

# 8000-man new Indian force to quell Hindu-Muslim riot

NEW DELHI, Oct 6: The first units of a newly-formed, 8,000-man Rapid Action Force (RAF) will fan out this week to north Indian cities notorious for bloody Muslim-Hindu riots and other communal violence. It was announced here, reports AFP.

The announcement by Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Director General DPN Singh came after years of criticism by the Indian army and civil rights groups of traditional methods of quelling communal riots. Armed forces critics had argued that the old methods of ousting local police, often themselves communally biased or under political pressure, then calling in the army when the situation got out of hand had lowered armed forces morale and resulted in spiralling casualty figures. The new force, hand-

picked from the CRPF, will be the first in India to be equipped with sophisticated riot gear including rubber bullets, stun grenades and shock batons, as well as tear-gas and riot shields.

The first ten units will initially be deployed in ten cities including Delhi, neighboring Meerut and Ghaziabad where riots frequently erupt between majority Hindus and the Muslims who with 100 million people from India's largest religious minority.

Singh told a news conference in Delhi Monday that each RAF battalion had been specially mixed "in such a manner as to make it representative of all communities."

All men had been versed in first aid, fire fighting, contemporary social realities, human rights and behavioural sciences, and understood that "non-partisan" behaviour was the basis of their approach.

# Myanmar suspends military operations against rebels

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 6: Myanmar on Monday announced the suspension of all "offensive" military operations against rebel forces in an effort to calm ethnic strife in the country, a third of which is in revolt against the ruling junta, reports AP.

Myanmar Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaaw, in his speech to the General Assembly, also rejected Western criticism of Myanmar's human rights practices or the military junta's slow progress toward restoring democracy.

"In the realm of human rights," Gyaaw said, Myanmar "has been subjected to undue and unwarranted criticism from some quarters," and has been portrayed "as a land where gross violations of human rights have been perpetrated."

A Myanmar opposition leader said Gyaaw's speech was

"a pack of lies" that did not reflect what was happening in Myanmar.

Sein Win, who holds the post of prime minister in the government-in-exile formed by Myanmar's democratic opposition, told reporters at the United Nations that Gyaaw's announcement of the suspension of offensive military operations was an empty gesture.

He said it coincided with the start of the monsoon season in Myanmar when the military cannot attack effectively anyway.

"Traditionally, they stop the offensive in the rainy season," he said. "Right now, we have information that they are preparing for the next offensive."

Myanmar came under strong international criticism for its human rights record after troops fired on pro-democracy demonstrators in

1988, killing hundreds. No official investigation was held to determine blame for the shoot-to-kill orders. More than 400,000 people have fled the country since then.

The military government held free national elections in May 1990, and the opposition National League for Democracy won in a landslide.

But the military refused to turn over power and detained or jailed many opposition leaders, including the league's head Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi.

Gyaaw said that Myanmar in the past year, "has witnessed many significant developments in our country's march toward a multiparty democratic state," and looked forward to a National Convention by the end of the year or in early 1993 to draft a new constitution.

The military has always said that a new constitution is nec-

essary before it turns over government to a new administration.

Last Friday, the ruling junta announced in a radio broadcast that it is seeking a new constitution that would further solidify the military's control of the country.

It said it was forming an 18-member commission that would organize a National Convention to draw up guidelines for a new constitution.

The radio report provided only sketchy details on what the commission would do, but said that the principles guiding its work would be the leadership of the military in national politics, Myanmar's unity and the need for multiparty democracy.

Myanmar has been under a socialist military dictatorship since a coup led by Gen Ne Win overthrew a civilian government in 1962.

# \$41m increase in Lankan defence spending likely

COLOMBO, Oct 6: Defence expenditure in Sri Lanka, where a conflict with Tamil separatists continues, is expected to rise by nearly 41 million dollars next year, a state-run newspaper reported today, says AFP.

Defence spending will increase to 17 billion rupees (386.36 million rupees) from 15.2 billion rupees (345.45 million dollars), the Daily News quoted government sources as saying.

The overall budget deficit, however, is expected to be one billion rupees less next year, compared to this year's estimated deficit of 67 billion rupees (1.52 billion dollars), it said.

Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga, who is also

Finance Minister and State Minister for Defence, will officially present the 1993 budget in parliament next month.

Much of Sri Lanka's defence spending goes towards battling the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which is fighting to create a separate homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority in the northeast of the island.

Meanwhile, Lankan navy blew up six suspected Tamil guerrilla boats off the island's north, killing four occupants, as a government soldier died in a separate clash in the region, officials here said today.

Two navy craft operating in the Jaffna Lagoon Monday opened fire and destroyed six of 10 boats believed to be carrying supplies for LTTE.

## BRIEFLY

### Court summons Gorbachev to testify:

Russia's Constitutional Court on Monday summoned former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to testify Wednesday at the trial of the former Soviet Communist Party. AFP reports from Moscow.

Valery Zorkin, the Court's President, also fined the former Communist Party Secretary General 100 rubles (about 35 US cents) for his previous refusal to testify at the trial.

Monday's court order provides the legal basis for a travel ban slapped on Gorbachev last week by the court.

Earlier Monday Gorbachev denounced the travel ban against him as 'illegal'.

### Norwegian boat mishap claims 3:

A Norwegian shrimp trawler sank Monday west of the northern tip of Norway's Svalbard islands in the Arctic Ocean, leaving three crewmen dead and two missing, the Norwegian coast guard said, AFP reports from Tromsø.

Six of the 11 crew aboard the 'Njord' were rescued after spending five to six hours in the icy waters, a coast guard spokesman said.

The cause of the accident was not yet known. The spokesman said the first distress call from the trawler was received at 8:30am (0730 GMT) here and three and half hours later a search aircraft sighted the first of the six survivors.

### US hails Mozambican peace accord:

The US government on Monday welcomed the signing of a Mozambican peace agreement, crediting the country's government and rebel leaders as well as other African countries, Italy and the Roman Catholic Church, AP reports from Washington.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher called the accord signed in Rome on Sunday a historic achievement that ends the last major armed conflict in southern Africa.

Mozambique's formerly Marxist President Joaquim Chissano signed the formal cease-fire with Renamo rebel leader Alfonso Dhlakama. The agreement calls for free elections in one year. Sixteen years of fighting in the impoverished country has killed an estimated 600,000 people.

### Shultz gets Seoul peace prize:

Former US Secretary of State George Shultz received the Seoul peace prize Monday in recognition of his contributions to world peace and helping the 1988 Seoul Olympics to take place peacefully, organizers said, AFP reports from Seoul.

Shultz, who served as Secretary of State in 1982-1989, said he would donate the 300,000 dollar cash award to the Hoover Institute at Stanford University, where he is a senior researcher.

In his acceptance speech, Shultz said South Korea had added the miracle of recent establishment of Seoul-Beijing diplomatic relations to its achievements in the fields of security, economic and politics.

President Roh Tae-Woo, who attended the ceremony at the National Theater, said no other person had contributed more to world peace.

### Meri new president of Estonia:

Former foreign minister Lennart Meri was elected President of Estonia by the Baltic republic's Parliament Monday, beating out incumbent Arnold Ruutel by 59 votes to 31, AFP reports from Moscow.

The vote by the 101 deputies followed presidential elections September 20 in which none of the candidates received the necessary 50 per cent of votes cast.

Under strict citizenship restrictions in Estonia's post-independence constitution, more than 42 per cent of the Baltic republic's population—mostly ethnic Russians—were barred from voting in last month's polls.

Meri, a former foreign minister and ambassador to Finland, was backed by a coalition of conservative parties as well as centrists led by social democrat Martu Lauristin.

### Khalistan commander killed:

Three militants, including an area commander of the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), were killed while militants kidnapped a person in Punjab since last night, PTI reports from Chandigarh.

Amrik Singh alias Amrika, an area commander of the KLF, and his accomplice were killed in village Mehmoopura Intarn Taran police district on Monday night. One double bore gun, one revolver and some cartridges were recovered from the spot, the police said.

An unidentified militant was killed near village Jamalpura in Majitaha police district. Militants kidnapped one Ram Kishore in village Mianwala in Ferozpur district.

