

# Hekmatyar demands neutral govt

ISLAMABAD, Jan 6: Afghan dissident Mujahideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has demanded resignation of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and formation of a Shooraa (council) of non-controversial elements to form the future government in Kabul, reports Xinhua.

In an interview in Jalalabad, Eastern Afghanistan, Tuesday, Hekmatyar termed the Hal-o-Aqd Shooraa (council of wisdom), which elected Rabbani to the presidency for next two years a week ago, as 'illegal and fake', according to a local press report today.

Hekmatyar, Chief of Hezb-e-Islami, was quoted as saying that the illegal government of Rabbani should go anyway as it came to power with the support of the former government forces.

He demanded expulsion of those whom he termed as communists to enable Mujahideen to form a pure Islamic set-up in Kabul.

He said the situation in Kabul was not stable and did not rule out possibility of fresh clashes between the government forces and the people of Afghanistan.

Rabbani's election as President by the Hal-o-Aqd Shooraa was rejected by most of Mujahideen groups which fought along with him during the past 14 years against the former Soviet invaders and the government of Najibullah who was ousted in April last year.

New attacks have already been launched against Kabul during the last few days after the election of Rabbani as new President.

# Tamils condemn navy attack on civilians

COLOMBO, Jan 6: Sri Lanka's Tamil rebels today condemned a navy attack last week on civilians crossing a lagoon in the north and said it would hinder the settlement of a nine-year civil war, reports Reuters.

(The) LTTE condemns vehemently the brutal massacre of innocent boat passengers perpetrated by the Sri Lankan navy, the rebels said in a statement from their London headquarters.

# Bush-Clinton signal to Baghdad US won't tolerate violation of no-fly zone over southern Iraq

WASHINGTON, Jan 6: President George Bush and Bill Clinton, the man who will become President in two weeks, are sending clear signals to Baghdad that the United States will not tolerate violations of the no-fly zone over southern Iraq, reports Reuters.

The White House on Tuesday expressed concern over Iraq's deployment of anti-aircraft missiles in the southern no-fly zone of that country, and Bush spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Washington was considering how to respond.

"We're monitoring the missiles. We're very concerned. We're still considering our options," Fitzwater said during a visit to West Point, New York, with Bush. He did not elaborate.

The Defence Department said President Saddam Hussein's military had moved surface-to-air missiles into the zone, where Iraqi warplanes are banned to protect Shi'ite dissidents and where a US fighter jet downed an Iraqi

fighter last month. Spokesman Bob Hall warned Iraq not to track US warplanes with missile-targeting radars.

In Little Rock on Tuesday, Clinton spokesman George Stephanopoulos was asked at a news conference whether Clinton was worried about the missiles.

"I think Saddam should take no comfort in the fact that Bill Clinton is heading toward the presidency," he replied.

"He must abide by all UN resolutions, he must abide by the no-fly zone. Bill Clinton supports President Bush in his efforts to enforce them and he will continue to support them as President," Stephanopoulos added.

The United States, Britain and France set up the no-fly zone south of the 32nd parallel last year to refrain Saddam's aircraft from attacking Shi'ites in the south. A similar zone was set up earlier to protect Kurds in Northern Iraq.

Pentagon spokesman Bob Hall on Tuesday warned Iraq against turning on the missile-targeting radars against US.

Reconnaissance and fighter jets policing the area south of the 32nd parallel.

The Bush administration has vowed to strengthen moderate Arab states in the Gulf against aggression from Iraq and Iran and hammered home the point again on Tuesday with the announcement of a 4.5 billion arms sale to Kuwait.

That planned sale, which includes 256 M-1A2 battle tanks, must be approved by Congress.

US defence officials, who asked not to be identified, said earlier on Tuesday that Washington was concerned that the movement of the missiles in Southern Iraq might signal an attempt by Saddam to shoot down an American warplane in the area in the waning days of the Bush administration.

Iraqi aircraft have violated

the zone repeatedly in recent weeks and a US F-16 fighter shot down an Iraqi Mig-25 fighter over the zone on December 27.

Iraq said later it reserved the right to respond. But Baghdad gave no details on whether or how it might retaliate.

Hall said there had always been Iraqi anti-aircraft missiles in southern Iraq but that "they (Iraqis) have been moving missile around and they are now along the 32nd parallel."

He said none of the missile's target radars had tracked or "locked" onto US fighter and reconnaissance planes and warned that such a move could be dangerous.

