Cuban Revolution — delayed this year for the first time since Fidel Castro's 1959 triumph — will take place in September, a Cuban official announced Wednesday, reports AP.

The official also dismissed Russian allegations that Castro's son, Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart, had siphoned off 5 million dollars in Russian aid for a nuclear power plant.

The younger Castro had been fired as Cuba's nuclear energy chief in June simply because he was "inefficient," said the Cuban official, Rafael Dausa.

He said the Russian reports of embezzlement were "inflated" and indicative of an anti-Havana turn in the Russian press.

"Maybe there are some Russian journalists who want a promotion, maybe the chance to emigrate to the United States," said Dausa, the third secretary of the Cuban Interests Section in Washington.

BRIEFLY

Bus crash kills 45 in Spain: Forty-five people died and another 11 were injured on Wednesday in Spain's worst bus crash for 13 years, local officials said, Reuter reports from Spain.

Ten of the survivors were said by hospital officials to be seriously hurt, with multiple fractures and head injuries.

The bus, taking 56 passengers from Barcelona to Seville's expo 92 universal exhibition, swerved off a bend of the coastal motorway. It somersaulted and landed upside down, crushing the roof.

The accident occurred at about 1730 GMT, about 230 kms (140 miles) south of Barcelona and 100 kms (60 miles) north of Valencia. The 11 survivors, including three children, were rushed to Valencia and Castellon hospitals.

Japan launches rocket: Japan's National Space Development Agency (NASDA) successfully launched Thursday an experimental rocket from its space centre in Kagoshima, agency officials said, reports AFP from Tokyo.

Five pieces of experimental equipment, separated from the TR-1A rocket at an altitude of 277 kilometres (172 miles), were recovered in the Pacific ocean off Tanegashima island in Kagoshima, southern Japan, the officials said.

The rocket measured 12.9 metres (42.6 feet) in length, 10.3 tons in weight and 1.13 metres (3.7 feet) in diameter, while the five experimental equipment, each 80 centimetres (32 inches) in diameter, weighed 1.5 tons altogether.

The experiments in near-weightless conditions included fusion of glass and alloy, NASDA officials said.

PSDA supports Savimbi: The Angolan Social Democratic Party (PSDA) has decided to cancel the candidacy of its leader Andre Milton Kilandamoko to support Jonas Savimbi, President of the rebel-turned opposition National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), in September's presidential election, says Xinhua from Luanda.

The social democrats revealed the decision in a communique signed Savimbi and Kilandamoko, which was published here yesterday.

The communique said the PSDA decision is aimed at ensuring that the real opposition party wins in the presidential election, which is to take place on September 29 and 30 simultaneously with parliamentary elections.

5 ROK soldiers die in blast: Five South Korean soldiers died and an unknown number were injured in a dynamic blast while observing an ordnance demonstration Thursday in the southern province of North Cholla, press reports said, AFP says from Seoul.

About 100 soldiers were engaged in training in the town of Pgonasan when the blast occurred, Korean broadcasting system and Yonhap news agency reported.

No other details were immediately available.

Kurds kill 4 in Turkey: Kurdish guerrillas killed at least four members of the security forces and injured 13 others Wednesday before giving up control of most of the southeast Turkish town of Sirnak, a regional official announced, AFP says from Ankara.

A large number of Workers' Party of Kurdistan (PKK) rebels launched a raid on Sirnak late Tuesday with rocket-propelled grenades and mortars, regional state of emergency Governor Unal Erkan said on Turkish state television.

But by Wednesday Turkish soldiers had "surrounded" the town of 20,000 people, which town Governor Mustafa Malay put under curfew early Wednesday, Erkan added. All routes in and out of Sirnak were under guard.

Prison revolt in France

FRANCE, Aug 20: Police stormed a prison in this east-French city Wednesday after inmates rebelled, setting fire to the administrative wing, and a prisoner fell to his death from a roof, reports AFP.

A total of 23 of the 220 prisoners held in the prison's short-term detention centre were hurt and 16 of them were admitted to hospital, official sources said.

The police intervention was carried out "without excessive violence," according to the Regional Director of Prison Services, Guy Solana.

Shortly after midnight (2200 GMT), about 100 policemen finally gained control

of the prison which inmates had taken over in the afternoon.

The police intervention which lasted two-and-a-half hours, involved a special task force which was landed by helicopter on a prison roof.