### Kissinger supports proposals to restructure UNSC

JAKARTA, Indonesia, Oct 6: Former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has expressed support to recent proposals for adding permanent members to the United Nations Security Council, reports AP.

"I am of the view that it is time to restructure the Security Council," Kissinger said in an interview conducted Monday by Rajawali Televisi Indonesia, a private Indonesian television station.

"But, if questions arise about India, Brazil and Indonesia becoming permanent members of the Security Council, the limitations must be formulated," he said.

# Extreme nationalists in Russia hope to topple Yeltsin

ST. PETERSBURG, Oct 6: The fledgling National Socialist Party, whose icons are Hitler and Stalin, is weak now, but its leader Yuri Belyayev hopes "it will have a snowball effect and topple" Boris Yeltsin, Reports AP.

Decried in the Russian press as "fascist," the party has sent 12 men to help fellow Slavs in Serbia against Bosnian Muslims, said Belyayev, a member of the St. Petersburg City Council and 12-year police veteran.

The National Socialist Party, which adopted the formal name of Adolf Hitler's Nazis, is one of a dozen or more extreme Russian nationalist groups to spring up amid the Soviet collapse.

The parties include the Liberal-Democratic Party of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who won 6.2 million votes or 7.8 per cent in the Russian presidential race of June 1991, and the anti-Semitic 'Pamyat' organization, which is scheduled to open a congress Tuesday in Moscow.

They aim to restore Russia's glory. Their specific goals are less clear, expressed in tirades against Yeltsin's reforms, and against other ethnic groups, including Jews, Georgians, Azerbaijanis and Moldovans.

Active supporters of these groups number in the thousands rather than millions, but their appeal seems to grow as the economy worsens and eth-

nic Russians flee civil strife in various parts of the former Soviet Union.

"If the situation gets worse, the threat could get worse," said Vladimir Moroz, senior assistant to the St. Petersburg prosecutor.

Belyayev, explaining his platform, said "an anti-Nationalist government is in power. We are trying to resolve the problem through political means."

Asked whether he meant forcing Yeltsin from power, Belyayev answered: "Yes. Maybe a month ago, I would have said, No. We are trying to do everything possible, but as a political party, we do not have enough influence. It will have a snowball effect, and topple the

government".

The nationalists are active across Russia, but authorities in St. Petersburg, the second-largest Russian city, are taking it more seriously, Moroz said.

St. Petersburg officials helped track down Alexei Andreyev, a deputy to Belyayev, and are charging him with "stirring up ethnic hatred".

Andreyev, arrested last month, was hiding in a Moscow apartment that police said contained arms, a portrait of Hitler and copies of the Nazi leader's book, Mein Kampf.

As a legislator, Belyayev has immunity from prosecution. Among the extremist groups, Belyayev's party is remarkable for its open embrace of Hitler, whose armies be-

sieged St. Petersburg for 900 days in a World War II battle that has become axiomatic for resistance to fascism.

Belyayev, interviewed by The Associated Press last Thursday, claims his party has 300 members in St. Petersburg, 160 in Moscow, and several dozen scattered among smaller cities such as Volgoda and Taganrog. Moroz put the number at 20-30 in St. Petersburg, with followers in other cities.

Belyayev, asked about press reports that his group was stockpiling arms, said: "If they are needed, they will be used."

He said the group had sent men to fight against Moldovans in the self-proclaimed Slavic Trans-Dniester Republic, and



LONDON: The Princess of Wales (L) talks with Rev Esme Beswick general secretary of the Joint Council for Anglo Caribbean Churches, during her visit on Monday to the drug and alcohol abuse project in Brixton, South London. —AFP/UNB photo

### Kashmiris protest Indian atrocities

ISLAMABAD, Oct 6: Markets were shut and demonstrations held across Pakistani-controlled Kashmir Monday to protest alleged Indian atrocities, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said, reports AP.

The JKLF, one of several groups waging a separatist campaign in the Indian-controlled Kashmir, said thousands of people participated in the rallies in response to a call given by it.

In a statement the JKLF said the Indian forces had unleashed a "barbaric" drive under the code name of "operation tiger".

