

## Egyptian FM tells ICFM Islamic states incite terrorism against each other

KARACHI, (Pakistan), Apr 27: Egypt, Kuwait and Tunisia said on Monday that guerrillas and militant fundamentalists in Muslim nations were the greatest threat to the Islamic world, reports Reuter.

"Islamic states have in fact led wars against each other, they have conquered one another and have encouraged terrorism against other brother countries in trying to destabilise each other," Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told the 21st conference of Islamic Foreign Ministers.

Foreign ministers from most of the 51 member nations of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) are in Karachi for a five-day meeting to discuss the situation of Muslims worldwide.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya called on the

### Arab boy shot dead in Gaza

JERUSALEM, Apr 27: Israeli soldiers shot and killed a 12-year-old Arab boy in clashes in the occupied Gaza Strip on Monday while rival Palestinian factions moved toward a showdown over the Middle East peace talks, reports AP.

The boy, Ahmed Hamdan, was killed when soldiers fired from a rooftop in the town of Khan Yunis to disperse stone throwers, Arab reporters said. The army confirmed the death and said it was possible that soldiers were responsible.

OIC to develop a code of conduct for Islamic states to stamp out violence and terrorism in Muslim nations.

Egyptian security officials have identified many militants wanted for guerrilla operations inside Egypt who they say move in a circuit of safe bases in Iran, Peshawar in Pakistan's north west frontier province, and in Afghanistan.

"All of this is very serious because it is happening within the Islamic world and constitutes a split in Islamic relations," Moussa told the conference.

"They (extremists) may be a minority, yet they are of great danger to the Islamic world, much more than outsiders," he said.

"These are the enemies of our faith," he said. "They have undermined our past and therefore do a great disservice to Islam in the present and in the future."

Although Moussa did not directly accuse any Islamic nation of terrorism, Egypt and several other Arab nations such as Saudi Arabia and Algeria have put pressure on Pakistan to ensure it does not allow Arab extremists to use its territory as a base.

The United States has placed Pakistan on a watch list of states allegedly sponsoring terrorism, saying it is supporting uprisings in Kashmir and the Indian Punjab and protecting Arab extremists in its northern border areas.

Pakistan has strenuously denied such claims.

# Gunmen take 19 SC judges hostage in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE, Apr 27: Assaulters seized Costa Rica's Supreme Court building Monday, taking the Chief Justice and 18 other justices hostage, officials said, reports AFP.

The armed group took over the High Court in early afternoon just after its justices had begun a regularly scheduled weekly session of the full 22-member court, officials said.

A local television station said four Colombian drug traffickers carried out the raid to secure the release of Colombian drug traffickers jailed in Costa Rica. Officials would not confirm or deny the report.

The four seized 19 justices, including Chief Justice Edgar Cervantes, and two other employees, officials said. Earlier, a spokesman for the court said 20 justices had been seized.

The assaulters entered the court by its basement, which is normally guarded by one person, and then assaulted the second floor of the court building, authorities said.

Numerous Colombian drug traffickers are jailed in Colombia, including high-ranking drug cartel members captured in a combined effort by Costa Rican, Italian and US authorities in September 1992.

A crisis committee, formed by Security Minister Luis Fishman, Chief of Staff Rolando Lacle and Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus, met during the afternoon. As dusk fell, sharpshooters and police armed with automatic weapons were posted around the court.

Local media quoted Fishman as saying the group had contacted authorities, called for a television and radio and demanded that food and electricity supplies be maintained.

Authorities sealed off and vacated the court complex of three buildings in downtown San Jose.

"We hope to know some time today what they want" said judicial investigation organisation Assistant Director Rafael Brenes.

Brenes said the hostage-takers made contact with authorities just once to demand the area be evacuated, or "prisoners lives would be at risk."

The hostage-taking comes less than two months after armed commandos opposed to Nicaragua's Sandinistas seized the Nicaraguan embassy here and held the ambassador and other diplomats hostage for 13 days.

## Off the Record

### Despair causes her eating disorder

LONDON: Princess Diana, who is reported to have suffered from bulimia, spoke today of the "secret spiral of despair" which often underlies eating disorders, reports AP.

"Many would like to believe that eating disorders are merely an expression of female vanity — not being able to get into a size ten dress and the consequent frustrations," she told about 400 people at the Eating Disorder '93 conference.

Eating disorders, whether it be anorexia or bulimia, show how individuals can turn the nourishment of the body into a painful attack on themselves and they have at their core a far deeper problem than mere vanity.

Diana's own problem with bulimia, in which people overeat and then throw up, was reported last year in the book "Diana: Her True Story," by journalist Andrew Morton.