One prisoner was injured by rubber bullets fired by police, while several others fell seriously ill after breaking into the infirmary and stealing drugs there.

Other prisoners were beaten up by fellow detainees and some suffered from smoke inhalation after setting fire to several apartments and the building, including the administrative wing.

3 more languages get official status in India

NEW DELHI, Aug 20: Parliament today unanimously approved a constitution amendment bill to give official language status to Nepali, Konkani and Manipuri, reports PTI.

The bill titled constitution (77th amendment) bill, 1992 was passed by the Lok Sabha first and then by the Rajya Sabha without discussion.

The bill was moved by the Home Minister S B Chavan in both Houses.

The bill provides for inclusion of these three languages in the eighth schedule of the constitution. There will now be 18 languages in the eighth schedule.

The photographs strip away all the lies

LONDON, Aug 20: Sensational photographs of the Duchess of York wearing only a Monokini, kissing Texan millionaire Johnny Bryan by a Saint Tropez poolside, were published by the Daily Mirror Thursday, reports AFP.

It said the photographs showed "the truth" about her relationship with her so-called "financial advisor".

The photographs, reportedly shot by a French photographer at a holiday villa in the south of France last week, were splashed across seven pages of the newspaper under the headline "Fergie's stolen kisses," and showed the semi-naked Duchess and the American kissing and embracing on sun loungers, in the presence of the Duchess' young daughters. The Mirror is reported to

US deploys Patriot system in ROK

SEOUL, Aug 20: The United States deployed its Patriot missile system in South Korea for the first time today as part of a joint high-tech military exercise, a US military spokesman said, reports Reuter.

Two Patriot launchers and associated radar and fire control equipment from the 35th Air Defence Artillery Brigade, Fort Lewis, Washington, have been deployed to Suwon Air Base for the exercise," Captain Peter Tell said in a news release. He said it was the first deployment of the Patriot system in South Korea.

The Patriot missiles used in

the Gulf War as a defence against Iraqi Scud missile attacks.

North Korea produces and sells Scud-C missiles, diplomatic sources said.

South Korean intelligence reports last year said North Korea had developed mobile Scud launching sites and were working on doubling the range of the Scud-C to 1,000 km (620 miles). Seoul lies 40 km (25 miles) from the demilitarised zone dividing the Korean peninsula.

The Patriot system has a maximum range of 70 km (43 miles) and can track 50 tar-

gets simultaneously, Tell said.

The United States and South Korea on Wednesday began joint war games, named "Ulchi Focus Lens," linking supercomputers in Europe and the United States to command centres here to stimulate a mock Korean war.

Germany, the Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Saudi Arabia and Israel have purchased the newest generation of Patriot missile, the Pac-2, Tell said.

"The US brought the Patriot missiles only for the exercise and our government has no intention of purchasing them," a South Korean defence min-

istry spokesman said by telephone.

The 17th annual focus lens exercise is larger than normal because of this year's cancellation of the yearly team spirit US-South Korean war games.

A US military spokesman had said 14,000 American servicemen, the majority stationed in South Korea, and 4,000 from the United States would take part in the war games. US troops have been stationed in South Korea since the end of World War Two.

The US plans to cut the number of troops from about 39,000 to 36,000 by late 1992.

Off the Record

No family is without pain

HOUSTON: After a week of unbroken Democrat-bashing at this convention, there she stood, plain and simple, Barbara Bush, unabashed and bashing no one. The president's wife talked about family. She spoke words about love in a palace of politics, reports AP.

Nothing political — the best of politics. Barbara Bush's moment under the Astrodome was all she had promised all week to all who would listen: not much. Just chatter about George and about raising kids, the fun of it and the hurt of it.

She talked about family activities. And she remembered the daughter lost to leukemia, the son who almost died, the child with a learning disability.

"No family is without pain and suffering," she said.

If Mrs Bush had a message to the Republican convention, it was somewhat at odds with the traditional suburban station wagon, mowed-lawn, straight-arrow image that the Republican slogan "family values" calls to mind. Families, she said, are also heroic single mothers, raising children alone or grandparents raising the children their own children cannot.

The sacrifices, she said, will be worth it.