"They arrest Kashmiri youth in their homes, torture them to death at interrogation camps and throw their bodies in the streets," the statement said.

In nearby Rawalpindi, a procession was led by JKLF Chairman Ammanullah Khan and leaders of some opposition parties of Pakistan controlled Kashmir.

# UNITA decision to withdraw troops from Angolan army may reignite civil war

ANGOLA, Oct 6: UNITA generals Monday pulled their troops from Angola's new united army and demanded a review of last week's elections which the former rebel group was losing to its civil war foes, reports AP.

The move heightens fears in the Angolan capital that UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi will reject the results of the country's first multi-party vote and reignite a 16-year civil war that was halted by peace accords last year.

Gen. Arlindo Chenda Pena announced he was withdrawing UNITA troops just one week after he took over the joint-command of the new

Angolan forces. Chenda Pena called for a review of the elections, a halt to the release of further results and a drawing in of government riot police.

The army move came just hours after UNITA Secretary General Paulo Alcides Mango called on the National Electoral Council to halt publication of the elections results.

"If it does not (the council) will have to accept fully what will happen in the country," Mango said.

UNITA has claimed widespread fraud in the election, which was supervised by 800 international observers led by the United Nations.

Although the UN has said it

will only pronounce on the vote after final results are published, most observers said the elections were fair.

The latest count from the vote held last Tuesday and Wednesday had president Jose Eduardo dos Santos leading with 51.5 per cent, ahead of former rebel leader Jonas Savimbi with 38.8 per cent.

With 15 per cent of the vote left to count, Dos Santos' MPLA party led with 55.7 per cent against 32.8 per cent for UNITA, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

The Angolan civil war killed at least 3,500,000 people and devastated the economy of this once prosperous former

Portuguese colony. The conflict became a Cold War flash point with the United States and South Africa supporting UNITA against the Soviet-armed MPLA and its Cuban allies.

Savimbi's former backers have called on him to respect the result of the elections.

"Now's time to think of the Angolan people..... you will be a great statesman if you accept the results of this election and work together. UNITA and MPLA, to bring about a new, wealthy Angola," US Undersecretary for African Affairs Herman Cohen, said Sunday in a message to Savimbi.

### Arrest warrants against 2 Pak newsmen, publisher

KARACHI, Oct 6: A magistrate here has issued arrest warrants against the publisher and two reporters of a local newspaper, it was reported today, reports AFP.

The orders were passed against Mir Javed Rehman, publisher of The News, and reporters Zahir Khan and Murtaza Solanghi here Monday in a defamation suit filed by the president of a human rights body, the newspaper Dawn said.

The complaint, Zia Ahmed Awan, who is also a lawyer, has alleged that the English-language daily published a defamatory report about his organisation, lawyers for human rights and legal aid.

### Libya urges UN to lift sanctions

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 6: Libya's foreign minister on Monday appealed to the United Nations to lift economic sanctions on his country, saying they had killed hundreds of Libyans and cost the economy over 2 billion dollars, reports AP.

Oil exports were down 44 per cent, said Ibrahim al-Bishari, Libya's foreign minister.

"My country would like from this rostrum to call upon this international organization and the Security Council, out of respect for the principles of justice, to lift the sanctions," al-Bishari said.

The Security Council clamped air travel, arms and diplomatic sanctions on Libya effective April 15 for refusing

to surrender two suspects in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people in December 1988.

Two Libyans suspected of planting the bomb are wanted by the United States and Britain.

The United Nations also ordered the punishment for Libya's failure to help in investigating four other Libyans suspected of killing 171 people in the bombing of a French jetliner over Africa a year later.

Al-Bishari, in his speech to the General Assembly, said the air travel ban had caused the deaths of "a great number" of children and pregnant women who died in labor due to shortages of medicines. He did not give exact figures.

### Sharif leaves for Beijing

ISLAMABAD, Oct 6: Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif left here this morning for Beijing on a five-day official visit to China at the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Li Peng, reports Xinhua.

In a departure statement issued at the Islamabad international airport, Nawaz Sharif said: "I am looking forward to a most fruitful and result-oriented visit to China which is a 'time-tested and all weather friend of Pakistan'."

