

### Nepal, Bhutan to form jt committee on refugee problem

KATHMANDU, July 18: After two rounds of hectic negotiations Bhutan and Nepal have agreed to form a ministerial-level joint committee to resolve the Bhutanese refugee problem in Nepal, the Foreign Ministry announced here today, reports AFP.

A ministerial level delegation headed by Nepalese Home Minister Sher Bahadur Deupa had left Kathmandu for Thimpu last week for the talks.

A joint communique issued simultaneously in Thimpu and Kathmandu on Sunday said, "Nepal and Bhutan have agreed to form a ministerial level joint committee seeking to resolve the problem of Bhutanese refugees presently taking shelter in Nepal's southeastern district."

The committee will comprise six members, three from each side, headed by the respective home minister, and the first meeting of the committee will be held in Kathmandu in the near future, the joint press commu-

### Leaflets dropped over Mogadishu

## UN troops urge Somalis to disavow Aideed

MOGADISHU, July 18: The UN peacekeeping force in Somalia (UNOSOM II) dropped thousands of leaflets over Mogadishu on Saturday calling on residents to disavow warlord General Mohamed Farah Aideed, a military spokesman said here, reports AFP.

The leaflet also offered an explanation for the raid last Monday by US helicopter gunships on a district on Mogadishu in which more than 50 people died in an attack on a building where Aideed was believed to be hiding, spokeswoman Major Leean Swieczkowski said.

"The United Nations have destroyed the command centre of the Somali National Alliance (SNA, Aideed's organisation)," the leaflet said.

"The SNA officials who were killed were responsible for the deaths of six innocent Somalis,

which has evolved around whether the UN should pursue its fight against Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed or seek dialogue.

"We have to be in a position to fight militarily — to fight for peace," Boutros-Ghali said in the interview released before the magazine's publication on Monday.

"One prerequisite for successful aid missions is that peacekeepers are prepared and able to use force," Boutros-Ghali said. The UN blames Aideed for the killing of 35 peacekeepers in Somalia since June 5.

Boutros-Ghali acknowledged that the world body faces difficulties and blamed member countries for failing to pull their weight by not paying promised funds or providing enough troops for peacekeeping missions.

He said that the enough troops had been present early enough in Bosnia — scene of a 15-month-old war between rival Muslims, Serbs and Croats — they would have deterred warring factions from committing some of the bloodshed there which has killed tens of thousands. "Much less would have happened," he said.

An earlier report says: Troops from the US rapid intervention force conducted house-to-house searches for weapons in a dawn security sweep near the capital's airport Saturday, a UN spokeswoman said.

US helicopters buzzed overhead as ground forces sealed off a large area between the airport and a polytechnical school located near the K4 strategic roundabout, searching houses and shacks making up refugee camps in the area.

India said today that it would allow human rights groups to visit the country but added that travel to insurgency-stricken regions would have to be cleared in conjunction with concerned state government, reports Reuter.

A government statement said human rights organisations would be permitted to visit India "to see for themselves how human rights safeguards operate in various parts of the country."

"The timings of such visits will be settled in consultation with the government of India and concerned state government," the statement said. "A dialogue with such organisations will be initiated in coming days."

"Notwithstanding the serious difficulties created by the activities of externally-aided terrorist groups in the border states, government shall take all practical steps to promote a fuller understanding of human rights issues," it added.

Rights groups, including London-based Amnesty International and New York-based Asia Watch, have been demanding permission to visit the insurgency-hit states of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, where they say security forces have committed widespread abuses.

India has said that the insurgencies in the two states are aided and funded by neighbouring Pakistan, with which India has fought three wars.

## Off the Record



An intimate scene from the Star TV comedy serial 'Drop The Dead Donkey.' — Star TV photo

### Feline cannibalism

ROUEN, France: A dreadful smell alerted neighbours to the plight of more than 30 cats who resorted to cannibalism after being abandoned without food for several weeks in a small studio flat in northern France, reports Reuter.

The local Animal Protection Society said on Saturday that firemen in gas masks broke into the flat in the town of Rouen on Friday and found the animals.

