

# 8 high-ranking Shining Path leaders arrested

LIMA, Oct 19: Eight high-ranking Maoist guerrilla leaders have been captured in the Peruvian capital, police said Sunday, reports AP.

The capture of the rebels, members of the Shining Path, comes after the September 12 arrest of the groups leader, Abimael Guzman.

A spokesman for the anti-terrorist police squad said high-ranking guerrilla leader Marta Huatay and seven others were arrested late Saturday in Lima. The spokesman spoke on condition of anonymity.

However, late Sunday major radio and television stations said that Ms Huatay and the other guerrilla leaders were captured while attempting to reorganize the Shining Path

leadership.

Among the captured, the reports said, was rebel coordinator for the northern section of Lima, apparently responsible for a series of attacks in Lima last week that claimed at least ten lives.

Guzman, 57, whose 12-year insurgency has claimed more than 25,000 lives, was sentenced last week to life in prison together with nine other leaders of his central committee.

Huatay, a member of a legal organization accused of links to the Shining Path, appeared greeting Guzman in a rebel video seized by police last year. Police accuse her of holding a high position within the organization.



CROATIA: A French UN convoy passes through the war damaged village of Karlovac on Saturday, en route to Bihac in Bosnia-Herzegovina. A contingent of some 350 UN troops that arrived in the Croatian port of Rijeka yesterday are being dispatched with their equipments for duty to Bosnia-Herzegovina. — AFP/UNB photo

## Hanoi, Beijing to hold 2nd round of talks over border dispute

BANGKOK, Oct 19: Vietnam and China will hold a second round of talks on border disputes after their first meeting concluded amicably, official Vietnamese media said Monday, reports AP.

Last Saturday, delegations of experts of both sides ended six days of talks in Beijing.

They exchanged views on principles to resolve the territorial disputes and on issues that have arisen since the two countries officially normalized relations in November 1991, the Vietnam News Agency said.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship, frankness and mutual understanding, said the report, monitored in Bangkok.

One of the main territorial disputes between the two Communist neighbours is over the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

## UN experts scan areas around Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Oct 19: United Nations ballistic missile experts inspected areas around the Iraqi capital Sunday to seek out possible Scud missiles hidden by Saddam Hussein's forces, reports AP.

Members of the team refused to discuss the results of the 10-hour search.

"We are using those equipments that are needed for conducting our mission, some were used, some were not used previously," Russian team leader Nikita Smidovich told reporters in English.

He refused to elaborate on the nature of the equipment.

UN sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the team did not fly out of Baghdad, but instead focused on areas around the Iraqi capital and used highly sensitive scanner machines. The sources declined to say exactly what equipment was used.

"It is the end of another inspection day. We continue our job, that's it," Smidovich said when asked if the search provided any new clues Sunday.

The current 50-member inspection team, the largest ever to come to Baghdad, will be in Iraq for two weeks. The team arrived Friday and began its inspections Saturday.

Earlier teams have dismantled much of Saddam's nuclear programme and destroyed missiles and chemical weapons as well as the research centres and factories associated with the weapons.

But UN officials suspect Iraq is still hiding about 200 Scud-B missiles, or Iraqi-made variants, which were used to attack Saudi Arabia and Israel during the Gulf War.

Smidovich said the hunt for ballistic missiles was still the focus of his team.

"We have an important mission and we have many tasks before us," he said.

# Arab League, UAE for solution to Island dispute with Iran

ABU DHABI, Oct 19: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Arab League called Sunday for a peaceful solution to the UAE's dispute with Iran over three islands along the world's main oil shipping lanes, the Wam News Agency said, reports AFP.

Arab League Secretary General Esamat Abdel Meguid, UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al-Nahayan and Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah said Arab states wanted a "peaceful settlement," the official news agency reported.

The officials said Arabs want "good neighbourly ties" with Iran and urge respect for the "sovereignty and independence of countries, Non-interference in their internal affairs

and non-recourse to force," Wam reported.

Abdallah recalled "his country's position in favour of a peaceful solution to this conflict, taking into consideration the Emir's sovereignty over the three islands." The three are Abu Musa and greater and lesser Tunb.

Meguid meanwhile repeated the League's support for the Emirates position in this crucial affair.

Meguid, a former Egyptian Foreign Minister, arrived here early Sunday and is to return to Egypt today.

The UAE has already taken the dispute to the United Nations after negotiations with Iran late last month collapsed and Tehran rejected international arbitration, according to UAE officials.

The UAE, whose military power is dwarfed by Iran has previously ruled out an armed confrontation over the islands, which control the strategic strait of Hormuz, the passage way to one fifth of the free world's crude exports.

Tehran claims the islands while the UAE argues they were occupied by Iranian troops just three days before it was created from a merger of seven Gulf Emirates that gained independence from Britain in 1971.

The two have shared administration of the island since then.

The long-simmering dispute over the islands flared in August when Iranian authorities turned away a UAE boat from Abu Musa, a move that

UAE official said amounted to Iran's De Facto annexation of the island.

