

## Ghali suggests military team for Georgia

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 10: Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali recommended on Monday the deployment without delay of a UN military observer mission to Georgia to help monitor a July 27 ceasefire agreement between the government of the Transcaucasian Republic and Abkhazian separatists, reports Reuter.

If approved by the Security Council, it will be the first UN military observer team sent to any of the republics of the former Soviet Union.

In a written report to the Council, Boutros-Ghali proposed as mission commander Danish Brigadier-General John Hvidegaard.

But he said the team should consist of 88 military observers, plus support staff, instead of only 50 observers as authorised by the Council in a July 9 resolution calling for the dispatch of a mission once a ceasefire had

been implemented. In addition, he said, the proposed UN Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) should include 56 international and 46 local civilian staff.

The 50 observers originally authorised "would not be sufficient to cope with the situation which has developed" since the July 27 ceasefire was signed, he added.

The Security Council, in a unanimous resolution last Friday, approved the dispatch of an advance team of up to 10 military observers to help verify compliance with the ceasefire. The advance party was given a three-month mandate, after which it would be incorporated into the proposed UNOMIG.

If the Council authorised the establishment of UNOMIG, it would cost just over 16 million dollars for the first six months, to be shared among all UN members.

## Japan may go for fresh election after political reform

TOKYO, Aug 10: A leading figure in Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's new coalition government has held out the prospect of fresh elections once political reform has been achieved, reports Reuter.

Ichiro Ozawa, widely considered to be the mastermind behind the coalition that has replaced nearly four decades of rule by the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), said on NHK public television on Monday night.

"When political reform is realised, it would be best to carry out further reorganisation by seeking the trust of the people at the earliest date."

His comment appeared to confirm the widespread view that Japanese voters may not have to wait long before pronouncing on the performance of the fragile successor to the long-governing LDP. Hosokawa pledged on

Monday that his 20-member cabinet aimed to pass political reform legislation later this year.

"My government will be known as the political reform administration and we will be determined to make an all-out effort to pass political reform laws in this current year," Hosokawa told his first cabinet meeting.

Former Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa had promised an overhaul of a political system mired in a series of financial and corruption scandals over the last few years. His failure to deliver led to his downfall.

Ozawa is Co-Founder of the Japan Renewal Party (JRP), which consists of rebels from the LDP and has taken the plum cabinet posts of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Trade, Defence and Agriculture.

Ozawa depended his group's dominance in the television interview.

"Ministries concerned with domestic issues can be handled by the others," he said. "But when it comes to ministries handling international affairs, we need to install people with experience."

Hosokawa, the 55-year-old leader of the centre-right Japan New Party, was elected as Prime Minister by the Diet on Friday and sworn in on Monday.

Several LDP administrations — including the outgoing one under Miyazawa — tried and failed to draw up a reform package acceptable to all political parties.

The mass-circulation Yomiuri Shimbun said in an editorial on Tuesday: "political reform must be made a success by all means ... the duration of the Hosokawa cabinet will very

likely depend on its ability to carry out the important task of political reform."

The English-language Japan Times said: "the priority of political reform awaits prompt action by the new government ... parochialism and a lack of sound sense among alliance partners about what is best for this nation will not only imperil the coalition but also will nip in the bud any hopes for democratic restructuring policies."

The White House said on Monday President Bill Clinton was looking forward to working closely with Hosokawa and expected to enhance ties between the two nations.

Hosokawa is scheduled to deliver his first policy speech outlining the major domestic, foreign and economic goals of his government on August 23.

## Off the Record

### He has a long way to go

BOSTON: Hugo Vihlen had hoped that by now he would have reclaimed the world's record for crossing the Atlantic Ocean in the smallest boat, reports AP.

Instead, his family just learned, he is still on his 5 foot, 4-inch (1.60-meter) sailboat, "Father's day", somewhere in the middle of Atlantic and unlikely to reach land for another month. But his family isn't discouraged.

"The overall picture is he's doing good, he's pressing on," Dana Vihlen said.