The Defence Department has repeatedly told Baghdad that it will enforce the two Iraq no-fly zone and will not allow US pilots to be put at risk by missile radars.

"It is something we are not going to tolerate," Hall told reporters.

# Off the Record



STEENBERGEN, Netherlands: In the small town of Steenbergen in the northeastern part of the Netherlands a calf with three ears has been born. The extra ear grew out from the animal's back. According to the vet the little cow is healthy and can live a long life. The name of the calf is Sophie. Willeke Van Wijk, the daughter of the owner pulls. The calf's third ear on Tuesday. —AFP/UNB photo.

# Kids fending for themselves

UNDATED: The case of two young Illinois girls left home alone while their parents went to Mexico on a nine-day Christmas vacation has drawn howls of outrage from parents everywhere, reports AP.

Children's advocates say it's just one more case — albeit an extreme one — in an epidemic of child neglect in America. State child-welfare agencies received 1.2 million reports of neglect nationwide in 1991, and investigators substantiated neglect in about 40 per cent of them, according to the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse.

Reported cases are "just the tip of the iceberg," added Peter Berliner, spokesman for the Children's Alliance, an advocacy group in Seattle.

Alcoholic or drug-addicted parents regularly neglect their children, he said. Poor working parents, especially single parents, often leave their children alone because they can't afford or find day care.

"While the Illinois case may be dramatic, it's only in degree," Berliner said. "Kids get left alone more than we'd like to admit. A large number are essentially raising themselves."

Joy Byers, a spokeswoman for the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse, said child neglect "crosses all the lines — social, economic, racial."

# Exclusive school for Chelsea Clinton

LITTLE ROCK, Ark: Chelsea Clinton will attend an exclusive private school when the family moves to Washington, the Clinton family announced Tuesday, reports AP.

The decision for Chelsea to attend Sidwell Friends School was made "after many family discussions and careful consideration," the family said in a statement.

"As parents, we believe this decision is best for our daughter at this time in her life based on our changing circumstances," the Clintons said in a statement.

Twelve-year-old Chelsea attends eighth grade at a public school in Little Rock, Arkansas, and there had been intense speculation on whether she would continue to attend public schools in Washington.

Clinton spokesman George Stephanopoulos said the decision was not a rejection of the District of Columbia's public schools, but the result of an effort to make sure the family found the right environment for their daughter.

Stephanopoulos said the Clintons were especially attracted to the school's challenging academic standards and its requirement that all students be involved in community service.

# "Simply not true"

LONDON: Buckingham Palace late Tuesday dismissed as "simply not true," a magazine report that the Prince of Wales shared a secret holiday villa in Turkey with former girlfriend Camilla Parker-Bowles, reports AFP.

A spokesman for Prince Charles, son of Queen Elizabeth II and heir to the British throne, said allegations in the latest edition of vanity fair by royal watcher Anthony Holden contained "inaccuracies and misleading innuendoes."

In a lengthy review of the Wales's life last year, Holden said the Prince and Parker-Bowles — reportedly conducting an affair with Prince Charles — stayed in Turkey as the Princess flew on for an official visit to Egypt in May.

The Prince's private visit was billed as an archaeological dig.

Holden wrote: "In fact, Camilla had flown out to join him. Even Diana did not know that Camilla and Charles then repaired to a lavish vacation home nearby, secretly lent to the Prince by wealthy Turkish friends."

A Palace spokesman said: "We have to make it quite clear that it is wholly untrue that the Prince of Wales stayed at the home of wealthy Turkish friends or that he met Camilla Parker-Bowles in Turkey in May. It is simply not true. It is unusual for Buckingham Palace to comment on press reports."



# BRIEFLY

**30 hurt in US plane mishap:** A San Francisco-bound airliner hit heavy turbulence shortly after takeoff on Tuesday, sending passengers crashing into the ceiling of its cabin. Thirty people were injured, a fire official said, says AP from Miami.

American Airlines Flight 1539 ran into trouble west of Florida's Lake Okeechobee and was forced to return to Miami International Airport, said Anne Eldridge, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Ten passengers and five crew members were hurt, said American Airlines spokeswoman Patricia San Pedro.

But Metro-Dade Fire Department spokeswoman Laverne Guillen said 17 people were taken to hospitals and 13 were treated on the scene. San Pedro did not return telephone calls Tuesday night to explain the discrepancy.