In another apparent move to assert its control over the islands, an Iranian gunboat reportedly harassed UAE fishermen on Monday and seized two fishing boats with four Indians, who are still detained on greater Tunb.

The UAE has not reacted to the incident but Indian embassy sources here said they were in touch with Tehran.

Meguid said his talks with Sheikh Zayed, 75, also covered how to end Arab divisions opened by the Gulf War.

The diplomats said King Hassan of Morocco would also discuss patching up Arab differences when he visits UAE during his Arab tour next week.

## BRIEFLY

**Rao in Nepal:** Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao arrived here yesterday for a three-day official visit at the invitation of Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, official sources said, AFP reports from Kathmandu.

Koirala and his cabinet ministers were on hand to welcome Rao at Tribhuvan International Airport.

Rao was scheduled to hold two rounds of talks with his Nepalese counterpart, one soon after his arrival before an official banquet and the other Tuesday morning at Koirala's official residence, a senior official of the Nepalese Foreign Ministry said.

Rao was heading a high-level delegation, including minister of state for External Affairs R L Bhatia and Foreign Secretary Jyotindra Nath Dixit.

**Four Naxalites killed:** Four Naxalites belonging to the banned People's War Group (PWG) were killed in an encounter with police in Bosidevarapally village of Ananthapur district Sunday, PTI reports from Hyderabad.

One of the Naxalites was identified as Kranthi of Karimnagar district, police said.

A gun and some ammunition were recovered from the scene of encounter.

**Explosions in London:** Two bombs went off in separate areas of London early yesterday blowing out windows and damaging a coach but causing no casualties, police said, Reuter reports from London.

One bomb slightly damaged a coach parked outside the Novotel hotel in the western district of Hammersmith and a second blew in windows in the Haymarket area of the West End, where many theatres and cinemas are located.

Police sealed off most of the West End after the second bomb went off a near a parked car. Two passengers suffered shock, but no one was injured.

The explosions followed a series of bomb attacks in an around London by Irish Republican Army (IRA) guerrillas trying to oust Britain from northern Ireland.

**Tigers kill 5 Lankan troops:** Tamil Tiger guerrillas stormed an army bunker line in northwest Sri Lanka killing at least five soldiers, a military spokesman here said yesterday, AFP reports from Colombo.

Dozens of attackers believed to be from the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fired rifled grenades and small arms at the military position in Mannar district and escaped with several weapons, the spokesman said.

"We have also hit back, inflicting casualties on the terrorists. But we can't confirm the numbers yet," the spokesman said.

It was the second attack against security forces in the coastal district of Mannar in four days. Tigers killed another five soldiers during an Ambush on an army patrol there Thursday.

**Quake shakes Darwin:** Darwin was shaken Sunday by its second earthquake in three weeks, the Australian seismological centre reported, yesterday, AFP says from Darwin.

Senior research scientist Kevin Mccue said an earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale was centred about 750 kilometres (470 miles) north of Darwin in the Banda Sea about 10.45 pm (1315 GMT).

Some Darwin residents reported minor tremors, with other reports from as far south as Katherine, about 300 kilometres (190 rpt 190 miles) south of here, Mccue said.

An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale, centred about 50 kilometres (30 miles) offshore in the Arafura Sea, shook Darwin and other parts of the northern territory on September 30, although no damage was reported.

## 3 top Sikh leaders released

NEW DELHI, Oct 19: Indian authorities Sunday released three top Sikh leaders who had been arrested along with some 300 people in a preventive police crackdown across the separatist-torn northern state of Punjab, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports AFP.

The crackdown in the last four days was part of a drive by the state government to restrict attendance at a religious mourning ceremony held Sunday at the Golden Temple for two Sikhs executed after being convicted of assassinating a former Indian army chief.

The temple, Stikhdom's holiest shrine, is located in Punjab's Amritsar city.

Except for a baton-charge

Deng meets senior leaders

BEIJING, Oct 19: Chinese Senior Leader Deng Xiaoping met today with senior leaders at the Great Hall of the people, the Xinhua news agency said, reports AFP.

## Clinton will be next US president, predicts Giscard

PARIS, Oct 19: Democratic challenger Bill Clinton will be the next president of the United States, former French President Valery Giscard D'estaing predicted Sunday, reports AFP.

"The only message, when a country is in great difficulty, with an economy in very bad shape, is: 'change is needed,'" Giscard D'estaing told the French television channel TF1.

The "great error" of the previous, Reagan administration, he added, was the belief, that a great country could live for a long time with a sizeable budget deficit.

"They've ended up with a debt situation such that now, whatever they do, the debt increase massively from year to year."

Giscard noted that the United States had dropped its interest rates so far that they were now "almost negative" but that still "the economy is not taking off again."

The former French president also said that the European Community "no longer manages to take any decisions" and that Friday's special EC summit in Birmingham was "an effort for nothing."

And he said that contrary to what European leaders declared after June's Danish referendum "No", the Maastricht treaty for closer European union "will not go into force in 1993."

## Violence takes 14 more in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 19: At least 14 people were killed in political violence, including nine men and women who died when a band of armed men attacked a village, police said Monday, reports AP.