Seventeen of the cats were dead, and had been half devoured. Five more died on Friday night, while the rest were in a skeletal state, the society said.

The society said it was filing a suit against the owner of the flat, who had not yet been named.

### Doctors' sex columns getting steamy

JAKARTA: Indonesia's medical profession is hot and bothered about five doctors whose advice columns on sex are getting a little too steamy, the Antara News Agency said today, reports Reuter on Sunday.

It quoted the chairman of the Indonesia Medical Association (IDI), Kartono Muhammad, as accusing the five of publishing pornographic photographs and 'sexually stimulating explanations' in their newspaper and magazine columns.

"It is high time for the IDI to take immediate action against its members, as we consider these doctors have violated the code of ethics by presenting vulgar comments in their columns in response to clients' sexual problems," he said.

The five doctors were not named.

Predominantly Muslim Indonesia bans all pornography.

### Funeral of UN!

MUNICH, Germany: Thousands of demonstrators in Germany "buried" the United Nations at symbolic funerals on Saturday, accusing the world body of failing to stop the war between Serbs, Croats and Muslims in Bosnia, reports Reuter.

About 2,000 Germans and foreigners, including Bosnians, marched in Munich and some called for the lifting of the international weapons embargo against Bosnia, holding placards demanding: "Lift the embargo — we want to save our lives."

At a mock funeral after they carried a coffin through Munich's city centre, demonstrators symbolically "buried" the United Nations, the European Community and political leaders of Serbia and Croatia.

In a similar rally in Bonn, several hundred protesters who accused the UN of doing too little and too late in Bosnia symbolically declared the UN dead.

### Theory of chaos

LONDON: The scientific theory of chaos, that says a butterfly flapping its wings can cause a hurricane on the other side of the world, can be controlled by careful tweaks, physicists reported on Thursday, says Reuter.

Chaos theory, which has been around since the beginning of the century, says that most events are governed by extremely complicated rules.

One of its best known examples is the "butterfly effect" in which the tiny movements of the creature's wings are magnified by the chaotic nature of the earth's atmosphere.

Troy Shimbrot, a physicist at the University of Maryland, said in an article in the Science Journal Nature that scientists all over the world are finding ways to use the butterfly effect to control chaotic systems.

## BRIEFLY

**Rains claim 7 lives in China:** At least seven people were killed during heavy rainfall in northern China's Shaanxi Province, a news report said today, reports AFP from Hong Kong.

Some 263,000 people in Shaanxi, one of China's poorest regions, were affected by rainfall which damaged farmland, highways and dikes between July 11 and 15, the semi-official China News Service was quoted as saying.

**Indian President in Turkey:** India's President Shankar Dayal Sharma met in Ankara Saturday with the Democratic Party leader Bulent Ecevit on the second day of a four-day visit to Turkey, the Anatolian news agency said, AFP reports from Turkey.

Sharma dined Friday following his arrival with his Turkish counterpart Suleiman Demirel. He is spending two days in Istanbul before leaving Monday.

**Thai Gen to visit Russia:** Thai army commander General Wimol Wongwanich will travel to Russia later this week to inspect military equipment including transport helicopters, the Bangkok Post reported on Sunday, says AFP from Bangkok.

Wimol was interested in a Russian barter deal offers whereby 50 per cent of the price of the Mi-17V helicopters will be paid in the form of agricultural products, said the paper, citing unidentified military sources.

**14 Palestinians shot in Gaza:** Israeli soldiers on Saturday shot and wounded 14 Palestinians, including four children, in clashes in the occupied Gaza Strip, Palestinian sources said, AFP reports from Gaza City.

The incidents occurred in the Shati refugee camp, they said. According to witnesses, many Israeli patrols drove all day through the area and the strip's refugee camps to avert possible incidents.

**Armenian attack leaves 16 dead:** An Armenian artillery attack in the Agdam region near Nagorno-Karabakh killed 16 civilians on Saturday and wounded 50, Interfax news agency quoted the Azeri Defence Minister as saying, AFP reports from Moscow.

