

Koirala will invite CP for talks on current unrest

KATHMANDU, June 30: Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala would invite the Communist Party of Nepal (UML), the main opposition, for talks regarding the current situation of unrest existing in the country, reports Xinhua.

The decision was taken by the ruling Nepali Congress Central Working Committee that met on Tuesday, the local English daily The Kathmandu

Meanwhile, CPN-UML President Man Adhikari said at a mass gathering organized by seven left parties on Tuesday that resignation of the present government is necessary to preserve democracy.

The people will not forgive the government for the present killings of people, he said.

Over 15 persons were killed and hundreds of people wounded or arrested during confrontations between riot police and demonstrators in past several days since June 25 Valley Bandh.

The CPN-UML President said that all the left parties must unite to overthrow the government and bury ideological differences at this time.

US attack on Iraq unjustifiable, says Cuellar

STOCKHOLM, June 30: Former UN Secretary-General Javier Perez De Cuellar said Tuesday the US missile attack against Iraq on Sunday was unjustifiable, reports Reuter.

"I regret that this decision was made and I don't find any way of justifying it," Cuellar, who stepped down in 1991, told Swedish Radio.

Perez De Cuellar was in Stockholm as head of the UN and UNESCO Commission for Culture and Development which held a two-day meeting at the invitation of the Swedish government.

Serbian artillery shells Goradze UNSC votes against lifting arms embargo on Bosnia

UNITED NATIONS, June 30: The UN Security Council voted against lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina Tuesday despite support for it from the United States, reports AFP.

By a vote of six in favour and nine abstentions, the council rejected a resolution proposed by Muslim and non-aligned nations that sought to give Bosnia's Muslim population the means to defend themselves.

Its rejection underscored the failure of the international community to agree on a joint course of action in Bosnia, where Muslim are out gunned by Serbian forces accused of carrying out a campaign of ethnic cleansing against them.

The United States broke with its European allies on the issue for the first time by casting its vote in favour of the resolution.

European nations, led by France and Britain, have opposed lifting the arms embargo for fear of putting UN peacekeepers at risk and of escalating the conflict.

Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoly told a Moscow radio station before Tuesday evening's debate that Russia would use its power of veto if necessary to halt arm shipments being resumed to the former Yugoslav Republic.

Reuter reports Serbian artillery shelled the centre of

the Muslim enclave of Goradze in eastern Bosnia and caused an unknown number of casualties, Sarajevo radio said today.

The area had been relatively quiet since UN military observers went there earlier this month after weeks of a fierce Serb assault, but sporadic fighting has continued.

The radio also reported that Muslim-led government forces captured the central town of Zepece from Croat and Serb control on Tuesday.

All sides said there had been heavy fighting in Zepece but the radio contrasted with earlier reports from witnesses who saw hundreds of de-

jected Muslim soldiers and refugees fleeing southwards from the vicinity on Tuesday.

The nearby town of Novi Seher Sand Maglaj came under heavy attacks, the radio said. Local commanders and refugees said on Tuesday that Novi Seher had been over run by Serb Tanks.



Bosnian Muslim refugees walk a mountain road near the village of Zeljezno Polje (some 40 kilometres from Zenica) Tuesday after leaving their home town due to a Croat offensive. Several hundred people from the village of Kolice travelled for more than one day over the mountains before finding refuge in the Muslim controlled Zeljezno Polje. — AFP/UNB photo

Off the Record

55-day drama ends with cremation of Guru

CALCUTTA: The 55-day drama surrounding the body of Balak Brahmachari, founder of Santan Dal ended here Wednesday when his body was cremated at Ratan Babu Ghat in the morning amidst tight security arrangements, reports PTI.

In a late night swoop Tuesday, police stormed into the Santan Dal headquarters at Sukchar, North 24-Parganas, and took possession of the body.

Santan Dal followers had refused to cremate the body of their leader, certified dead by doctor at a private nursing home on May 5 last, claiming that he was in meditative hibernation.

The DIG, police headquarters, S I S Ahmad, told PTI that a police force led by Inspector General of Police, South Bengal, stormed into the ashram and took possession of Balak Brahmachari's body.