Pakistan-China relations which are based on mutual trust and confidence derive their strength from the two countries' firm belief in the five principles of mutual co-existence, sovereign equality and mutual respect for each other," the statement said.

Pakistan-China relations have become a model for interstate relations, it added.

## Off the Record

### Not for people under age 16

DALLAS: "Sarafina" producer Anant Singh blasted the Dallas movie review board for rating the film unsuitable for young viewers, reports AP.

"A metropolitan giant like Dallas is the last place I expected this to come from," Singh said. "Maybe from a Third World country."

He called the board's rating "ironic, ridiculous and frustrating."

Singh said he made the movie to show the oppression of blacks in his native South Africa.

The board decided last week that the movie was too violent for people under age 16. It objected to scenes that show a police officer being doused with gasoline and teen-agers being tortured in prison.

The movie starring Whoopi Goldberg is currently showing in Dallas with the "not suitable" rating. Dallas theaters may not admit people under age 16 to "not suitable" films without their parents.

City law compelled Dallas to sue the company that distributes "Sarafina" because Buena Vista Pictures Distribution disputed the rating.

The lawsuit filed in federal court asks for an order that would prevent the movie from being shown in Dallas without the "not suitable" rating.

"The city is in no way critical of the movie or the message it sends," said City Attorney Sam Lindsay. "In no way is the film board saying it's not a good movie. The whole purpose is to have a parent present."

### It's more than my wildest dreams

SAN ANTONIO: Fabio, the king of lurid romance novel covers, says he loves Texas women, reports AP.

More than 1,000 fans thronged a San Antonio mall on Saturday for a chance to meet the 31-year-old Italian-born model, whose likeness drapes the front of many romance books.

"It's more than my wildest dreams," Fabio said. "I came to the most romantic city in the US, and I'm in love with it."

The women yelled his name. They hugged him. They paid 15 dollar to join his fan club. One woman had him autograph a bra she held in her hands.

Nearby, novelist Emma Merritt autographed her most recent work, "Viking Captive," a best-selling paperback with Fabio featured on the cover.

He's gorgeous. I love his accent," said 70-year-old Ruby Jordan, who waited two hours to be among the first to greet him. She says she has a Fabio poster in her bedroom.

### She had age, sex and money

SEOUL: The agent who allegedly masterminded the largest ever North Korean spy ring in South Korea was regarded as having three things in her favour: age, sex and money, reports AP.

Li Son Sil was the highest ranking Communist operative ever sent to the South for espionage, and may have been the most effective. South Korean intelligence officials said.

The Agency for National Security Planning said Tuesday some 400 people have been implicated and 62 have been charged in the largest investigation against North Korean spying since 1948.

Little is known about Li's personal life. Photographs show a woman with glasses and slightly graying short curly hair, dressed in conservative brown suits bow-tied blouses. She is said to be 70 years old.

She ranks No 22 in the Communist Worker's Party, and in 1963 personally asked North Korean President Kim Il Sung for permission to devote her life to unifying the Korean peninsula under communism, the agency said.

She was trained at North Korea's elite spy school, '695' Political College, and made her first trip to the South in 1966, when she was already in her 40s, it added.

By 1979, it said, she was selected by Kim Jong Il, the North Korean leader's son and heir apparent, to lead infiltration and espionage operations overseas.

"It is unprecedented in espionage for such a senior official to be inserted into a hostile area to lead a spy ring," the intelligence agency said.

It was also unusual, but crafty, to use a woman infiltrator in a society where women are often ignored and age is revered, the agency said. In addition, Li appeared to have ample sums of money to shore up dissident and anti-government organizations.

### Chinese CP membership hits world record

BEIJING, Oct 6: China's Communist Party has a record membership of more than 51 million people, up 17 per cent from five years ago, an official report said Tuesday, reports AP.

The Chinese Communist Party, the world's largest, has 7.51 million more members now than in 1987, the Xinhua News Agency said, citing figures released by the party's Organization Department.

Party members account for less than 5 per cent of China's 1.13 billion people. The new membership figures do not reflect mounting dissatisfaction with the party.