

# Trilateral talks on DPRK withdrawal from NPT tomorrow

TOKYO, Mar 20: Japan, South Korea and the United States will hold an emergency meeting in New York on Monday in response to North Korea's decision to pull out of a nuclear treaty, Foreign Ministry officials said today, reports AFP.

It will be their first trilateral meeting on the issue, which emerged last week when Pyongyang announced its withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Delegates are expected to discuss ways to persuade North Korea to reverse its decision, ministry officials said.

They said Tokyo would be represented by Tadashi Ikeda, head of the Foreign Ministry's

Asia Bureau. Washington is expected to be represented by Bill Clark, Under Secretary of State, and Seoul by Shin Keobok, Assistant Minister for Political Affairs.

The three countries may issue a joint statement after the meeting calling on Pyongyang to reverse its withdrawal from NPT, officials said.

North Korea, suspected of developing nuclear weapons, had been asked by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to access to the Yangbyon Nuclear Complex, north of Pyongyang.

But it rejected the demand and withdrew from the NPT, saying the IAEA's request was an "intolerable infringement" of North Korean sovereignty.

# UNSC considering no-fly enforcement in Bosnia

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 20: As mediators set up weekend talks between warring Bosnian factions, the Security Council was considering whether to authorize force to stop aircraft flying over the former Yugoslav republic, reports AP.

The council adjourned Friday without deciding how to enforce its "no-fly zone" against repeated Serb violations. A diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the council could be ready to vote as early as Monday.

UN mediator Cyrus Vance and his EC counterpart Lord Owen scheduled meetings Saturday with the Bosnian government and Serb rebels.

But Serb leader Radovan Karadzic warned that the Security Council's resolution could hurt the talks.

"Twelve million Serbs throughout Yugoslavia think what is enough and our assembly may decide to withdraw us from the conference if there would be more sanctions or more threats of any kind," Karadzic told The Associated Press.

The flight ban was imposed by the Security Council in an attempt to end the bloodshed in Bosnia-Herzegovina without involving foreign troops. The Serbs, who inherited Yugoslav warplanes in Bosnia at independence last year, have nearly all the aircraft in the republic. The Muslim-led government has only a handful of planes.

The flight ban has been violated 456 times, according to UN officials who have accused Serbs of bombing Muslim-held territory from the air last weekend.

A draft copy of the French-sponsored resolution obtained by The Associated Press would authorize UN member nations to use "all necessary measures" to stop future violations.

Some of the 15 nations on the Security Council are pressing for immediate enforcement, while others want a 14-day grace period.

"For us, the key is that the no-fly zone be enforced as soon as possible and the resolution rephrased as soon as possible," said Muhamed Sacirbey, the UN ambassador from Bosnia.

Karadzic denied the Serbs were responsible for the weekend bombings.

"Serbs would certainly not do that," he said, suggesting the planes came from Slavonia in Croatia. "Next time when they come, we may shoot them down because they are not Serbian."

The United States, which strongly supports enforcement of the flight ban, wanted to include pre-emptive strikes against Serbian airfields, from which attacks against Muslim enclaves have been launched.

The peace talks made no significant progress Friday toward Bosnian Muslim and Serbian acceptance of proposed map drawn up by Owen and Vance to divide up Bosnia into 10 autonomous provinces.

# Off the Record

## He offers to sell kidney for paying off bank loan

WARSAW: A cash-strapped man has placed an advertisement in Polish newspapers offering to sell one of his kidneys to pay off a bank loan, reports Reuter.

Pap news agency said on Friday that 48-year-old Zbigniew B, a father of three from southeast Poland, had offered his healthy kidney for 400 million zloties (dollar 2,350).

The agency said the man was a toolmaker who had been unemployed since last July. Pap quoted a medical expert as saying Polish law did not prevent the sale of organs.

## Death sentence for setting up whoring allowances

BEIJING: A Chinese hospital director has been sentenced to death for setting up whoring allowances for his staff and using public funds to visit prostitutes, an official newspaper said, reports Reuter.

