

Roh resigns from party

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 5: President Roh Tae-woo formally resigned from the governing Democratic Liberal party Monday...

The resignation, which had been expected, was an effort to counter charges of vote-rigging in elections earlier this year...

By electing a new government in fair elections, we will resolve differences and establish a stable political climate for the future...

Roh is the first president to quit the governing party. His decision to do so two weeks ago stunned party loyalists...

A partial Cabinet reshuffle later this week was expected to include the prime minister, the home minister and the justice minister...

Europe's defence structures look for tension-free, meaningful role

BRUSSELS, Oct 5: Three years after the cold war ended, Europe's defence structures are groping through a maze of political and practical problems...

Dreams of a regional policeman have been shot full of holes from the bills around Sarajevo. Moves toward a united security front have been hampered by a tug-of-war between France and the United States...

Interviews with military officials, diplomats and defence analysts suggest that keeping the peace in Europe could be a tricky business amid all the heady post-Gulf war talk of thwarting aggression anywhere...

One of the problems was that we believed our own verbiage about a new world order, said an official of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)...

With the threat of a mass Soviet attack gone, the west's guardian institutions are undergoing radical transformation. The new security buzzwords are localised 'crisis management' and 'conflict prevention'...

NATO says it is cutting BACK 80 per cent of its nuclear and about a third of its conventional arsenal in Europe, developing a leaner structure spearheaded by a rapid deployment force of about 100,000 men...

The Western European Union (WEU), currently a skeletal organisation, hopes to become a pillar of continental defence while France and Germany press plans for a Eurocorps. The 52-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) is eyeing a larger political role...

Under pinning all this is a fundamental redefinition of security, which is no longer just defence of the homeland. Now it also involves the projection of force into distant lands to head off trouble that could spill over...

The idea looked good on paper. Then came Yugoslavia where the west has been unable to prevent 16 months of carnage that left tens of thousands of people dead and two million homeless...

Military officials blame the politicians for failing to provide adequate resources and objectives. But some analysts suggest the generals had already stacked the public-opinion deck against any high-risk interventions by their success in the Gulf with minimal casualties...

The way the Gulf War was sold as totally painless means that it is very difficult for them to go into Yugoslavia when there will be losses and it won't be neat and tidy...

Butcher, analyst with the NATO Alerts Network Research Group.

Some officials and analysts say this first test of the new security mechanisms in Europe bodes ill for hopes of containing future conflicts on a continent rife with ethnic, territorial and minority tensions...

Others call the ex-Yugoslavia a worst-case scenario that came too early for new western structures struggling to adapt to 'multi-directional threats' in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East...

The limits are political rather than military, said Andre Dumoulin, senior researcher with the European Institute for Research and Information on Peace and Security. There are military means to achieve certain missions. We are not in the jungles of Vietnam...

But the question remains who would take responsibility for such missions. France and other members of the European Community are pushing to make the nine-member WEU the EC's defence arm, given the changing political landscape and inexorable reduction in US force levels...

French Defence Minister Pierre Joxe, whose country left the alliance's military command in 1966, said NATO could no longer cope with the new crises that have emerged since communism collapsed...

The institutional, political and military tools capable of answering the new needs and new concerns must urgently be found...

But the United States and Britain insist that only the 16-country NATO alliance, which includes all WEU members, has the integrated military command and tools to handle crises...

NATO has said it was available for duty if requested by the CSCE. But since the CSCE, a 17-year-old security forum, operates on consensus any such decision could be delayed or mired in political bickering...

The WEU is smaller and able to react more quickly. But officials agree there is not enough money for separate structures while hard-pressed countries tighten budgets in search of the fabled 'peace dividend'...

Indeed, with countries such as Britain and Germany planning deep cuts in defence spending, doubts remain whether Europe can afford to modernise its forces or develop much-needed capabilities such as strategic airlift...

It is unpopular to say it, said EC Vice President Leon Brittan. But I am convinced that European defence budgets are likely to have to go up rather than down...

ANC won't bow to Inkatha Party

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 5: The ANC said Monday it would not bow to demands from the rival Inkatha Freedom Party to disband its military wing as a condition for resuming talks, reports AP...

African National Congress officials said the demand from Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelez was 'a red herring' and an excuse not to return to talks on ending apartheid and giving blacks the vote...

ANC and Communist Party leader Chris Hani said Sunday that ANC-led groups would go ahead with marches on Buthelez's KwaZulu homeland and the Bophuthatswana homeland. The ANC wants both homeland governments removed from power...

Such marches could lead to violent confrontation that would add to South Africa's political crisis. An ANC march on the Ciskei homeland last month ended with homeland forces killing 28 protesters. Hani did not set a date for the new protests...

