

Mahathir asks ethnic Chinese not to be confrontational

KUALA LUMPUR, June 26: Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad told ethnic Chinese today not to be confrontational and extreme when...



Mahathir Mohamad

stating their claims in the multi-racial country, reports Reuter.

Malaysia's robust economic growth can be shared by all 'as long as no race attempts to grab everything for themselves', said Mahathir.

Ethnic Chinese, who make up a third of the country's 18 million people and dominate its commerce, should never 'fuel racial sentiments' to get what they want, he said.

Our success in overcoming our racial differences is due to co-operation and tolerance,' he said opening a meeting of the Malaysian Chinese Association, a key member of the coalition which has ruled Malaysia since independence from Britain in 1957.

We have succeeded where other multi-racial societies have failed because of our formula (of government by com-

promise and consensus.' Malaysia has a policy of 'positive discrimination' to lift the economic status of its indigenous people, or Bumiputras, to the same level as immigrant races who came to the country during colonial rule.

Mahathir took a swipe at western countries over their treatment of minority immigrant communities.

'(They) often criticise us for favouring Bumiputras when they themselves showed little tolerance for minority and immigrant races,' he said, citing attacks against Turks in Germany. 'And they dare to talk (to us) about human rights and democracy.'

US sanctions on Russian missile technology sale

WASHINGTON, June 26: The United States imposed new sanctions on Russian companies for selling missile technology in violation of International Export Controls but suspended the penalties while the two sides seek to resolve the dispute, the State Department said Friday, reports Reuter.

State Department spokesman Mike McCurry, asked about a New York Times story that reported the US action, told reporters: 'I'm not going to dispute that account.'

He said the new sanctions were in addition to ones imposed by the United States in May 1992 on Russia and India for going ahead with a 250 million US dollars rocket deal

Ghali threatens to withdraw troops from Croatia

UNITED NATIONS, June 26: Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has threatened to pull UN troops out of Croatia in three months if their safety continues to be endangered, according to a report to the Security Council.

I do not believe it would be a worthwhile use of the limited resources of the United Nations to maintain a peace-keeping operation where it had become clear that there was no peace to keep, he said in the report obtained by Reuters today.

He said UN personnel, were targeted by all sides, with 25 deaths and 245 injuries over the past 14 months.

He recommended a three-month extension for the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR), whose mandate expires July 1.

But the UN chief warned that significant progress was needed in talks between Croatia and rebellious Serbs if 'any further renewal is to be contemplated' beyond September 30.

About 10,000 UN troops have patrolled Serb-held parts of Croatia since early 1992. Serbs in the Krajina area rebelled when Croatia seceded from Yugoslavia in 1991 and they still hold almost a third of the country.

However, Croatia whose consent is necessary, is insisting on a one-month extension. Its UN Ambassador, Mario Nobilo said Krajina Serbs were obstructing negotiations and a three-month mandate only gave them breathing space to continue sniping at Croat towns and cities. It would strengthen their reluctance to negotiate and reinforce their

attempt to merge with occupied territories in Bosnia, he told a news conference Friday. Croatia has been dismayed at the continual division of the republic and wants the thinly-strewn UN forces to be more aggressive in repelling sporadic outbreaks of warfare. Boutros Ghali said that UNPROFOR's departure would risk the resumption of a major conflict in the region and cause 'severe adverse consequences' for relief operations. He acknowledged he had threatened once before to withdraw the troops but said he rejected that option 'for the moment'.

He also said the United Nations could not easily pull out of Croatia. Its military headquarters for the former Yugoslav republics is in the capital of Zagreb and a command post for Bosnia is located in the Croatian city of Split.

Nevertheless, he warned that if threats to the safety and security of United Nations personnel, which have already reached unacceptable levels, mount further, I would have to inform the Security Council that a viable basis for their functioning no longer existed. Croatia's Ambassador suggested Serbia be forced to cut off supplies to Krajina Serbs who want to merge with Bosnian Serbs and Serbia proper. Then they might be serious in negotiations because they couldn't survive long with Serbia, he said.

You force them quicker if you use surgical military power to demonstrate that you mean business, he said, if you don't, you have to continue with isolation and economic sanctions.



CAIRO: Egyptian security police keep an eye on Muslim demonstrators Friday outside the famous Al-Azhar Mosque. The demonstration was to protest against the massacre of Muslims by Serbian forces in Bosnia, asking the Egyptian government to let them help Bosnian Muslims in their fight against the Serbs.