Shanghai's Xinmin evening news said Chen Liyuan, chief of the Tuerzhuang Hospital in northern Shangong province, was arrested by police and charged with consorting with prostitutes as well as several counts of rape and gang rape.

Chen Liyuan ordered his accountant to dispense whoring allowances to hospital workers according to staff seniority and repeatedly went to the countryside to visit prostitutes, the newspaper said in an edition seen in Beijing on Saturday.

The newspaper said Chen, together with the deputy hospital director, the office manager and his driver, caused total losses of about 500,000 yuan (87,000) dollar over the course of one year.

## Incubator now warms the 500 gm-baby

PUNE: A 19-day-old girl with a birthweight of a mere 500 grams, claimed to be the smallest infant in the country to have survived so long, is at present being warmed in an incubator at a local premature intensive care unit, reports PTI.

The baby, delivered in the sixth month of pregnancy by a 23-year-old woman who had conceived twins, was out of danger and all her reflexes are normal, Dr Sandhya Bhidre, who manages the unit, said at a press conference yesterday.

The baby, whose survival was a national record was able to suckle only for a short while and was fed for the rest of the time with expressed breast milk through a tube.

The infant was given intravenous fluids, oxygen and was monitored minute by minute to diagnose complications early, Dr Bhidre added.

## Paraplegic man demanded phone sex as ransom

FRANKFURT: A paraplegic man was found guilty Friday of calling at least 75 women, telling them he had kidnapped their daughters and demanding phone sex as ransom, reports AP.

The unidentified 34-year-old man was convicted of extortion and intimidation and sentenced in Frankfurt District Court to five years in prison.

According to court testimony, the man called scores of mothers between 1990 and 1991 and told them he had kidnapped their daughters, whose ages ranged from six to 18.

As "ransom," the man demanded that the mothers take off their clothes and describe sex acts while he listened on the telephone.

Prosecutors said that the wheelchair-bound man got the family members names from newspaper obituaries, meaning that some of the targets of his terror were recent widows.

## One in 7 Japanese women sexually harassed

TOKYO: Nearly one in seven Japanese women in their 20s has been sexually harassed, a government survey showed today, reports Reuter.

Nearly eight in ten of the men and women surveyed said men are treated better than women in Japan because of ingrained social conventions and prejudices.

The survey, conducted by the Prime Minister's office last November and quoted by the Kyodo news agency, asked 5,000 people what they thought about sexual equality.

# HK residents for quick end to Sino-British dispute

HONG KONG, Mar 20: Hong Kong residents are becoming increasingly frustrated by the prolonged political dispute between Britain and China, according to a survey published Saturday, reports AP.

The survey commissioned by the South China Morning Post also found that while most people opposed any secret talks, they were willing to accept China's demand that Hong Kong members be less than full members of the British team.

The poll, taken Wednesday and Thursday, mirrors other recent surveys indicating a strong desire by Hong Kong's 5.9 million to see a quick end to the political squabble over Gov. Chris Patten's democratic reform proposals.

The latest attempts, to break the deadlock fell through Friday after the two sides couldn't agree on Hong Kong's role in any talks.

Beijing wants to either exclude Hong Kong representatives or designate them as second-tier delegates in the negotiating process. Britain disagrees, saying that Hong Kong officials must be full members of the British team.

In Hong Kong, surveys and radio call-in shows have suggested that many people hold all parties partially responsible for the breakdown in relations, and Saturday's poll did little to dispel that notion.

Eighty per cent of those interviewed indicated that Patten, China or both sides should make the first concession.

Meanwhile, nearly half blamed China, Britain and Patten's for sabotaging the talks.



KIEV, The Ukraine: Head of the Ukrainian Parliament Ivan Pijush (L) and his Russian counterpart Ruslan Khashbulatov look at each other during their joint press conference. — AFP/UNB photo

# 19 die as boat capsizes in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Mar 20: Nineteen people were found dead after an overloaded boat sank off the eastern Indonesian island of Ceram in the Moluccas, the Antara news agency said today, reports AFP.