Diana, now separated from her husband, Prince Charles, has not spoken publicly about the reported eating disorder. But she has remained on good terms with Carolyn Bartholomew, a longtime friend who was the source of Morton's report on bulimia.

The book said Diana's pattern of over-eating and vomiting began just before she married Charles in 1981, and that eventually sought medical treatment.



### His desire for son got the better of him

BEIJING: A Chinese communist cadre and father of 11 girls was expelled from the party and fined heavily for flouting the country's strict birth control policy, a local newspaper said, reports Reuter.

Zeng Changan, 53, became a father for the 11th time five months ago. His 50-year-old wife gave birth to their 11th daughter, the April 24 edition of Hunan Daily said.

As a communist party secretary of his village, Zeng was expected to set an example to the neighbourhood by only having the prescribed one child per couple.

But his overriding desire for a son and heir, an ideal cherished by most Chinese, got the better of him. He and his wife kept trying to have a boy.

"The county government was very shocked to learn that Zeng, a local official, had so many children," the newspaper said.

### Owada completes 'princess education'

TOKYO: Crown Prince Naruhito's fiancée, Masako Owada, on Tuesday completed a crash course designed to ease her into palace life after she and Japan's royal heir wed in June, reports AP.

Owada, the 29-year-old daughter of the nation's top career diplomat, completed her "princess education" with two hours of lessons on imperial rituals and international relations.

She was also required to bone up on such subjects as classical poetry, Japanese history and the constitution during her six-week course. Empress Michiko, Naruhito's mother, and other princesses have undergone similar lessons.

The lessons are deemed necessary because of the myriad traditions and customs — many virtually unknown outside of the palace — that have been built up over the imperial family's more than 1,500-year history.



### Two killed in Mysore police firing

BANGALORE, India, Apr 27: At least two people were killed and seven injured when police opened fire on a mob in the former south Indian princely state of Mysore, officials said today, reports Reuter.

The violence was part of a dispute between high caste Hindus and "untouchables" — who prefer to call themselves dalits (oppressed) — over entry to a temple, they said.

Police opened fire on Monday to stop an angry crowd of dalits storming into the home of an upper caste politician in the temple town of Nanjangud, 25 km (17 miles) from Mysore.

The dalits blamed the politicians for the killing of three untouchables in a nearby village last month.

### Japan to send peacekeepers to Mozambique

TOKYO, Apr 27: The Japanese government officially decided Tuesday to send 53 soldiers to Mozambique, the second such dispatch for UN peacekeeping operations abroad since the end of World War II, reports AP.

The government also decided in meeting of the Cabinet and the Security Council, both chaired by Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, to send an additional 50 civilian election monitors for Cambodia over about a month's mission.

Under a law passed last June, Japan sent 600 Ground Self-Defence troops to Cambodia to help U.N. peacekeeping operations there, mostly to repair bridges and roads.

Japan, which has been under international pressure to contribute more personnel as well as cash, is sending soldiers abroad in both cases at the request of United Nations.

### Deng plans to visit HK in '97

HONG KONG, Apr 27: China's senior leader Deng Xiaoping still plans to visit Hong Kong after the British colony's return to Chinese rule in 1997, at the ripe old age of 92, a Hong Kong newspaper said Tuesday, reports AP.

The independent Ming Pao quoted Deng's daughter, Deng Nan, as saying her father was "in good health" and "still preparing to visit Hong Kong after 1997." The newspaper said Deng Nan made the comments at a public occasion in Beijing, but gave no details.

Deng, now 88, was last seen in public looking frail during Lunar New Year celebrations in January. There have been frequent unconfirmed reports that he is in poor health.

Deng Nan, however, said her father "has normal movement and still plays bridge."

She said her father also keeps abreast of developments in Hong Kong, but refused to say if he had monitored recent Sino-British talks in Beijing over Hong Kong's future.



MOGADISHU: US soldiers lower their flag in front of the Pakistan flag Monday during a ceremony handing over control of the Mogadishu zone to Pakistani troops. — AFP/UNB photo

## US marines hand over control of Mogadishu to Pak troops

MOGADISHU, Apr 27: US marines handed over control Monday to Pakistani troops in the Somali capital Mogadishu, in a major step in American military disengagement in the strife-torn Horn of Africa nation, reports AP.

Pakistan took responsibility for security in the Mogadishu sector of the United Task Force (UNITAF) at 1:00 pm (1000 GMT), about four and half months after Operation Restore Hope began.

US marines first landed here on December 9 to spearhead a multi-national military operation to protect relief supplies for millions of starving Somalis and begin disarming the militias of the country's rival clans.