— AFP/UNB photo

Off the Record

Clinton chats with mystery half-brother by phone

WASHINGTON: President Bill Clinton chatted by phone Friday with the man claiming to be his mystery half-brother, reports AFP.

Clinton talked for about 15 minutes with Henry Leon Ritzenthaler, whose existence was only revealed to the public in a Washington Post article Sunday.

'They had a warm conversation and agreed to get together at some point in the future,' White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said.



The call was Clinton's idea, she said, although the White House would not say whether the President now recognizes Ritzenthaler as his half-brother. He already has one half-brother — Rock musician Roger Clinton.

Ritzenthaler, 55, says he is the son of William Blythe, Clinton's father. Ritzenthaler says Blythe fathered him before marrying Clinton's mother, Virginia Cassidy.

In 1962, Clinton took the name of his mother's husband after Blythe was killed in a car accident.

On Monday, the White House said the President left several messages at Ritzenthaler's house in California. Ritzenthaler, who said he was too shy to call Clinton, was interviewed on several television shows.

'Mobile phones vulnerable to eavesdropping'

LONDON: British Security Service M-15 is investigating for the Queen the source of transcripts of alleged conversations involving members of the royal family as part of a review of Buckingham Palace security, The Times reported Saturday, says AFP.

The royal family's security is reviewed regularly, mainly because of the terrorist threat, but the new investigation will pay special attention to telecommunications, including mobile telephones, at all royal residences.

Members of the royal family, particularly the younger members, have been warned that mobile phones are vulnerable to eavesdropping by scanners.

Although Queen Elizabeth II has not personally ordered the review, there has been a growing belief at the palace and in the prime minister's office that the source of the damaging tapes and transcripts should be identified.

For more than a year, the royal family has been racked by the publication of transcripts of alleged conversations, either between their members and others, or more recently, by a recorded row between the Prince and Princess of Wales over the custody of their children.

BRIEFLY

Israelis hit Palestinian camp: Israeli helicopter gunships fired at least four rockets at targets in a Palestinian refugee camp in South Lebanon Friday, witnesses said, Reuter reports from Lebanon.

They said the helicopters attacked at least one target in the refugee camp of Al-Bus on the northeastern outskirts of the port town of Tyre, 76 km (48 miles) south of Beirut.

The helicopters fired rockets at an office of the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and one member of the guerrilla group was wounded, the witnesses said.

Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen earlier Friday found and intentionally detonated a landmine on a road inside Israel's self-declared 'security zone' in south Lebanon.

Fire claims 17 in France: At least 17 people died and nine were injured in a fire at a clinic in a Rennes suburb early Friday morning, initial reports by emergency services said, AFP says from France.

The fire broke out shortly after 1 am in the Saint-Francois clinic in the suburb of Bruz, and two hours later had taken hold in three storeys of the building, a spokesman said.

Regional authorities implemented an emergency plan which allows emergency services to be called in from the whole of the Ile-Et-Villaine department. A spokesman said 80 firemen from the Rennes force were called in.

Myanmar frees 17 more prisoners: Myanmar's military authorities freed another 17 political detainees from two prisons Friday, state-run Radio Yangon said, AFP reports from Bangkok.

The prisoners, all men, were released from Myanmar's main Insein jail in Yangon and a provincial prison in the central town of Pakhokku, the radio said.

They were not identified nor did the radio say why or when they were originally detained.

More than 2,000 political detainees have been released since the junta announced in April last year that it would gradually free political detainees no longer deemed a threat to national security.

First woman MP in Morocco: Moroccans on Friday elected their first woman Member of Parliament (MP) since independence, Fatima Bennani-Smires, 50, a university lecturer from Fez, according to first partial results, AFP reports from Rabat.

Bennani-Smires, of the Nationalist Istiqlal Party, was one of 33 women candidates in Friday's vote to renew a third of the seats in parliament.

First official results given on television at 2.00 a.m. (0200 GMT) Saturday gave no figure for turnout.

7 killed in Java road mishap: A family of seven died and another five people severely injured after their speeding minibus collided with an intercity bus in central Java, the Angkatan Beresjenjaya daily said yesterday, AFP reports from Jakarta.

The minibus, transporting a family and relatives, was trying to overtake another car in Boyolali, Central Java on Friday, but failed to clear the passing lane in time and collided head on with the oncoming bus, the daily said.