Sailor sabotages boat for staying with fiancée

ATHENS: A Greek sailor bent on staying with his fiancée sabotaged the torpedo boat he was stationed on as it was preparing to leave for service in the Adriatic, the Defence Ministry said Tuesday, reports AFP.

The unnamed non-commissioned officer confessed to dumping iron filings in the vessel's engines to immobilize it so he could stay with his girl friend, the ministry said. The officer said he was aided by another crewman.

Fergie vows not to marry Bryan

LONDON: Britain's Duchess of York, her separation from Prince Andrew now legally sealed, has vowed not to marry her Texan financial adviser, The Sun newspaper said Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"I'll never marry John Bryan. It's too ridiculous for words," the tabloid daily quoted the 33-year-old Duchess, commonly known as Fergie, as telling friends.

Royal officials said on Monday the Duchess and the Prince, Queen Elizabeth's second son, had formalised their separation.

The Daily Mail newspaper raised the possibility on Tuesday that "Fergie" might divorce Andrew to marry Bryan.

Photographs of the redhead Duchess cuddling him by a swimming pool while on holiday caused a scandal last year when they were published in British newspapers.

US-based HR groups report

India executes hundreds of detainees in Kashmir

WASHINGTON, June 30: Indian security forces have executed hundreds of detainees in Kashmir and engaged in systematic torture and rape, according to a report Wednesday by two US-based human rights groups, says AFP.

The reports titled "The Human Rights Crisis in Kashmir: a pattern of impunity," was based on testimony from 103 witnesses, medical examinations and documentation, physicians for human rights and Asia Watch said.

There has been a sharp escalation of abuse in the past 12 months, particularly executions by Indian paramilitary and security forces of detainees as part of a "catch and kill" policy to crush an insurgency by armed militant groups, the report said.

More than any other phenomenon, these deliberate killings, reveal the magnitude of the human rights disaster in Kashmir," said the 163-page report.

The report documents 66 deaths in custody and other extrajudicial killings, nine cases of torture, 15 rapes and numerous assaults on medical workers and violations of medical neutrality by Indian security forces.

Armed militant groups have assaulted and murdered Hindus residing in the Kashmir valley, forcing most of the Hindu community to flee to refugee camps where they remain in desperate conditions, the report said.

Son Sann Chairman of constituent assembly

PHNOM PENH, June 30: Cambodia's newly elected constituent assembly elected Son Sann, the former head of a guerrilla faction and the oldest member of government, as its chairman in a unanimous vote today, reports AFP.

Son Sann, 81, who is also a former Prime Minister, was elected by unanimous applause in the meeting under UN supervision.

The 120 members assembled under the country's new flag, which flew over Cambodia before Prince Norodom Sihanouk was deposed in a

Indonesia plans to buy AWACS radar aircraft

JAKARTA, June 30: The Indonesian Air Force is considering buying Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) radar aircraft to help protect strategic locations, the Republik newspaper said Wednesday, reports Reuter.

It quoted Air Force chief Vice Marshal Rito Pambudi as saying Indonesia urgently needed such a sophisticated radar system to develop its air defences.

The paper quoted another official as saying the air force would need two or three US-made AWACS aircraft in the next 10 years. He added that Jakarta ideally should buy the E-2C Hawkeye type for budgetary considerations.

One-party rule ends in Malawi

ZOMBA, Malawi, June 30: Malawi's parliament, spurred by a huge popular vote for multi-party democracy, adopted laws on Tuesday to end one-party rule and allow exiled dissidents to return home.

Deputy Foreign Minister Lovemore Munko told Reuters that three laws were passed, including a constitutional change to end almost 30 years of one-party rule by President Kamuzu Banda's Malawi Congress party.

An amnesty law was adopted to allow dissidents to return safely and rules were laid down for the formation of opposition parties, he said.

Clinton less hostile to Cuba than predecessors: Castro

HAVANA, June 30: Cuban President Fidel Castro, in the clearest indication yet of less tense relations with the United States, has said President Bill Clinton shows less hostility toward Cuba than previous US presidents, reports Reuter.

"This new administration does not show the same level of hostility and aggressiveness as its predecessors," the Cuban leader told a session of Cuba's National Assembly, the nation's parliament on Monday. His remarks were reported by Cuba's official media Prensa Latina and Granma on

Tuesday.