Shells fell on Agdam itself, as well as a refugee camp and villages in the region, the ministry said.

Fighting around the town, situated east of the breakaway Armenian-majority enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, has intensified in recent weeks between Azerbaijani forces and Armenian troops from Nagorno-Karabakh.

### US-Russia accord on jt space exploration

WASHINGTON, July 18: The United States and Russia agreed Saturday to study the feasibility of expanding joint space exploration, including putting a manned space station into orbit, reports AFP.

The agreement came two days after Russia agreed to freeze part of a proposed contract to sell rocket engines to India.

Washington had said the deal violated international export controls, and argued that India could use the technology to develop its ballistic missile industry in violation of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Moscow agreed late Thursday to freeze part of the rocket engine sale and to refuse to sell India other technology linked to rocket engine development, US officials said Friday.

The compromise could allow Russian companies to have a share in launching US commercial satellites or in a US project to build a space station.

According to a White House statement released Saturday, the US-Russia space exploration agreement called for a study that will examine the possibility of putting a manned space station into orbit, the statement said.

The project, scheduled for completion by August 31, will also consider joint activities that could include Russia's MIR-1 space station and the US space shuttle programme from 1995 to 1997.

A previous joint agreement called for a linkup between the US space shuttle Atlantis and Russian spaceship MIR in 1995.

### 11 executed in HK for murder, robbery

HONG KONG, July 18: Eleven people were executed for criminal offenses including murder and robbery in the eastern coastal city of Wenzhou, a news report said today, reports AFP.

Two women were among the 11 who were executed immediately after sentencing in the booming coastal port. The women, Chen Xiaoyan and Zhang Aizhu, committed 21 robberies, dragging their victims in buses and hotels, the Beijing-backed China News Service was quoted as saying.

The reports said they were among more than 2,600 people arrested in a city-wide campaign against crime including highway robbery and the abduction and selling of women and children.

## Indian scientists vow to build rocket engines

NEW DELHI, July 18: Indian scientists vowed to build their own space launched boosters after Russia's decision to renounce on the sale of rocket engines and technology under US pressure, reports AFP.

The scientists and political parties reacted in a combative manner that contrasted with the government's controlled display of "regret" Saturday at the Russian about-face.

"We in the scientific community are confident that we can build our own engines," RN Sinha, Director of the National Aeronautical Laboratory (NAL) in the southern city of Bangalore, said in remarks published by the Pioneer.

He said the Russian pullout from the 350-million-dollar contract to supply two cryogenic

### Saddam's son Uday weds cousin

BAGHDAD, July 18: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's playboy son Uday married one of his cousins on Saturday in a union consolidating the family's grip on power, reports Reuter.

Iraqi television's main evening newscast showed a beaming Uday being congratulated by his father, brother and senior officials after signing the marriage contract in a Muslim wedding ceremony.

The bride was not shown and her name was not given but the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said in a brief announcement that she was the daughter of Barzan Al-Tikriti, Saddam's half brother.

Uday, 28, is Saddam's eldest son. He heads Iraqi sports bodies including the Olympic Committee and publishes the daily newspaper Babel.

## Jayalalitha begins indefinite fast

NEW DELHI, July 18: The Chief Minister of India's southern Tamil Nadu state began an indefinite fast today over a longstanding water dispute with neighbouring Karnataka, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, reports Reuter.

It said Jayaram Jayalalitha, whose All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam Party (AIADMK) was until recently a key ally of Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, started her fast to demand more water from the Cauvery river.

PTI quoted Jayalalitha as saying that the annual monsoon rains, currently lashing much of northern India and causing floods in several states, had missed her drought-prone region, forcing her to press for more river water from Karnataka.

But her move also coincides with a brewing crisis for Rao's minority government which



Jayalalitha faces a no-confidence motion in Parliament after it convenes on July 26.

### HK intercepts 143 more boat people

HONG KONG, July 18: Hong Kong intercepted 143 more boat people from China just after dawn today, government officials said, reports Reuter.

