

International

Aideed men use Islam to swell support

MOGADISHU, Aug 1: Fugitive Warlord Mohammed Farah Aideed's supporters are trying to whip up Islamic fervour to swell support for his crusade against United Nations forces in Somalia...

Pakistan to install another nuclear plant by '99

ISLAMABAD, Aug 1: Pakistan, the sole member of the Muslim world with a nuclear power plant, started today construction of a building to house a second station supplied by China, reports AFP.

Canada provided Pakistan with its first nuclear power station, a 137-mw Candu type reactor, which started commercial operation in the southern port city of Karachi in 1972.

Battle on in Abkhazia despite truce

TBILISI, Aug 1: Observers have begun monitoring a four-day-old ceasefire in the separatist war in Georgia that has taken nearly 4,000 lives, but each side is accusing the other of violations, reports Reuter.

BRIEFLY

Japan's quake death toll 200:

The death toll from a devastating earthquake that hit northern Japan on July 12 reached 200 Sunday as divers found two more bodies, police said, AP reports from Tokyo.

5 died in Kenyan train crash:

Five passengers were killed when a goods train crashed into a passenger train near Nakuru, 160 km (100 miles) northwest of the Kenyan capital, railway officials said, Reuter reports from Nairobi.

23 Thai schools destroyed by fire:

Unidentified assailants set fire to 23 schools overnight, television and radio reports said on Saturday but there were no reports of casualties in the apparently related incidents, AFP reports from Bangkok.

One set afire in Germany:

Police suspect teenagers poured a flammable liquid over a homeless man sleeping on a train station bench and set him on fire before dawn Saturday. The victim was reported in serious condition with extensive burns on his legs, AP reports from Frankfurt.

Palestinian killed in blast:

Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank Saturday found the body of a Palestinian man near the remains of a makeshift bomb, the army said, AP reports from Jerusalem.

China develops insulin:

Chinese scientists have succeeded in obtaining insulin through genetic engineering, Xinhua News Agency said on Saturday, AFP reports from Beijing.

Blasts claim 3 in Philippines:

Muslim guerrillas launched five bomb and grenade attacks in a southern Philippine town and a man blew up a mini bus, killing three passengers, in a separate assault, police said today, Reuter reports from Zamboanga, Philippines.

Conservatives' popularity drops

LONDON, Aug 1: British Prime Minister John Major's Conservatives have slumped into third place behind Labour and the party that crushed them in a by-election last week, according to an opinion poll released on Saturday, reports Reuter.

The king who never escaped shadow of tragedy, passes away

BRUSSELS, Aug 1: Belgium's King Baudouin, who died of a heart attack on Saturday night at the age of 62, never escaped the shadow of personal tragedy and made royal history by relinquishing his throne for a day, reports Reuter.

Ingushetia threatens to quit federation

MOSCOW, Aug 1: Ingushetia, a northern Caucasus region of the Russian Federation, is threatening to hold a referendum on withdrawal from the Federation unless Moscow helps Ingush refugees, reports Reuter.



Comrades carry the body of a slain commando who was killed by Israeli gunfire in southern Lebanon on Friday.

Nepal air crash: 15 bodies recovered

KATMANDU, Aug 1: Rescuers found the mutilated bodies of 15 people on a forested hillside where a commercial plane crashed and police said Sunday the remaining three people on board also could not have survived, reports AP.

Babangida to form interim govt

LAGOS, Aug 1: Nigerian military president Ibrahim Babangida announced on Saturday he had given up the idea of a rush presidential election in August and would install an unelected government to bridge the gap left by his annulment of a poll held in June, reports Reuter.

He scrapped the June vote without allowing the outcome to be announced. Abiola, a Muslim media tycoon from the mainly Christian southwest, held a clear lead in incomplete results.

Tibetans continue protests for independence

BEIJING, Aug 1: Tibetans have continued to stage scattered protests for independence, and at least 74 people have been arrested, an international human rights group reported Sunday, reports AP.

PLA celebrates 66th anniversary

BEIJING, Aug 1: China's armed forces celebrated their 66th anniversary Sunday with renewed calls for modernization and warnings against money-worshipping and hedonism, reports AP.

Off the Record

200 years of innocence ends WASHINGTON: A woman was arrested for allegedly killing her husband in what the town historian said was this New England hamlet's first homicide in more than 200 years, reports AP.

It is an old American mentality

ROME: Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Sunday criticised the United Nations and US President Bill Clinton for being too trigger-happy, reports Reuter.



Blind sailor

BALTIMORE: The Coast Guard was dispatched Saturday to check on a blind sailor attempting a solo Atlantic crossing after a distress signal was received from his boat. He was found in good condition, reports AP.



File picture shows Belgian Royal King Baudouin (R) and Queen Fabiola while on holiday in Motril, southern Spain in September, 1990.