For 25 years, Vihlen, held the record for crossing the Atlantic in the smallest boat. That record was broken this year by Tom McNally, of Liverpool, England, who sailed from the Portuguese island of Madeira to San Juan, Puerto Rico.

After the Coast Guard refused to allow Vihlen, 61, to leave from Cape Cod saying his boat wasn't fit for a transatlantic trip, Vihlen set sail from Canada on June 14. He had hoped to arrive in Falmouth, England, on Monday.

Despite the delay, Dana Vihlen said he believes his father is doing well. He said his father had a 60-to-70 day food supply, so was likely rationing what he had left.

Vihlen said weather conditions are often rough this time of year, but strong winds could give his father the push he apparently needs to get to England.

"He has a long way to go, but he's still plugging along," Vihlen said.

### Couple jailed for rowing

LONDON: A British couple who drove their neighbours to distraction by arguing loudly for more than 11 hours were reduced to silence Monday — by being jailed for 14 days each, reports AP.

William Grechan, 60, and his 56-year-old wife Elizabeth, were jailed by a judge in Lowest of eastern England, after ignoring an earlier court warning to tone down their rowing.

The couple, from nearby Gorleston, Norfolk, received suspended jail terms in May after their first loud dispute drew numerous complaints from neighbours.

But the Grechans let fly again during the night of July 5 with a volley of insults which could be heard up to 500 metres (550 yards) from their house, witnesses told the court.

Despite warnings from police called to the house by neighbours, the couple resumed their rowing just after midnight the same day, continuing without a break until after midnight.

Sentencing the couple to two weeks each in jail, Judge Peter Langan said: "It is not pleasant to send you to prison, but the end of the road has been reached."

### They rape children

KUALA LUMPUR: A father, uncle and foster grandfather must spend 18 years in prison for 23 cases of raping the father's three daughters, aged between 7 and 12, Malaysian newspapers reported Tuesday, according to AP.

Judge Badralah Hassan ordered sentences totalling 374 years for the three men, but these run concurrently, meaning the men can leave prison after the longest individual sentence — 18 years, the reports said.