We can't trust Khmer Rouge as simple party: Sihanouk

PHNOM PENH, June 26: Prince Norodom Sihanouk said today the Khmer Rouge's offer to return to the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh simply as a political party cannot be trusted, reports AFP.

The radical faction's nominal leader Khieu Samphan said in a letter to the Prince Thursday he wanted to return to Phnom Penh simply as a representative of his party. He said he did not wish to seek

power in the country's newly formed interim government.

The Khmer Rouge said they just want to be simple people, or a simple party, but we must be careful about these simple people. We cannot trust them 100 percent,' Prince Sihanouk said, speaking to 300 Buddhist monks and their followers at a religious gathering to celebrate the half-moon festival.

He said the Khmer Rouge



MOGADISHU: A Turkish soldier stands near a wanted poster for Somali warlord Mohammed Farah Aidid at the entrance of the United Nations forces headquarters in Mogadishu Friday. The notice offers a reward to anyone with information as to Aidid's whereabouts or to whoever brings Aidid himself in. Raadin means 'wanted' and Abaal Marin means 'reward offered'. — AFP/UNB photo

Lankan troops kill 5 Tigers

COLOMBO, June 26: Government troops have stepped up attacks on Tamil guerrillas in eastern Sri Lanka, killing five rebels in separate operations in the region, the military said today, reports AFP.

Troops shot dead three guerrillas Friday from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in eastern Batticaloa district, hours after the army killed Christie, an LTTE leader in Batticaloa, military officials said.

Army soldiers also seized grenades and cyanide capsules from the three rebels who were killed in the Vakara area in Batticaloa on Friday, a military spokesman said.

He said the security forces shot dead another Tiger rebel elsewhere in Batticaloa on the same day.

The attacks on the LTTE followed an intensified military campaign in the past month against Tigers in the east.

The LTTE is leading a violent campaign for independence in the northeast for Sri Lanka's two million minority Tamils who are a majority in the region.

ROK navy officer held for leaking military secrets

SEOUL, June 26: A South Korean naval officer was arrested on charges of passing military secrets to a Japanese freelance journalist, media reports said on today, according to Reuter.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said Lieutenant Commander Koh Young Chul, 40, a staff member at the Defence Intelligence Agency, was arrested on Friday for leaking classified military information earlier this year.

He said the investigation was continuing but gave no further details. South Korean newspaper said Koh passed the information about troop deployments to a Japanese freelance journalist but did not name the reporter.

Leftists defy curfew in Kathmandu: 40 held

KATHMANDU, June 26: Police arrested some 40 leftist activists for defying an over night curfew imposed here after a general strike in three cities of the Kathmandu valley, a police source said Saturday, reports AFP.

The source said that few incidents occurred during the curfew overnight Friday, imposed in Kathmandu and Lalitpur and Bhaktapur towns, apart from some disturbances caused by Nepali Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) members defying the order.

An official announcement on State Radio Friday said the curfew was clamped from 7:30 pm to 4:00 am (1345 to 2230 GMT) within the ring road area of Kathmandu city to maintain law and order.

'If anybody breaks the cur-

few order within the eight and a half hour period, they can be shot by the police security guards,' the broadcast said.

The curfew was enforced after the strike when leftist activists turned to violence, damaging at least 24 vehicles and other public property. They also attacked a police station.

An angry mob of about 4,000 people earlier Friday pulled steel bars out of roadside fences and built a barricade to stop the movement of vehicles, witnesses said.

Demonstrators also burned car tyres at several other points in the city, paralysed during the NCP-UML dawn-till-dusk general strike called to protest a government report calling the cause of the deaths of two of their leaders a result of negligence.

UN sanctions against Libya to be reviewed

LONDON, June 26: US, British and French officials will meet shortly to review UN sanctions imposed against Libya in connections with the 1988 bombing of a US airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, a British official said today, reports Reuter.

The official said the talks were part of regular contacts between officials of the three countries. There will be a meeting of officials shortly to review the implementation of (UN) Security Council Resolutions,' he said.

The official refused to say where or when the meeting would take place.

At the United Nations in New York, diplomats said the meeting was expected to be in Paris later this month or in July.

The UN imposed air, diplomatic and arms sanctions against Libya in April last year to force Tripoli to comply with

UN-backed western demands to hand over two alleged Libyan agents indicated for the bombing, which killed 270 people.

The sanctions were also imposed to support French demands that Libya comply with its investigation into a 1989 bombing of a French UTA Airliner over Niger in which 171 people died.