However Castro kept up his attack on US trade embargo against Cuba saying nine out of 10 foreign firms that want to do business with Cuba are scared off by the embargo.

"Without the embargo, we cannot even estimate how much we would have advanced in many fields," he said.

"If it weren't for the embargo," Castro said, "our country wouldn't have as many enterprises shut down because of raw material shortages and it would have made considerably more progress in prospecting for oil."

The National Assembly devoted most of its session to the energy crisis in Cuba.

In 1989 the Soviet Union supplied Cuba with 13 million tonnes of oil. Oil imports this year are expected to be below six million tonnes. The island expects to produce about one million tonnes of domestic oil in 1993.

Castro said because of pressures brought by US officials overseas and "by the ambassadors themselves," only the most "valiant" foreign enterprises carry on business.

"If these peace talks will fall down, we have to expect complete confusion in this area and Balkanisation," Arafat told AFP here.

"Till now nothing has been achieved," he said, renewing his call on Washington to be a "fair broker" despite pressure from the powerful Jewish lobby in the United States.

Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was speaking on the sidelines of an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Cairo.

He also urged Europe to play a "more active role" in the peace process.

He said instability in the Middle East would "reflect directly on Europe" and urged European powers to use their diplomatic and economic ties with Israel to push for peace.

He said that if the Washington peace talks failed to produce a "just, peaceful solution", there could be an uncontrollable eruption of violence fuelled by poverty in the Israeli-occupied territories and Gaza strip.

Price of ME talks failure will be chaos: Arafat

CAIRO, June 30: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat today warned that current US-brokered Arab-Israeli peace talks were the "last chance" for stability in the Middle East.

Saying he was awaiting proposals Washington is to announce by Thursday in a bid to jump-start stalled Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, Arafat added that the price of failure would be chaos.

"If these peace talks will fall down, we have to expect complete confusion in this area and Balkanisation," Arafat told AFP here.

"Till now nothing has been achieved," he said, renewing his call on Washington to be a "fair broker" despite pressure from the powerful Jewish lobby in the United States.

Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, was speaking on the sidelines of an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) summit in Cairo.

He also urged Europe to play a "more active role" in the peace process.

He said instability in the Middle East would "reflect directly on Europe" and urged European powers to use their diplomatic and economic ties with Israel to push for peace.