Buthelez told a rally Sunday the ANC must disband its military wing, Spear of the Nation, because it was a threat to stability in South Africa...

BRRIEFLY

Mandela meets Chinese students: Nelson Mandela on Monday stressed the importance of promoting democratic reforms and personal freedoms in South Africa, human rights priorities that differ from those of the hard-line leadership that invited him to China...

The leader of the African National Congress spoke to a selected audience of about 400 students at Beijing University, which was at the forefront of the Tiananmen Square democracy movement brutally crushed by the military in 1989...

Some of the students chuckled at times during Mandela's 40-minute speech, once when he referred to China as a developing country and again when he noted the leading role Chinese students played in past struggles for social change. However, he did not specifically mention the failed 1989 movement...

Mandela, who arrived Sunday for a six-day China visit, was to meet later Monday with Premier Li Peng.

Punjab violence claims 9: Nine people including seven militants — one of them, a Lt General of the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) were killed in Punjab since Saturday night, PTI reports from Chandigarh...

Three unidentified militants were killed in an encounter with the police near Keera Khara village in Perozpur district at midnight Saturday night, police said. An AK 47-rifled, two pistols, one stick rome, one KG explosive material and four detonators were recovered from the scene...

An unidentified militants was killed in an encounter with the security forces in Dhotion village in Tarntaran Police district.

Curfew in Novakchott: Mauritania authorities slapped a curfew on capital Novakchott Sunday after police clashed with demonstrators protesting against a devaluation of the Ougya which has led to a 40 per cent rise in food prices, AFP reports from Novakchott...

Police fired teargas canisters after the demonstrators started throwing stones near the capital's main market. The curfew will last from 7.00 p.m (1900 GMT) to 6.00 A.M until further notice.

Clash leaves 9 Kurds dead: Nine Kurdish Rebels were killed during a clash with Turkish armed forces on Sunday near Dereller in the Eastern Turkish province of Sirnak, which borders Iran and Syria, official sources in Ankara said, AFP reports from Ankara...

In the same region, three mines were discovered in a shelter used by Kurdish guerrillas and ten people were arrested, accused of harbouring guerrillas, authorities in Diyarbakir said.

On Saturday, two Turkish soldiers were killed when their vehicle was machine-gunned by Kurdish rebels near Kulp in Diyarbakir, the Diyarbakir authorities said.

Kurdish parliament votes in favour of federated state

NICOSIA, Oct 5: The parliament of Iraqi Kurdistan voted Sunday in favour of a federated state in northern Iraq, a major departure from pursuit of autonomy under the Baghdad government, a Kurdish spokesman said, reports AP...

The 105-member parliament, elected last spring to represent a region controlled by Kurdish guerrillas, approved a declaration that 'the Kurdish region should be a federated entity, a democratic federal state', said Barham Saleh, a spokesman for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, one of the two major Kurdish groups opposed to the government of President Saddam Hussein...

This is a significant development because until recently the Kurdish leadership has opted for autonomy as a solution, Saleh said. Three Iraqi provinces — Irbil, Sulaymaniyah and Dohok — are included in a Kurdish Autonomous Region set up by Baghdad. But the Kurds have long complained that officials of the region were controlled by Saddam's ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party and did not represent Iraq's estimated 4 million Kurds...

In a telephone interview from his base in Washington, Saleh said he had received news of the vote from Dr Kamal Fasad, a member of the parliament's foreign relations committee.

Strike paralyses Gaza

JERUSALEM, Oct 5: A general strike in solidarity with 5,000 Palestinian prisoners on hunger-strike paralysed the Gaza Strip on Sunday amid scattered reports of violence, reports AFP...

Three Palestinians were slightly wounded when trouble erupted and soldiers opened fire during a demonstration for the hunger-strikers at Rafah refugee camp near Gaza's border with Egypt, Palestinian sources said. Police fired teargas and arrested several protesters when they broke up a march by about 250 Palestinians in East Jerusalem in support of the prisoners, witnesses said.

A police spokesman said seven people were detained. In Gaza city about 500 relatives protested outside the jail demanding the release of loved ones after about 350 lawyers, doctors and engineers staged a silent demonstration there in solidarity with the prisoners. The general strike was called by the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas, and shops and businesses also closed in the Bethlehem area, correspondents said. Border police shot dead a 16-year-old Palestinian boy during stone-throwing at protests in the village of Sir, near Hebron, on Friday.



ROME: Italy: Mozambique President Joaquim Chissano (L) RENAMO rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama (R) toast after signing a global peace agreement yesterday including an immediate ceasefire to end Mozambique's civil war. At center is Italian official Sergio Raffaelli.