**2 N-plant managers fired:** Two managers of a Ukrainian nuclear waste storage plant near Kiev have been fired for serious safety violations, a news service reported, says AP from Moscow.

The Kiev state administration identified the officials as Boris Kucherenko and Vitaly Cherednichenko, respectively the director and the chief engineer of the Kiev Inter-Provincial Special Plant, the Interfax news agency reported.

Georgi Gotovchits, the Ukrainian minister in charge of protecting the population from the consequences of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, fired the two "for repeated cruel violations during the storage of nuclear wastes," Interfax reported.

No further details were available.

**Violence leaves 13 dead in Peru:** Shining Path rebels attacked a police station in an Amazon village Tuesday, triggering a firefight that left 13 people dead and 10 wounded, police said, AFP reports from Lima.

A undisclosed number of guerrillas stormed into the village of Nuevo Progreso in Central Peru and opened fire on the police station with automatic weapons. The ensuing gunbattle with police killed four officers, eight insurgents and one civilian.

The insurgents fled into the jungle and army helicopter gunships set out in pursuit.

Nuevo Progreso is located in the upper Hullaqa valley, Peru's main coca-producing region where Shining Path fighters are paid by cocaine traffickers to provide protection for drug operations.

**7 Contras killed in clash:** Seven former Contra rebels were killed and at least eight others injured on Tuesday in clashes with soldiers and police in northern Nicaragua, authorities said, reports Reuters from Managua.

The fighting, among the most violent reported in recent months, occurred in the northern provinces of Estel and Jinotega, and in Matagalpa in the northeast. Three of the former rebels were captured, Orlando Aguilar, chief of the regional police in Estel, told Reuters by telephone.

"Up to now, we have killed seven Contras, left eight wounded and captured three," Aguilar said. He did not disclose whether any government forces had been killed.

**Explosion in London:** Three suspected incendiary devices exploded in the heart of London in the early hours Wednesday following coded warnings, police said, reports AFP from London.

The explosions occurred between 0350 GMT and 0415, two in Oxford Street — the heart of London's shopping area — and a third in Northumberland Avenue, near the Charing Cross mainline commuter railway station.

No injuries were reported, a spokesman for Scotland Yard said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attacks.

**Jamaica to resume hangings:** Jamaica will resume hanging convicted murderers in February after determining which of the country's 352 death row prisoners deserve reduced sentences or pardons, an official has said, reports AP in Kingston, Jamaica.

No one has been debated in Parliament over whether to continue since 1988 because of debate in Parliament over whether to continue capital punishment.

The country has one of the world's largest numbers of prisoners on death row in proportion to the population.



SEOUL: An old woman participated in a protest against the shipment of plutonium from France to Japan, in front of the Japanese embassy yesterday. Technicians began removing 1.7 tons of plutonium from the Japanese freighter Akatsuki Maru soon after it arrived in Tokai port, north of Tokyo on Tuesday. — AFP/UNB photo.

# UK will oppose any external help for terrorists in India

NEW DELHI, Jan 6: Britain will ask Pakistan to see an end to external support to terrorism in India and it will take steps to prevent illegal transfer of funds by terrorists from the United Kingdom, the British Home Secretary, Kenneth Clarke, said here yesterday, Reports PTI.

Addressing a press conference just before leaving for Pakistan, Clarke said he would take up the matter with the Pakistani leaders and impress the need for India and Pakistan to settle the Kashmir problem under the Simla accord.

Britain, he said, was op-

posed to any one supporting terrorism in India.

Clarke, who had meetings with the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, the Minister of State for Home and the Minister of State for External Affairs during his stay here, said Britain would be ready to extradite terrorist elements to India once the concerned treaty was ratified by the British parliament.

So far, Britain has not received any extradition request from India, he said replying to a question.

Britain, he said, would like India to undertake a political process in Kashmir on the

lines of Punjab.

The extradition treaty signed by India and Britain in September sends a message to terrorists that there would be no safe haven in the UK.

On the question of human rights, the British Home Secretary welcomed the visit of an international amnesty team to India and New Delhi's decision to set up a human rights commission.

India and Britain, he said, could work together to combat international drug trafficking. There had been an increase in the drugs passing through the subcontinent with Pakistan as a key country.

# France's jet sale to Taiwan hurts ties with China

BEIJING, Jan 6: France's jet fighter sales to Taiwan have fundamentally hurt Sino-French relations, and Paris is entirely to blame, a Chinese official report said Wednesday, reports AP.