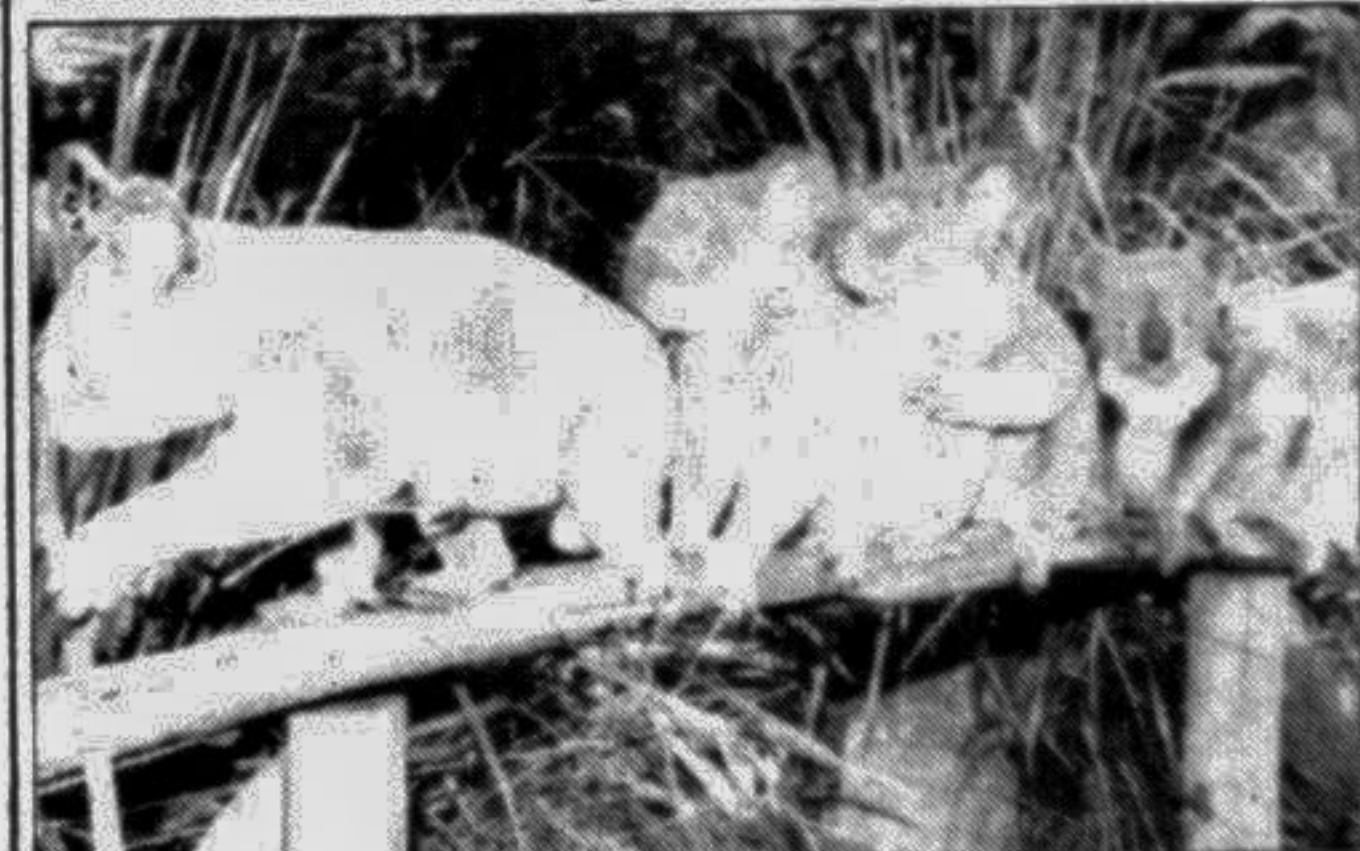
He also ordered 14 strokes of the cane for the father, Tutur Jamil, 36, and 15 strokes for the uncle, Mohamed Imran Jamil, 25.

"Even an animal would protect its own flesh and blood when an enemy tries to attack its own offspring," the papers quoted the judges saying. "But in the case of these three men, the father had raped his own daughter, the uncle his two nieces and the adopted grandfather his three young girls."

The three men, all farmers, pleaded guilty to a total of 23 charges of raping the children between November 1990 and April this year.

The court in Klang, 35 kilometers (21 miles) west of Kuala Lumpur, ordered sentences totalling 94 years for the father, 92 years for the uncle and 198 years for the foster grandfather, Said Rijan, 54.

The victims' names were not given because they are minors, nor were their individual ages stated.



AUSTRALIA: "Rocky" leads (L to R) "Deco", "Roger", "Tyson" and "Stuart" across a bridge on Tuesday at the Lone Pine Koala Sanctuary which is home to more than 130 koalas. The sanctuary, established in 1927 when koalas became a protected species, is the first and largest koala sanctuary in the world. — AFP photo

### For diluting the Aryan beauty

CHICAGO: A man who police say confessed to killing a plastic surgeon and a hairdresser told a judge he was angry about people "diluting the Aryan Beauty" by dyeing their hair blond and wearing blue contacts, reports AP.

Jonathan Preston Haynes, 34, of Rockville, Md., was ordered held without bail Monday on charges of murdering Dr. Martin Sullivan at his suburban Chicago office last week. Haynes was also ordered to undergo a psychiatric evaluation.

Chicago police said Haynes also confessed to the 1987 murder of Frank Ring, a hairdresser in San Francisco. Detectives there were reviewing the confession before deciding whether to file charges.

Assistant State's Attorney Bruce Paynter said Haynes targeted specific groups for attacks: hairdressers who dyed hair blond, manufacturers of blue-tint contact lenses and plastic surgeons who make their clients look more "Aryan."

Haynes, a chemist formerly employed by the federal Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, waived his right to an attorney at Monday's court appearance and spoke openly about his Nazi-style beliefs. He said he was angry about people "diluting the Aryan beauty."