The Batam Jaya, a motorized vessel permitted to take on no more than 15 passengers, was believed to have had more than 100 people on board when it sank in rough seas Friday off the western side of Ceram, Antara said.

A passing boat and local fishermen helped rescue 88 survivors while recovering the bodies of the 19 victims, one of them a crew member, Antara said.

The precise number of people on board the ship was not known. Marine authorities notified all ships in the area to be on the lookout for other survivors or victims.

# Lankan planes bomb LTTE targets

COLOMBO, Mar 20: Sri Lankan Air Force planes bombed Tamil rebel targets in the North-western Mannar district on Thursday, a military spokesman said today, reports Reuter.

We have been taken targets at specified locations, the spokesman said.

The spokesman said about seven rebels were killed and several wounded in similar attacks on March 10. Other military sources said ten rebels had been killed and 38 wounded in the earlier bombing.

# Ukraine won't sign NPT

KIEV, Mar 20: A leading lawmaker said Friday that Ukraine would not sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, a move that would endanger arms control agreements between Russia and the United States, reports AP.

The comment by Dmytro Pavlychko, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee in Ukraine's parliament, or Rada, came after Russia and Ukraine signed a joint communique in Kiev. "I'm not sure that the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee speaks for the entire Rada, but certainly this is a disconcerting development," he added.

Ukraine refused to allow the communique to include a clause referring to Ukraine's intention to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Earlier this month, Ukrainian Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma told journalists that Ukraine's options included not signing the treaty or signing it as a nuclear state.

"We are not intending to accede to the NPT, and we will ratify START only under certain conditions," Pavlychko told reporters.

Pavlychko did not say why Ukraine would not sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty, but there is a growing feeling among political leaders in Kiev that Ukraine should not allow itself to be rushed into full nuclear disarmament—especially if hard-liners are resurgent in Russia.

Ukraine, which inherited 176 long-range nuclear missiles and 37 bombers from the collapse of the Soviet Union, is the last holdout to signing the START-I treaty.

Ukraine says it wants millions of dollars in aid from the West as well as security guarantees before it will approve START. The pact, approved by the United States, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan, would cut by about one-third the US and former Soviet arsenals of long-range missiles.

# BRIEFLY

**UN chopper crashes in Cambodia:** A United Nations helicopter carrying foreign journalists crashed in northwest Cambodia Saturday injuring most of those on board, a senior member of the UN peacekeeping force said, reports Reuter from Phnom Penh.

The Mi-17 helicopter crashed as it landed in Siem Reap, the gateway to the ancient Angkor Wat Temple complex, chief superintendent Peter Fitzgerald said.

Most of the helicopter's 18 crew and passengers were not badly hurt, but "one or two" might have serious injuries, said Fitzgerald, chief of operations for UN civilian police in Cambodia.

The injured were taken to a field hospital in Siem Reap operated by Indian members of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC).

The passengers were mainly journalists from Europe touring the country at the invitation of the UNTAC chief, Yasushi Akashi.

**Suu Kyi's partyman murdered:** A senior member of Myanmar's pro-democracy opposition was stabbed to death in the south western Chinese city of Kunming last month, Myanmar opposition and other sources said Saturday, reports AFP from Bangkok.

Win Ko, an elected member of Aung San Suu Kyi's National League of Democracy, was returning to Thailand from guerrilla-controlled territory in northern Myanmar when he was murdered at his hotel, they said.

The sources, who all declined to be identified, said there is no doubt that his murder, on February 27, was politically motivated.

"All the betting so far is that SLORC agents killed him" one well-informed source on the Thai-Myanmar border said.

SLORC—the State Law and Order Restoration Council—is the official name of Yangon's military regime.

**Stolen paintings recovered:** Police said Friday they have recovered two masterpiece by Rubens and Palamedez stolen in Ireland's biggest art theft seven years ago, reports AP from London.