The interception in Hong Kong waters of three vessels carrying the boat people brought the total number of arrivals since a new wave started earlier this month to more than 800, topping the number of arrivals in the last four years, the government said.

"It is worsening," a government spokeswoman said. "Yesterday was 125 and this morning was already 143."

The boat people are ethnic Chinese who fled into Southern China from Vietnam in the late 1970s and settled in the coastal town of Beihai. They say local authorities are now demolishing their homes to make way for development.

### Kabul denies supplying arms to Tajik rebels

KABUL, July 18: Kabul accused Moscow on Saturday of intervening in Afghanistan because of problems in neighbouring Tajikistan and denied supplying arms to rebels in the former Soviet Central Asian Republic, reports Reuter.

"We have not forgotten the past 14 years," said a letter to Russia's Parliament, drafted at an emergency Cabinet meeting on Saturday and referring to the period after the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

"The deployment of Russian troops along the border is a kind of intervention," the letter said.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani called the emergency meeting a day after Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev flew to Tajikistan and promised to crack down on Tajik rebels operating across the border from Afghanistan.

Russia began flying extra troops to Tajikistan on Saturday to help repulse attacks by the rebels, who launched a bloody assault against Russian servicemen on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan last Tuesday.

An Afghan government spokesman said the Cabinet had decided to ask the United Nations to halt deployment of Russian forces along the border and suggested talks to solve the problem.

"If there are some individual irresponsible groups helping these Tajiks then the Afghan government will deal with them and will not allow it to continue," the latter to Moscow said.

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### Israel warns Lebanese guerillas

JERUSALEM, July 18: Israel warned Lebanese guerillas today it would retaliate if they attacked its soldiers in South Lebanon, reports Reuter.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in a statement Israel had sent reinforcements to its self-styled security zone in South Lebanon.

"The Israel defence forces are deployed in reinforced numbers to defend the settlements and residents of the north. The IDF will act against those who harm its forces in the security zone," Rabin said in a written statement after the weekly cabinet meeting.

The warning followed an attack on an Israeli patrol on Saturday in which two soldiers were wounded and a Lebanese Muslim guerilla was killed. Guerillas killed five Israeli soldiers in two attacks in two days earlier this month.

## UN, Iraq resume talks on missile monitoring

BAGHDAD, July 18: UN disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus resumed talks with Iraqi officials here today to avert a confrontation on long-term missile monitoring as Baghdad insisted on an end to the three-year-old trade embargo, reports AFP.

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, Foreign Minister Mohammed Said As-Sahhaf and an official in charge of oil negotiations with the United Nations took part in the meeting, Iraqi officials said.

Rad Al-Qaysi, a Foreign Ministry Undersecretary of State, was in New York last week for negotiations on a limited resumption of Iraqi oil exports.

"It is impossible to say. We continue our talks and see what happens," Ekeus told reporters before the meeting, asked if it would be his final encounter with Iraqi officials.

The talks opened an hour late because of a "technical delay," he said.

Ekeus, a Swede in charge of the UN mission to disarm post-war Iraq, has already held three previous meetings with the government since arriving in Baghdad on Thursday on a last-ditch mission to head of confrontation.

Another session due Saturday was called off at Iraq's request because of the 25th anniversary of the rise to power of the Baath party.

Despite threats of possible US military action, Iraq has so far refused to allow the United Nations to set up long-term surveillance cameras at two missile sites south of Baghdad or to allow them to be sealed.

### Lankans oppose construction of VOA relay station

COLOMBO, July 18: Over 2,000 Sri Lankans staged a peaceful march in Hilaw town Saturday, about 80 kilometres from Colombo, to protest against construction of a Voice Of America (VOA) relay station there, reports Xinhua.

The demonstrators, mainly fishermen, staged a two-hour "way of the cross" around the VOA station. They carried a banner saying "Voice Of America or the Voice Of God?"

They had blocked the entrance to the VOA station site and prevented any vehicles from entering or leaving the station on Friday.

A spokesman for the demonstrators told the papers Saturday evening that VOA will bring harmful western influences into their simple village life-style and national culture. He added that they will continue their protest.