Monday's ceremony was attended by US General Robert Johnston, Commander of the UNITAF force of 27,099 soldiers from 21 countries, and the Turkish General who will

in coming weeks take over from him under a UN aegis is Civik Bir.

Soldiers from Egypt, Kuwait, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe were also present, with a small contingent of the Somali police force which is being reconstituted after months of clan warfare.

"We have restored hope in this country," US marine Colonel Buck Dedard said, adding that since the first marines had arrived "the transition is almost unbelievable" in Mogadishu, which had been a "city with gun rule."

Pakistani Brigadier-General Ikram Ul-Hasan issued a request for "the sincere cooperation and support" of the inhabitants of Mogadishu, which had been carved up by the followers of General Mohamed Farah Aidid, southern Somalia's main warlord, and Interim president Ali Mahdi

Mohamed.

The Pakistani contingent, almost 5,000 strong by Monday, is Wednesday due to take command of the Merca region 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of Mogadishu, the last of eight UNITAF humanitarian relief sectors still under US control.

No precise date has yet been set for the handover from UNITAF to the United Nations operation in Somalia UNOSOM II, but UNITAF spokesman Colonel Fred Peck on Sunday said it could be "very soon," perhaps the beginning of the week.

The transfer should speed up the withdrawal of US troops, who have made no secret of their impatience to leave. On Monday, 10,560 American soldiers, including 1,648 marines, remained in Somalia.



Three-year-old Maharaj Maharathan feeds milk to his new playmate, a four-month-old tiger cub at his house on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur Monday. The tiger cub was presented to his father as a token of appreciation by the Uzbekistan Russian circus which performed in Malaysia recently. — AFP/UNB photo

## BRIEFLY

**Peruvian rebels kill 3 cops:** Shining Path guerrillas shot dead two policemen in the capital and killed another in an attack on a northern Andean prison, police said Monday. Eight prisoners reportedly escaped, reports AP from Lima.

The rebels dynamited the prison before dawn Sunday in the highland city of Huaraz, 175 miles (285 kms) north of Lima, killing a prison guard, police said. The rebels attacked after knocking down nearby electricity pylons, plunging the city into darkness.

Police said four rebel inmates and four common criminals escaped after the explosions toppled part of one of the prison walls. Army and police patrols began searching for the inmates in the surrounding hills, police said.

Lima's main radio station Radioprogramas said the escaped rebels had been sentenced to 20 years.

**Blast at Manila's domestic airport:** A homemade chemical bomb exploded early Tuesday at Manila's domestic airport, damaging luggage and injuring at least one person, airport officials said, reports AP from Manila.

Airport security official Edgardo Adron said outgoing flights were delayed and incoming flights were diverted to another terminal after the bomb exploded inside an unattended bag lined up for X-ray inspection at the departure area.

Police said two other bombs were found in other bags and detonated by bomb experts. No arrests had been made, they said.

A janitor suffered slight wounds and three women passengers were in shock, police said.

Adron said the bomb emitted a foul odour that caused dizziness and nausea.

"The baggage cushioned people from the explosion," police investigator Sgt. Jaime de la Cruz said. "But I think that if the bomb passed through inspection and it exploded inside, an airplane it could have seriously damaged a plane, causing it to crash."

**Hamburg refugee hostel burnt:** A fire burned down a hostel for foreign refugees in Hamburg on Monday, and police were unable to say whether the blaze was accidental or part of a string of racist attacks, reports Reuter from Hamburg.

About 30 residents escaped the mid-morning fire without injury, although an Iranian woman was taken to hospital after fainting.

Refugees from eastern Europe and the third world seeking political asylum in Germany have been their main targets of attacks, including firebombings, in more than a year of neo-Nazi and rightist violence.

**10 IRA blast suspects held:** Police said they arrested up to 10 people after a IRA bomb devastated London's financial district at the weekend, as vital clues about the explosion emerged, reports Reuter from London.

The Irish Republican Army, fighting to end British rule in northern Ireland, detonated a massive bomb on Saturday killing a news photographer, injuring 44 people and causing hundreds of millions of pounds worth of damage.

"Anti-terrorist officers made a number of arrests this morning and the people are being held at a number of police stations," a police spokeswoman said on Monday.

### China cancels army training for students

HONG KONG, Apr 27: The Chinese government has cancelled one-year military training for students from two universities at the center of pro-democracy protests in 1989, a pro-Beijing newspaper reported Tuesday, reports AP.

Freshmen at Beijing University and Fudan University in Shanghai will now do five to six weeks training instead of one-year military service undertaken by all first-year students since 1980, the Wen Wei Po newspaper said.

The government imposed one-year service for Fudan and Beijing University students after it used the army to crush the 1989 protests, during which both schools were hotbeds of dissent.