British Rail police found "The Music Party" by Antoine Palamedez Friday in the left luggage office at London's Euston rail station. Wrapped in a plastic bag, it had been in storage for several days, a Scotland Yard spokesman said.

He said police on Thursday found Peter Paul Rubens' "Portrait of a Monk" concealed behind furniture in a house at Boreham Wood, 14 miles (22 kms) from London.

A man and a woman have been charged with dishonestly handling the Rubens, said the spokesman, who was not identified.

The paintings were among 18 masterpiece worth an estimated 30 million pounds (dollar 44 million) taken in March 1986 from the County Wicklow home of former lawmaker Sir Alfred Beit.

**US, DPRK diplomats hold 2nd meet:** US and North Korean diplomats held a second meeting in Beijing to discuss the hard-line Communist nation's withdrawal from an international nuclear agreement, reports AP from Beijing.

The US State Department in Washington said Friday that the meeting was held Thursday at the request of the North Korean side. The first meeting, one day earlier, had been requested by the Americans.

State Department spokesman Joe Snyder refused to give any details of the discussions and said there were no plans for additional meetings.

The United States and other countries have expressed deep concern over North Korea's abrupt announcement that it is pulling out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. China, North Korea's closest ally, reportedly has acted as an intermediary to bring about the US-North Korean meetings.

In Tokyo, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said Japan, the United States and South Korea will hold talks in New York on Monday to discuss how to deal with North Korea's withdrawal from the treaty.

**Life expectancy in China 70 yrs:** Chinese people are living longer, and now have an average life expectancy of 70 years, which ranks first among developing countries, reports Xinhua from Beijing.

This latest figure stands in sharp contrast with the average Chinese life span of 35 years in the early 1950s, just after the founding of the people's republic.

A recent survey shows that the mortality rate in China has remained at 6.6 per 1,000 for the past few years.

A government official in charge of public health attributed the low death rate an improvement in the people's living standards and to better medical services.

The official noted that there are 1.15 doctors and 2.55 hospital beds for every 1,000 people at present.

# Hekmatyar to form cabinet in two days

JALALABAD, Afghanistan, Mar 20: Most of Afghanistan's main guerrilla parties conferred on Friday on a new cabinet and a commission to oversee a ceasefire in the shell-shattered capital Kabul, reports Reuter.

"We will have to hold talks round the clock," said a spokesman for Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar when asked if a cabinet would be formed by a deadline on Monday.

The situation is crucial for Afghanistan and the leaders should do their best to solve their problems," he said.

Under the terms of a March 7 peace pact aimed at halting months of factional fighting in Kabul, the radical Hekmatyar must name his cabinet by Monday in consultation with his arch-rival President

Burban-uddin Rabbani.

Hekmatyar said on Thursday he was confident a cabinet would be formed by Monday.

Rabbani's delegate, Noorullah Emad, said he would leave for Kabul for a day today to discuss certain issues with the President. He declined to give details.

"I am more hopeful for a cabinet than ever before," Emad said.

Representatives of leaders of six of the nine parties that signed the Pakistani-brokered accord meeting in the governor's house in Jalalabad, once a winter retreat for Afghanistan's kings 100 km (66 miles) east of Kabul.

The talks were friendly, a minority, Shi'ite party leader said.



BOMBAY, India: Police take the alleged culprit (face covered), responsible for the recent series of bomb explosions, to an undisclosed destination for interrogation Friday. Police refuse to disclose the culprit's name. — AFP/UNB photo

# Sudan declares truce to pave way for peace talks

KHARTOUM, Sudan, Mar 20: Sudan postponed an offensive and declared a cease-fire in the war-torn south in response to a unilateral truce proclaimed by southern rebels, reports AP.

The armed forces, in a televised statement, said the cease-fire was aimed at creating an atmosphere conducive to peace talks, expected soon.

The statement, aired Thursday night, said the cease-fire took effect immediately despite preparations under way for a summer offensive.

The army forces warned the Sudan People's Liberation Army against trying to take military advantage of the truce "as it has done in previous cease-fires."