This 1990 file photograph taken in New York shows actor-director Woody Allen (R) with Soon-Yi Previn, the adopted daughter of his former lover, actress Mia Farrow. Allen acknowledged news reports on August 18 that he is having an affair with Soon-Yi but he denied allegations of molesting another adopted daughter. — AFP/UNB photo

Nothing colourful to tell about affair

NEW YORK: The public battle over the private lives of ex-lovers Woody Allen and Mia Farrow escalated Wednesday as her spokesman confirmed the actress videotaped her 7-year-old daughter discussing alleged sexual abuse, reports AP.

Allen, the director of and actor in such acclaimed comedy films as "Manhattan" and "Annie Hall," has vehemently denied he ever abused his children.

Miss Farrow made several copies of a videotape involving her child, said spokesman John Springer. The tape was viewed by a reporter and two producers at WNYW-TV; they said Miss Farrow's voice was heard off-camera asking 7-year-old Dylan Farrow about an alleged incident with Allen. The girl did not indicate in the videotape that Allen had abused her.

Miss Farrow's lawyer, Alan Dershowitz, said Allen started having sex with Miss Farrow's adopted daughter, Soon-Yi Previn, on Dec 1, 1991, while he was still involved with Miss Farrow.

Miss Previn is believed to be about 21 but the Korean orphan has no birth certificate.

On Jan 13, Miss Farrow found nude pictures of Miss Previn and broke off her relationship with Allen, Dershowitz said.

Allen said Tuesday all allegation of abuse had been dreamed up by Miss Farrow as part of their child custody fight. He also acknowledged he was in love with Soon-Yi Previn. Soon-Yi Previn is the adopted daughter of Miss Farrow and her second husband, composer Andre Previn, 63, who told the New York Post that he was sickened by the affair.

"As a father, I don't think I have a colourful enough vocabulary to tell you what I think of the affair," he said. "My opinion of (Allen) gets lower by the day".

The Justice Department is determined to bring Howard to trial, said Justice Department spokesman Dean St. Dennis said. "But espionage is not an extraditable offense. There are many fugitives in other countries, and the government works in ways it can't discuss."

Howard Sweden when the Soviet Union collapsed. He has been accused of cooperating with the Russian KGB since arriving in Sweden last year.

Howard still wanted by US authorities

WASHINGTON, Aug 20: Former CIA agent Edward Lee Howard, ordered expelled from Sweden, is still wanted by US authorities on charges of spying for the Soviet Union, a Justice Department spokesman said Wednesday, reports AP.

Howard, who defected in 1985, is blamed for the collapse of the US spying operation in Moscow, including the execution of a Soviet citizen for treason.

Howard Sweden when the Soviet Union collapsed. He has been accused of cooperating with the Russian KGB since arriving in Sweden last year.

Major attack on LTTE

COLOMBO, Aug 20: Thousands of government troops backed by air cover Thursday launched a major offensive against Tamil guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka under cover of an indefinite curfew, a military spokesman said, reports AFP.

Chief spokesman Colonel Sarath Munasinghe said troops moved out of the main Palaly airbase in the northern Jaffna peninsula amid stiff resistance from guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

He said at least one soldier was killed and several wounded in the initial stages of fighting but further details were not immediately available.



have paid at least 60,000 pounds (110,000 dollars) for the pictures.

In an editorial, the Mirror said the photographs "strip away all the lies, humbug and hypocrisy that have surrounded the Duchess' relationship with Mr Bryan since it became public seven months ago."

The Duchess and Bryan have been constant companions since she announced her separation from Prince Andrew in March, which was triggered by the publication of intimate photographs of the Duchess with another American tycoon, Steve Wyatt.

The Scottish Daily Record

published similar photographs in its Thursday edition, and the photographs were expected to be published in four other countries, including Spain and the United States in the next few days.

The couple failed Wednesday to obtain injunctions in courts in Paris and London against publication of the photographs. A high court judge in London refused to ban publication on the grounds that there is no law in Britain protecting individuals' privacy.

After the hearing, Bryan said: "there is no doubt that my privacy and that of the Duchess of York has been grossly infringed."

The Duchess' lawyers ear-

lier asked a court in Paris to prevent the French weekly magazine Paris Match from publishing the pictures and to hand over the negatives. But the magazine's Thursday edition did not run the pictures, and Paris Match editor Christophe Laffaille said his magazine did not have them.

The French judge said he could not grant an injunction without proof that the photographs existed, and gave Paris Match until Friday to come back with a clearer statement about whether it would be using the pictures.

The publication of the controversial photographs was certain to embarrass Queen Elizabeth II and cause further dam-