Indians kill 14 Kashmir militants

SRINAGAR, India, Oct 5: Soldiers in the embattled Kashmir Valley shot to death 14 separatist guerrillas, including two top leaders, police said Monday, reports AP...

Paramilitary troops searching for rebels in a Srinagar neighbourhood killed Altaf Qureshi, chief of the Muslim Brotherhood, and Manzoor Ahmed of the Al-Umar Commandos on Sunday, police chief Balwinder Singh Bedi said.

Bedi did not give details of the killings in the Jamia Masjid neighbourhood where search operations continued for the third straight day Monday. Residents reached over telephone were not sure how the rebel leaders died...

Troops cordoned off the neighbourhood Saturday, barring its 20,000 residents from leaving their homes. Nobody, including journalists, was allowed to enter the area. Also Sunday, security forces killed 12 Kashmiri rebels in various encounters on the outskirts of Srinagar, Bedi said.

The Muslim Brotherhood is among the top five Kashmiri rebel organizations and is fighting for accession to Pakistan for Jammu-Kashmir, a strategic northern region that is the only Muslim-majority state in India.

In the past, the Brotherhood has kidnapped several prominent leaders or their relatives and government officials to bargain for the release of imprisoned rebels. Recently, the group launched suicide attacks on soldiers' bunkers, establishing a new trend in the two-year-old guerrilla war in the Kashmir Valley, the mountainous and northern part of the state.

Kashmir's insurrection has been simmering for decades and it escalated in 1989 when complaints of alleged economic and religious discrimination against Muslim Kashmiris intensified.

Since then, more than 5,120 people have been killed, including 1,540 so far this year. India accuses Pakistan of training and arming the rebels, but Islamabad denies the charge.

Roughly two-thirds of Jammu-Kashmir's 6 million people are Muslim. Nationwide, Muslims are 12 per cent of India's 844 million people; while Hindus are 82 per cent.

Warring factions in Bosnia agree to free detainees

GENEVA, Oct 5: The three warring sides in the Bosnian fighting in former Yugoslavia have signed an agreement committing themselves to arrange by October 31 for the freeing of all detainees, a Red Cross official said Sunday, reports AP...

For the first time the sides have committed themselves to a timetable for providing names of all camps and detainees and working out arrangements for their safe release, said an official of the Swiss-run International Committee of the Red Cross.

The agreement came as terror in Bosnia-Herzegovina mounted from 'ethnic cleansing,' said the official, who asked not to be identified. The discussions were long, but finally they all signed' she said.

The six-page agreement was signed in Geneva late Friday after two days of talks by representatives of the Muslim-dominated Bosnian government, Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats. Each side pledged 'unilaterally and unconditionally' to release 'all prisoners not accused of, or sentenced for, grave breaches of international humanitarian law' when the ICRC can arrange for them to leave.

The three sides said they would give the ICRC by Wednesday a list of all the names of the prisoners being held in camps whose locations have already been disclosed to the ICRC.

The ICRC doesn't know how many people are being detained, said the officials.

They wander aimlessly, dressed in rags, often barefoot. If a car stops, they surround it, begging for food and money. In the market, they sift through garbage for scraps and sometimes steal.

The tough survive, the weak die — unmourned. Some stare vacantly, others cough. A few cry. 'I came here because I was hungry,' says Hussein Warda, 8, whose mother died of starvation in his home village of Shavelo. His father died a few days ago in Baidoa.

'Mostly they come on their own,' says Amina Shek Mohammed, 30, the center's supervisor. The orphanage, which

died, which means thousands of children have probably lost both parents. Each day, as hunger and disease claim hundreds of new victims, more and more youngsters are left to fend for themselves.

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'Mostly they come on their own,' says Amina Shek Mohammed, 30, the center's supervisor. The orphanage, which

opened on May 28 with only 15 youngsters, is now packed with 570 children. They get three meals of rice and beans and sleep packed together on dirt floors.

Hassan Belle Omar, the orphanage director, estimates there are 1,500 to 2,500 orphans in this refugee-flooded town of 80,000 alone. But he only has sufficient supplies to feed those currently in the facility.

'We have asked the relief organizations to supply food to all the orphans,' he said. 'But so far, we have not received a reply.'

With only a volunteer staff of 17 to cook, clean and gather firewood for the children at the orphanage, it's impossible to give any of the orphans the love and attention they desperately need.

Out on the streets, it's even worse. 'They come up to you all the time,' said Hinkle. 'All they want is somebody to nover-are them, to touch them. They

just want some attention.'

Abdi Nur Ali, the orphanage's assistant director, said many children are so traumatized they've retreated into themselves.

Nori — wide-eyed and wrapped in a dirty, brown cloth which didn't cover a skin rash caused by malnutrition — spoke quietly about her family.