Fighting during the past decade has brought famine to wide areas of southern Sudan, an area the size of France. At least 500,000 people have died and hundreds of thousands more remain at risk. Relief operations are hampered by the war.

The rebel forces, made up mostly of ethnic African Christians and animists, took up arms in 1983 against the Arab-descended, Muslim-dominated government, demanding economic and administrative reforms.

Col. John Garang, army officer turned rebel leader, set no time limit in announcing the truce a week ago.

The government also did not announce a time limit, but claimed the rebel agreement was valid only until the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, which should be Wednesday.

# US Defence Department report

# Iraqi forces maintained 24 torture sites in Kuwait City

WASHINGTON, Mar 20: Iraqi forces maintained at least two dozen torture sites in Kuwait City as part of a massive effort to subjugate the Kuwaiti people after seizing the country in August 1990, according to a US government report released Friday, reports AP.

The report, compiled by the Defence Department and made available by the State Department, was submitted to the United Nations in accordance with an effort to document war crimes committed by the Iraqis during their seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

It said 1,082 Kuwaiti civilians died as a direct result of Iraqi criminal conduct.

The gruesome evidence confirms torture by amputation or injury to various body parts, to include limbs, eyes, tongues, ears, noses, lips and genitalia, the report said.

In some cases, family members were forced to watch as Iraqi military personnel murdered relatives. Mock executions also were carried out to inflict psychological terror.

Eyewitnesses reported Iraqis torturing a woman by making her eat her own flesh as it was cut from her body, the study said.

"Victims were beaten, bones were broken, skulls were crushed and faces disfigured. Some victims were killed in acid baths."

The report also documented Iraqi abuse of American prisoners of war. It said prisoners were routinely

beaten, spat upon and forced to commit degrading acts such as urinating on the American flag. Some prisoners were tortured to gain military secrets.

The Iraqis, suspecting that Israelis were piloting American warplanes, sought to identify prisoners who were Jewish. The report said six Americans were examined to determine if they were circumcised.

Acting State Department spokesman Joseph Snyder said the report documents "the outrageous behavior" of Iraqi units in Kuwait.

US military investigators also found that Iraq clearly intended to use chemical weapons and there was premeditated planning for the destruction of Kuwait's oil

fields and desalination plants in neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

"Summary executions were authorized for Kuwaiti civilians found praying on their roofs and for other Iraq-mandated offenses such as failing to display pictures of Saddam Hussein, refusing to serve Iraqi soldiers in stores or markets, possessing pictures of the Kuwait royal family and writing anti-Iraqi graffiti, the report said.

It added that 120 babies were left to die after being removed from incubators that were taken to Iraq and 57 mentally ill individuals were killed simply because of their handicap. More than 150 children between the ages of one and 13 were killed for various reasons, it said.

# Russian FM warns of civil war

LONDON, Mar 20: Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev on Friday warned that Russia could face civil war if a referendum to determine the boundaries, of presidential and parliamentary power were not held next month, reports AFP.

Kozyrev, quoted by the Interfax news agency in a dispatch monitored by the BBC also insisted that strong presidential authority represented Russia's last chance for political stability.

President Boris Yeltsin is currently locked in an acrimonious power struggle with the country's supreme legislative body, the congress of people's deputies, over who rules Russia.

The congress at a four-day session earlier this month stripped Yeltsin of a number of his powers and rejected his plan to hold a referendum next month.

Speaking aboard his plane returning from a visit to Finland, Kozyrev argued that the only alternative to the referendum was civil strife.

He added that strong presidential rule must be based on direct elections.

"I feel that without President Yeltsin we would be on the brink of a restoration of the world's most democratic 'Soviet democracy,'" Interfax quoted Kozyrev as saying.

# Najibullah ill

ISLAMABAD, Mar 20: Former Afghan President Najibullah now in protective custody at UN office in Kabul has a serious health problem, and is seeking permission to leave Afghanistan for treatment abroad, reports Xinhua.

This was stated by Seitiris Mousouris, the special representative of UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in Afghanistan.