The Xinhua news agency report quoted a spokesman of the Chinese Embassy in Paris. It said he was responding Tuesday to comments by French Foreign Trade Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn on the sale of 60 Mirage 2000-5 fighters to Taiwan.

Strauss-Kahn warned China Monday against treating France and the United States differently in response to their sales

of fighters to Taiwan.

"It would be unacceptable for there to be two sets of measures — that is, that the United States be allowed to do things France is not," Strauss-Kahn said.

China has ordered France to close its consulate in the southern city of Canton, but has taken no action over US plans to sell F-16 fighters to Taiwan.

The embassy spokesman, who was not identified, said that was because the US sale was not yet final, whereas the French government already has given the go-ahead for the Mirage sales by the Dassault

Co. However, Strauss-Kahn said the government has not approved the sale, and that French companies have only been allowed to negotiate with potential buyers.

On the other hand, the US government already has authorized the sale of 150 F-16 fighters, although the contract between Taiwan and General Dynamics had not been signed by last month.

The Chinese spokesman warned the United States not to go through with the sale, saying it would violate bilateral agreements.

He reiterated Beijing's op-

# Singapore starts AIDS tests for foreigners

SINGAPORE, Jan 6: Compulsory tests for the AIDS virus have started for hundreds of thousands of foreign labourers who play a major role in Singapore's economy, reports AP.

Health officials said the testing policy went into effect January 1 after plans were announced last November. Those who test positive for the human immunodeficiency virus must leave the country.

Mandatory inspection was imposed after 48 foreigners were found to have the virus that causes AIDS in the first 10 months of last year, compared to 28 in 1991 and 26 in 1990.

# Never become world's policeman, Bush tells military leaders

WEST POINT, New York, Jan 6: Blinking back tears, President George Bush told budding US military leaders Tuesday that America must be ready to use force when necessary but must never become "the world's policeman," reports Reuters.

"No, the United States should not seek to become the world's policeman," Bush said in an address to cadets at the US Military Academy in what amounted to a valedictory speech on world affairs for the departing President.

"There is no support abroad or at home for us to play this role, nor should there be. We would exhaust ourselves."

when to use force in defence of strategic or humanitarian goals was a hard one, he cited the allied interventions to oust Iraq from Kuwait and to bring food to the starving in Somalia as examples of its wise use.

But he said proposed military intervention in the Yugoslav turmoil had yet to be proven justified, adding, "We are constantly reassessing our options" in that conflict.

Bush's voice broke and he struggled to contain his emotions as he described a poignant scene from his trip to Somalia last week, in which a US marine gently grasped the tiny arm of an emaciated child.

But he was coolly in control when he lectured the young

men and women of the need to find a crucial balance in the exercise of US power.

He spoke from considerable experience as the Commander-in-Chief who sent US troops into action three times — in the 1989 Panama invasion, the 1991 Gulf War and the Somalia relief effort.

"In the wake of the cold war, in a world where we are the only remaining superpower, it is the role of the United States to marshal its moral and material resources, to promote a democratic peace," he said. "It is our responsibility, it is our opportunity to lead. There is no one else."

However, he said that while the United States must lead, it will often act "in concert" with other countries, which he said should contribute militarily and economically.

Bush also said there are times when the United States must act alone, citing the Panama invasion as a case where solo action was warranted to protect American lives and interests.

He said he was leaving President-elect Bill Clinton a fighting force that is "second to none" but cautioned against trying to find any formula on how to use it.

"In the complex new world we are entering, there can be no single or simple set of fixed

rules for using force," he said. "Inevitably, the question of military intervention requires judgment. Each and every case is unique. To adopt rigid criteria would guarantee mistakes involving American interests and American lives."

White House officials refused to term Bush's address a farewell speech but acknowledged it was likely to be his last major speech outside of Washington before Clinton is sworn in on January 20.

Bush referred in his remarks to one of the most famous farewell addresses, that of George Washington, in which the first US President warned against "entangling alliances."

# Iraq accuses US, Kuwait of violating sovereignty

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 6: Iraq has accused the United States and Kuwait of violating its sovereignty and the Gulf War ceasefire in documents released at the UN headquarters here Tuesday, reports AFP.

In a letter to the UN Secretary General, Iraq's UN Ambassador Nizar Hamdon listed 430 US flights over Iraqi territory between December 15 and 22, which he described as surveillance and provocation missions.