She said her parents had been killed by supporters of ousted dictator Mohamed Siad Barre and that her sisters and brothers died in the famine. There was nothing else she wanted to say.

'I want to stay here,' she said. 'I have no place else to go.'

All, who helped Nori bury her brothers and sisters, filled in some details: Nori and her siblings — three boys and three girls — walked about 35 miles (55 kilometers) from their farm in Labatan Giro and found refuge at the orphanage about 2 1/2 months ago. The last brother died about three weeks ago.

Koreas' talks on family reunion fail

SEOUL, Oct 5: Rivals South and North Korea failed again Monday to agree on reunions of families separated by Korea's division, a South Korean official said, reports AP...

In a border meeting, the two sides' positions were far apart, and 'it is unlikely that the talks will resume in the near future,' said Lee Dong-bok, southern spokesman for high-level inter-Korean talks.

Lee said the Communist North insisted first on the repatriation of a North Korean sent as a war correspondent in the Korean War but seized in the South as a guerrilla fighter.

The South says he can be repatriated only when the North agrees to reunions of some of the 10 million Koreans separated from their families by Korea's 1945 partition and the 1950-53 war. The only reunions so far came in 1985.

India accuses Pakistan of training and arming the rebels, but Islamabad denies the charge.

Roughly two-thirds of Jammu-Kashmir's 6 million people are Muslim. Nationwide, Muslims are 12 per cent of India's 844 million people; while Hindus are 82 per cent.

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The firing began at 22:45 hours (21:45 GMT) and was still going on an hour later.

The shooting came three days after four members of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) admitted on television that they had planned the bomb explosion which killed nine people and injured more than 100 at Algiers airport on August 26.

One of the four was the former chief of staff of FIS leader Abassi Madani.

It also came the day after Algerian authorities introduced stiff anti-terrorist legislation setting up special courts to deal with 'terrorism and subversion'.

Off the Record

'Sex is death'

WASHINGTON: First lady Barbara Bush says the national debate over abortion should focus on persuading children that 'promiscuous sex is death,' reports AP.

Appearing with President Bush on the Cable News Network's Larry King Live programme in a taped interview Sunday, Mrs Bush suggested the news media put too much emphasis on the question of conditions under which abortion should be legal.

'I think the issue is that we ought to tell children that sex is death,' Mrs Bush said in the White House interview. 'It is. Promiscuous sex is death. They shouldn't be doing that.'

'We ought to be telling these wonderful young women there's a great deal of life out there for you if you finish school, if you get a job and then you can have a family. But you shouldn't be having promiscuous sex. It just ruins your life.'

Mrs Bush has never publicly explained her position on abortion rights.

In the interview, the president said he supported the abortion plank of the Republican Party's national campaign platform — which advocates outlawing abortion under all circumstances — and stated his personal views this way.

'I am against abortion. I am against federal funding except for the life of the mother and I am against abortions except for rape, incest and the life of the mother.'

Prince Edward not gay

LONDON: As the last-born of Queen Elizabeth II's four children, Prince Edward has an advantage — he has learned from his siblings mistakes, especially their troubled marriages, a biographer says, reports AP.

With Prince Charles reportedly in a loveless marriage, Princess Anne divorced and Prince Andrew separated, Edward, 28, will remain a bachelor for now, even if rumours persist that he is gay, Paul James wrote in a new biography, 'Prince Edward: A Life in the Spotlight.'

In a rare step for royals who seldom comment on their private lives, Edward was quoted in London's Daily Mirror newspaper in 1990 as denying he is gay.

'He isn't gay', James said in an interview. He'd just chosen to keep his private life private.

Suharto urges military to focus energies on development

JAKARTA, Oct 5: Indonesian President Suharto today urged the military to focus its non-defence energies on national development, reports AP.

To back the attainment of national development aims in the coming new era, there is a need to continuously improve the quality of Abri's (the Armed Forces) socio-political function, Suharto said at a ceremony to commemorate Abri's 47th anniversary.

Suharto said Abri could continue to involve itself in the nation's socio-political life but with a shift in focus to nation building, pointing to Abri's high level of education and training and its proficiency in large-scale organisation and management.

Gunfire rocks Algiers

ALGIERS, Oct 5: Intense gunfire erupted in central Algiers near the government palace late Sunday amid cries of Allah Akbar (God is great), the rallying cry of the Islamic fundamentalists, reports AFP.

The firing was concentrated in the area round the government palace and the central post office.

Riot police were seen apparently trying to block the path of a vehicle but no information was available on the reasons for the gunfire. The few people on the streets in the area ran in panic for cover but traffic continued and police did not seal off the area.