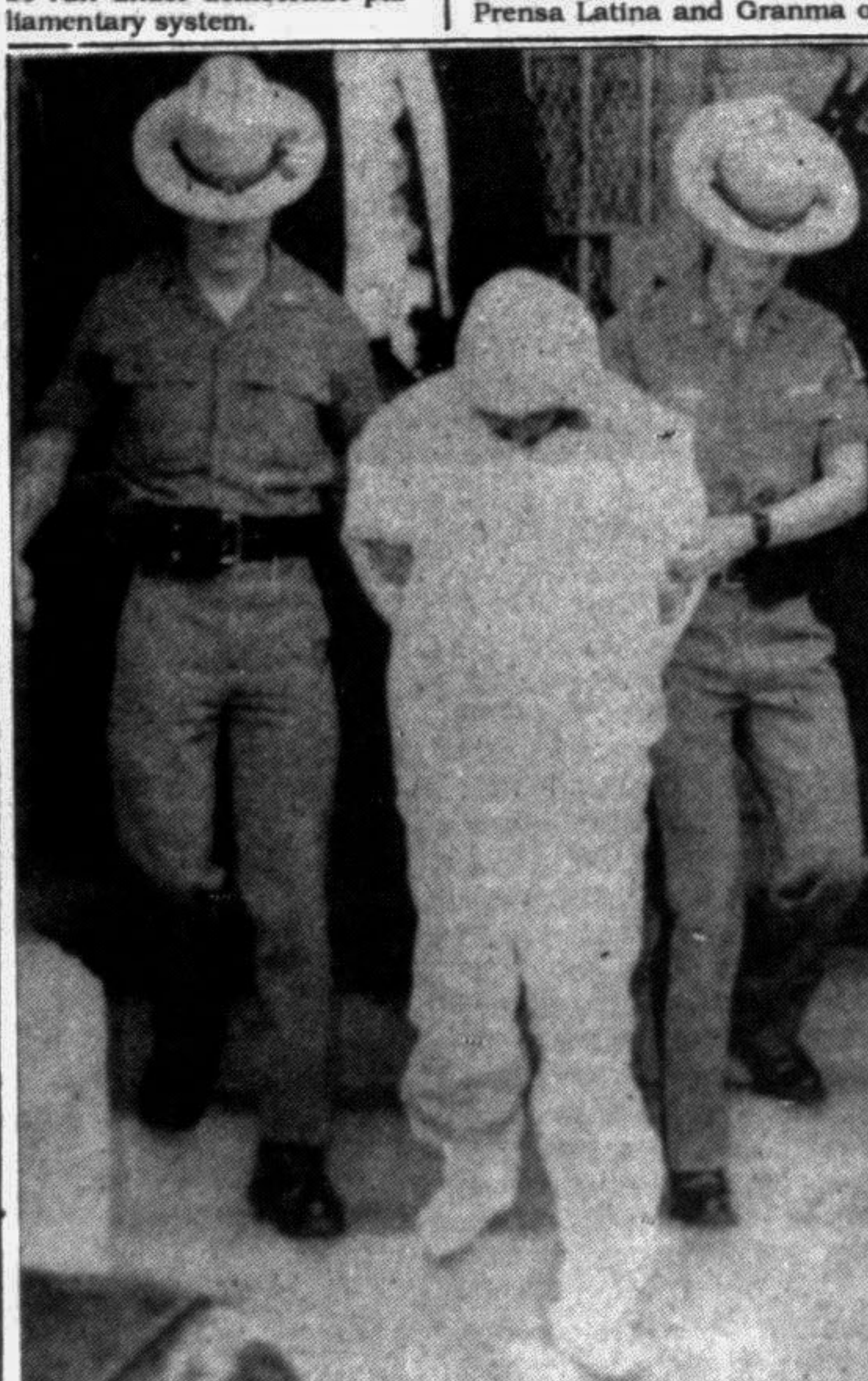
He said that if the Washington peace talks failed to produce a "just, peaceful solution", there could be an uncontrollable eruption of violence fuelled by poverty in the Israeli-occupied territories and Gaza strip.

Masood demands polls in 4 months

ISLAMABAD, June 30: Former Afghan Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood has demanded holding of elections in Afghanistan within four months, reports from Kabul said, according to Xinhua.

Speaking at his base on Tuesday at Jabal-O-Straj, some 70 kilometres north of Kabul, Masood said the polls should be conducted under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

He said that there should be a moderate government in Afghanistan to guarantee equal rights to all ethnic groups and the affairs of the state should be run under democratic parliamentary system.



FARMINGDALE (Long Island): Joel Rifkin (c) is escorted from State Police Headquarters after he pleaded innocent at an arraignment Tuesday to one count of murder. Investigators said Rifkin told police that he killed 17 prostitutes and dumped all but the latest victim in three Northeastern states. — AFP/UNB photo

BRIEFLY

Rebels kill 11 in Myanmar: Ethnic Shan insurgents killed 11 passengers and wounded five others in an ambush on a passenger truck in eastern Myanmar over the weekend, state-run radio Yangon reported Tuesday, says AFP from Bangkok.

Six men and five women were killed Sunday when the rebels open fire on the privately-owned truck travelling between the towns of Kumin and Taunggyi, the radio said in a broadcast monitored here.

The seriously wounded victims, four men and a woman, were taken to hospital, it said.

Yeltsin in Athens: Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Athens Tuesday for a two-day visit during which he will meet senior officials to discuss the Yugoslav crisis and sign a series of cooperation agreements, reports AFP from Athens.

Yeltsin was to meet late Tuesday, with Greek counterpart Constantine Caramanlis and with Prime Minister Constantine Mitsotakis Wednesday.

Two Arabs held in Kashmir: Indian detectives arrested two Arabs in the northern Jammu and Kashmir state for allegedly helping Kashmiri separatists organise attacks against Indian security forces, police said, reports Reuter from Srinagar.

The two men, arrested when they were boarding a flight to Delhi from Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, were identified as Nasir Mohammed and Hassan Abdullah, both Bahraini citizens.

Indian officials say an increasing number of foreign Muslims, mostly Arabs and Afghans, have been joining the three-year old bloody campaign against Indian rule in the Himalayan region.