The latest violence came as 12 peace monitors from Commonwealth nations arrived to help international efforts to halt violence that is threatening efforts to end apartheid.

Despite increased peace efforts by most South African leaders and the international community, faction fighting shows no signs of abating. More than 2,700 blacks have died in violence this year.

More than 10,000 Zulu members of Inkatha armed with spears and other weapons marched through Johannesburg Saturday to defy a ban on carrying of weapons in public. Police did not intervene to stop the peaceful march.

Police said a group of men apparently belonging to the Inkatha Freedom Party attacked a village of the African National Congress near Umagababa in the eastern province of Natal. Five men and three women were shot or hacked to death and 18 others were wounded in the attack Sunday.

Police who went to the village were shot at, a spokesman said. Police returned fire, killing one man and injuring another, he said.

## Pak move to curb sexual assault on women into police custody

ISLAMABAD, Oct 19: The Pakistan government has decided to enforce new measures to curb incidents of sexual assault on women at police stations during investigations, officials said today, reports AFP.

A bill will be presented to the national assembly soon to amend the existing code of criminal procedure for the purpose, they said.

The new provisions, approved by the Cabinet here Sunday, would generally ban courts from remanding women defendants into police custody pending trial.

A woman may only be questioned by police during the hours of daylight and must be accompanied during the investigation by her husband or a relative, or by a female police officer.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif ordered the amendments allowing frequent accusations that women had been raped in police custody, the officials said, adding that the government had taken serious note of the "ugly situation."

In a much publicized case in September last year, a 34-year old housewife, Asia Ayub, was allegedly tortured and raped while being held along with her husband at a police station in nearby Rawalpindi in connection with a theft.

About two months later, the alleged gang rape of a daughter of a veteran politician in the southern city of Karachi,

## Coal mine closure programme Major may lose support in Commons

LONDON, Oct 19: Prime Minister John Major convened an emergency Cabinet session Monday after legislators in his own Conservative Party threatened to defeat government plans for a massive coal mine closure programme, reports AP.

Asked if he would back down, the embattled Major told reporters, "This afternoon you will hear," before starting the crisis meeting at his 10 Downing Street office.

Major said he met for 2 1/2 hours with senior colleagues Sunday night as the ranks swelled of legislators rebelling against the government programme. It involves closing more than half of the nation's coal pits and putting 30,000 miners out of work.

If the government loses a parliamentary vote Wednesday on the closures, Major's survival would be in question.

On Sunday, Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine insisted that 31 of 50 remaining mines must be closed because state-

owned British coal is losing 100 million pounds (dls 162 million) a month due to competition from subsidized nuclear plants.

The number of Conservative legislators who planned to vote against the massive closures in a poll on Wednesday was in the double-digits, with more expected to abstain, the British Broadcasting Corp said.

The government holds a fragile 21-seat majority in the 651-seat House of Commons.

Conservative legislator Richard Shepherd said the government was headed for defeat in Wednesday's vote.

"A rift has grown between the country and the Cabinet, and that rift is now growing between the party and the Cabinet," Shepherd said in a British Broadcasting Corp radio interview.

When Parliament reopens Monday afternoon from a summer recess, Heseltine planned to try to mollify opponents by stressing the generosity of a 1 billion pound (dls 1.62 billion) and package for miners who will be unemployed.

More than 100 miners were sent home early Monday when they arrived at the Silverhill colliery in the central England county of Nottinghamshire. A union leader is on a protests sit-in at the bottom of the 1,000-foot (305 meter) shaft at Silverhill.

Silverhill was supposed to cease production last Friday, among the first of the mines to be closed under the programme announced Tuesday.

Some legislators who accept the closure programme said it was unacceptable because of the speed. They called for a phased shutdown instead of swiftly adding the miners to Britain's 10.1 per cent jobless rate, a 5-year high and rising.

Two court cases brought by miners to try to prevent the closures are pending. A High Court Judge resumes a hearing Tuesday on an application by the National Union of Mineworkers to stop the closures on grounds of insufficient notice.

## US concerned at Russian arms sales to China

GLENEAGLES, Scotland, Oct 19: The United States has told the Russian government that it is concerned about high-tech Russian arms sales to China and other countries, a senior US defence official said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The official responded to questions about a New York Times report that the White House was concerned about Moscow's sales of missile guidance, nuclear and other technology to Beijing.

The Russians have been engaged in more aggressive arms sales, including to China," said the official, who flew here Sunday with US Defence Secretary Dick Cheney for a two-day meeting of NATO defence ministers beginning tomorrow.

Moscow's desperation for hard currency has driven Russia's leaders into stepping up arms sales.

"President (Boris) Yeltsin himself has made it clear that they will expand their efforts to sell arms around the world," said the official, who asked not to be identified.



SYDNEY: The first fans to purchase Madonna's erotica album display their limited edition collectors compact discs in Sydney on Monday. The midnight sale was the world's first commercial release of the controversial recording being sold with warning labels. — AFP/UNB photo