The three governments insist they will maintain pressure on Libya to comply with the demands and there has been consideration given to imposing tougher measures as Libya's leader Muammar Gaddafi shows no sign of caving in.

Libya has denied involvement in the December 21, 1988, bombing of the New York bound Pan Am boeing 747 over Lockerbie.

The sanctions are reviewed at the United Nations every four months, with the next one scheduled for mid-August.

10,000 drug users, dealers held in China

HONG KONG, June 26: Guangdong Anti-Narcotics Authorities said around 10,000 drug dealers and users had been caught in the first five months of this year, the semi-official China News Service (CNS) reported on Friday, reports Reuter.

The southern Chinese Province broke over 100 drug syndicates and solved more than 900 cases during the period. Over 1,300 drug dealers and 8,000 drug abusers were caught and 69 kg (154 lbs) of heroin and other drugs was found.

CNS said the province organised the crackdown on drugs early this year and 'unched the campaign in

Tokyo Assembly polls a key pointer to new political forces

TOKYO, June 26: Tokyo votes on Sunday for a new city assembly, a key pointer to whether Japan's new political forces can win enough support in the July 18 general elections to topple the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), reports Reuter.

More than nine million citizens are eligible to vote in the polls for the 128-member city council which opens at 7:00 am (2200 GMT) Saturday and close at 6:00 pm (0900 GMT) Sunday. Results should be known late on Sunday.

The LDP — beset with corruption, scandals, defections and a serious leadership crisis — has fought a rearguard action throughout the nine-day campaign. Many candidates erased the party name from banners and vans.

At their request, disgraced Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa — humiliatedly defeated in parliament last week — stayed away. Leaders of other parties, including the fast-rising Japan New Party (JNP), made final appeals to voters at city rail terminals today.

The focus was not on city affairs but on corrupt national politics and the deadlock in parliament over political reform. The test for the LDP is whether it can maintain its 42 seats.

In the last Tokyo assembly election in 1989, the LDP suffered a crushing defeat, losing about 30 seats. This set the trend for the disastrous July 1989 parliamentary upper house election, in which the LDP lost its majority there.

Recent opinion polls put

the LDP in first place in the capital, although its support fell from about 35 per cent to the low 20s. The anti-graft Japan New Party rated second with the traditional opposition socialists a close third.

The LDP, in continuous power since 1955, saw the defection of about 60 lawmakers in one week after the stunning passage of a no-confidence motion against Miyazawa on June 18.

Many parliamentary insiders and commentators said the LDP was headed for a major setback in the national elections. Senior party figures like ex-Premier Toshiki Kaifu have begun calling for Miyazawa to quit if the party loses on July 18.

On Friday, former Vice Premier Michio Watanabe de-

clared he would run in the LDP presidential election to be held by the end of September. The party president becomes prime minister if the LDP can keep its lower house majority.

The present crisis stems from Miyazawa's inability to push through measures to cleanse Japan's corrupt politics, since 1988, the LDP has been hit with three huge funding scams.

Commercial banks agreed to loan the LDP about 10 billion yen (93 US million dollar) for campaign funds, Asahi Shimbun reported today. The LDP had asked for 25 billion (230 million US dollar).

The loan was sure to draw heavy fire from voters, who complain that politicians spend too much on campaigning.

This was the original reason for the LDP's political reform bill. It aimed to carve up the present multi-member electoral districts, where different LDP factions vie to outstep each other, and create single-member constituencies where candidates would need to tap big business for less cash.

LDP hardliners, including former Premier Yasuhiro Nakasone and Party Secretary-General Seiroku Kajiyama, eventually killed the bill, triggering the mass defection and Miyazawa's demanding defeat in parliament.

But if the LDP was in turmoil, all was not well in the opposition camp either. Strategists played numbers games in search of a viable non-LDP coalition government after July 18.

Ciller presents cabinet list to Demirel

ANKARA, June 26: Turkish Prime Minister Designate Tansu Ciller presented her coalition government list to President Suleyman Demirel today, the semi-official Anatolia news agency said, reports AFP.

Ciller, Turkey's first woman premier in the republic's 70 year history, maintained the previous coalition of her right-wing True Path Party (TPP) with the centre-left, Social Democrat Populist Party (SDPP), retaining SDPP leader Erdal Inonu as deputy premier.

All 12 SDPP ministers in the outgoing coalition including Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin and Justice Minister Seyfi Oktay kept their posts.