## Kathmandu no more self-reflecting paradise for hippies

KATHMANDU, Apr 27: There was a time when Kathmandu was a haven for hippies who flocked here in search of their inner selves. Far from the madding crowd, Nepal's capital was uncluttered by the noise and pollution of western civilisation, reports IPS.

In the 1960's Kathmandu was still very much a medieval township that lived in harmony with its scenic Himalayan surroundings, steeped in tradition and true to itself.

Middle-aged ex-hippies now returning to Nepal find a paradise lost. Kathmandu has become a congested, polluted and unhealthy metropolis — for the most part indistinguishable from other towns in the Third World.

"My first visit here was in 1961," says US spiritualist Sam Brian while on a recent trip to the Nepalese capital.

"Kathmandu then had an ambience intact. I cannot believe the change in 30 years."

The rule of old Kathmandu is not just an urban nightmare, it is also a cultural tragedy. Urban cancer is away at a conglomeration of unique towns where the architecture, culture and way of life have remained intact for centuries.

Today, glistening golden temple spires vie with satellite dishes on Kathmandu's skyline. Seven-storey concrete apartment blocks dwarf the tile roofs and elegant eaves of the temples.

Fertile farmland on the city outskirts is being swallowed as

the city spreads its tentacles to cope with new immigrants. For the first time slum dwellings, resembling those in India, are springing up along river banks.

The valley's estimated population of 900,000 is growing at about five per cent a year. Unable to cope, the city authorities are rationing water and electricity and garbage is piling up.

Kathmandu is one of three towns in a 4000 sq km bowl-shaped valley in the foothills of the Himalaya. The valley had a lake which drained 10,000 years ago, leaving a fertile alluvial plain in the middle of towering mountains.

The city served as an important transit point on the ancient trans-Himalayan trade

routes between India and China. The valley's kingdoms thrived on the trade, and its rulers ploughed the money into spectacular palace complexes and temples devoted to the valley's unique blend of Hinduism and Buddhism.

So precious is Kathmandu's architectural heritage that the United Nations Educational Cultural and Social Organisation (UNESCO) has declared it a "world heritage site."

"It is clear to us that the cauldron of Kathmandu is reaching boiling point, or it is leaking badly... one of the two," muses Karak Mani Dixit of Himal Associates, a Kathmandu-based group that recently held a seminar on the valley's limits to growth.

Dixit says Kathmandu is the only capital in the world that has a cement factory in full-scale production only four km from the city centre. "Add to this 80,000 road vehicles, thousands of brick kilns and, the result is, it is hard to breathe," he says.

Pollution is trapped in a warm layer near the ground by cold mountain air in a process known as "temperature inversion." This means that although Kathmandu is much smaller, its pollution level is nearly as bad as that in Mexico City.

All this is hurting the US \$80 million dollar tourist industry, Nepal's main source of foreign exchange. Most of the 225,000 tourists who visited Nepal last year came to see the moun-

## Rabbani for peaceful solution to crisis

KABUL, Apr 27: President Burhanuddin Rabbani said on Monday he wanted Afghanistan's feuding Mujahideen leaders to sit together to solve their differences, reports Reuter.

He told reporters he was optimistic differences holding up an agreement on the cabinet of hardline Prime Minister designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar would be resolved.

"I have the habit of being optimistic about political affairs," he said.

He referred to a peace agreement signed by the Mujahideen leaders last month in the Pakistani capital Islamabad under which Hekmatyar was named Prime Minister.

"I hope the leaders who signed the agreement will respect it and go for a peaceful solution and not use weapons

for the implementation of the accord," he said.

Rabbani said it was not just the dispute between him and Hekmatyar on who should hold the key Defence Ministry that had delayed the formation of the cabinet. "All the cabinet is controversial," he said.

Rabbani and Hekmatyar have proposed separate cabinet lists.

Rabbani wants present Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood of his Jamiat-I-Islami party to retain his job in the next cabinet, but Hekmatyar does not want Masood.

"The problem is that everybody has a different interpretation of the Islamabad accord," Rabbani said.

"We need to unite these views. We should sit together and unite our opinion. If we do that, I am absolutely sure our problem will be solved."

### Yemen goes to polls

SANAA, Apr 27: Yemenis are voting today in the first full Parliamentary elections since the unification of Yemen three years ago, reports AP.

Some 2.7 million people, including 500,000 women, are registered to vote for 301 members of the new Parliament, according to official figures. But opposition members say there are less than two million voters.

Three thousand polling stations have been set up in 301 districts contested by 3,500 candidates representing 21 political parties, which have been legal since North and South Yemen united in May 1990.

In a first on the Arabian peninsula, 50 women are vying for Parliamentary seats.