Delhi, Pindi exchange vessels: India and Pakistan have exchanged fishing vessels and crew seized earlier for poaching in each other's waters, officials said in Karachi Tuesday, reports AFP from Karachi.

Pakistan's maritime security agency freed 20 Indian fishermen and three boats after 63 Pakistani fishermen and six vessels were released by India under an official agreement.

The detainees had been held for several months before their release could be negotiated by the two governments.

10 die in Turkish hotel fire: Ten people, believed to be mostly Russian women, died in a fire which broke out yesterday at a hotel in Van town on Turkey's eastern border, the private Kanal 6 television channel said, reports Reuter from Ankara.

It said another 20 people were injured in the fire which broke out after midnight. The hotel, was used mostly by women travellers from Russia and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) members, the television said.

Morillon's replacement okayed: The United Nations has accepted Belgian Lieutenant-General Francis Briquemont to replace French General Philippe Morillon as commander of the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a reliable source in Brussels said Tuesday, reports AFP from Brussels.

Morillon asked Briquemont by telephone to go to Sarajevo next week to meet French General Jeancoat, the new overall commander of UN forces in former Yugoslavia.

There are about 800 Belgian UN troops in former Yugoslavia, including about 100 in Bosnia.

Nigeria denies mass resignation from army

LAGOS, June 30: Nigeria's ruling army said on Tuesday it was unaware of any mass resignation from its ranks and dismissed a speculative newspaper report as part of a plan to destabilise the country during a period of political unease, reports Reuter.

The report appeared in the Concord daily, owned by Moshood Abiola, who claims victory in the now scrapped June 12 presidential elections. It said there was speculation 14 colonels and about eight brigadiers had opted for voluntary retirement.

Speaking after an hour-long meeting with Philippine President Fidel Ramos, Wharton said his trip was "diplomatically fruitful."

US brushes aside fears of arms race in South-East Asia

MANILA, June 30: The United States will remain a security umbrella over Southeast Asia, a special envoy of US President Bill Clinton said Wednesday, brushing aside fears of a regional arms race, reports AFP.

Deputy Secretary of State Clifton Wharton told reporters in Manila, the last stop of a two-week southeast Asian tour, that leaders in the region have expressed concerns that Washington would abandon its long time security role.

He said he found "a very strong appreciation" for "the fact that the United States plans to remain engaged in the region, particularly from the standpoint of both economic engagement as well as security engagement."

Wharton, leading the highest-level US diplomatic mission to Southeast Asia under the Clinton administration, visited Cambodia and all six members of the Association for South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Some ASEAN members have expressed concerns that Washington would disengage

from Asia owing to an end to the cold war and mounting domestic problems.

"There was prior to my arrival some considerable concern that we were withdrawing from the region," Wharton said.

"In each country, comments were made at the outset of concern that the United States was withdrawing. I reaffirmed that we were not, and that particular statement was very very well received in each of the countries."

He said his assurances of a continued US security presence were welcomed because "they felt that this would provide a greater degree of security and stability within the region."

Wharton noted that "our domestic fortunes are linked to the success of the global economy, specially in the ASEAN region," and that "the continuing economic growth and political stability of this region are important interests of the United States."

The last US troops left the Philippines in November after Manila refused to renew the US lease on Subic naval base. But tens of thousands of US troops along with combat aircraft and warships remain in South Korea and Japan, extending a security umbrella down to Southeast Asia.

Wharton said he did not see an arms race emerging in Southeast Asia — where territorial disputes such as the squabble over the Spratly islands, persist — after the US pullout from the Philippines.

The Spratlys are claimed in whole or in part by China, Taiwan, Malaysia, Vietnam, the Philippines and Brunei.

Malaysia announced on Tuesday it would purchase 18 Russian-built Mig-29 fighters and eight US made F-18 Hornets. Indonesia earlier said it was purchasing 39 warships from the former East German navy.

Angolan President seeks material aid from OAU

CAIRO, June 30: Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos Tuesday called for a new meeting of the troika which brokered the Angolan peace accords — the United States, Russia and Portugal — as UNITA rebels claimed fresh military gains in its conflict with the Luanda authorities, reports AFP.

President Eduardo Dos Santos described the situation in Angola as "serious" and appealed to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), meeting in Cairo to provide material "but not military" aid.