### Bush is 'war criminal'?

NEW YORK, Aug 10: Harper's Magazine said on Monday that a World War II document indicated that former US President George Bush may have committed a war crime when he was a bomber pilot and that the US media declined to report the document's existence during the 1992 presidential campaign, reports Reuter.

The document is a previously classified account "aircraft action report" of a bombing run in the south Pacific in which a Japanese warbler ferrying military supplies to a Japanese-controlled island was sunk by US navy planes, including a bomber piloted by Bush.

After the trawler was sunk, the document says without elaboration, the bombers involved in the trawler attack then strafed lifeboats — which Harper's says was an act in violation of international law.

A spokesman for Bush said the ex-president would have no comment on the report.

But one previously published account of the incident said that it was accompanying navy fighter planes and not the bombers that strafed the lifeboats.

Harper's said that Newsweek magazine, the Los Angeles Times and US News and World Report magazine all had access to the document during the 1992 presidential campaign when Bush had raised questions about Bill Clinton's failure to serve in the US military during the Vietnam war.

Mark Hertsgaard, the author of the Harper's article, said the failure of the press to bring the document to public light was the result "of an ideological blind spot of American journalists who — high-powered and well-connected — exhibit excessive deference and self-censorship."

## BRIEFLY

**10 held in Nigeria:** Nigerian security agents arrested 10 people at the home of the detained leader of a group planning pro-democracy protests, a witness said, Reuter reports from Lagos.

The security agents and armed policemen came to the house at about 9.45 am (0845 GMT) Monday. They took files and documents belonging to CD (Campaign for Democracy) and arrested 10 people without giving reasons, "Funami Ransome-Kuti told Reuters".

Funami is the 21-year-old daughter of CD leader Beko Ransome-Kuti, who was arrested on July 6.

The house is used as CD headquarters but Ransome-Kuti said the people arrested were not connected to the movement.

**Quake shakes Pakistan:** A strong earthquake rocked northern Pakistan Monday, but there was no immediate report of any damage, Pakistani officials and witnesses said, Reuter reports from Islamabad.

Officials at a government seismological centre in the north-western town of Peshawar said the quake was strong but they were unable to tell immediately how much it measured on the Richter Scale.

Buildings also shook in the national capital Islamabad, the nearby town of Rawalpindi, and the Punjab province capital of Lahore.

**Grenade blast kills 5 in Russia:**

Five people were killed and 19 injured when a five-year-old boy found a hand grenade and detonated it while playing in the fishing harbour of the Russian far east city in Nakhodka, Interfax news agency said Monday, reports Reuter from Moscow.

The agency described the incident, on Sunday, as the latest in a string of accidents involving arms taken from military bases in the region. It said the grenade exploded in his hands, but gave no details.

**Abkhazian TV reporter killed:**

A journalist for the Abkhazian television network was killed covering the fighting in Georgia's separatist province, the Russian news agency Itar-Tass reported yesterday, says AFP from Moscow.

The journalist, Kukuri Adanaya was the ninth reporter to be killed in Abkhazia since the outbreak of inter-ethnic violence a year ago.

**Ghali deplures killing:** Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Monday deplored the killing of four American soldiers serving with a UN-led mission in Somalia when their vehicle was blown up by a large explosive device which he said was probably detonated by remote control, reports Reuter from United Nations.

"This cowardly attack on United Nations peacekeepers in Somalia demonstrates the urgent need to accomplish the total disarmament of the factions and militias still holding weapons in Mogadishu and the rest of Somalia," the UN chief said in a statement.

**Bus mishap claims 16 Filipinos:**

Sixteen Filipinos died and five others were seriously injured when a passenger mini-bus collided with a truck along a major highway north of Manila, police said Monday, reports Reuter from Manila.

The mini-bus, carrying 21 people on their way home to Manila from a funeral in Tarlac province, was trying to overtake several vehicles when it crashed against the truck, police said. The mini-bus driver was among those killed.

**2 climbers die in French Alps:**

Two mountain climbers plunged to death on Monday in separate incidents on Mont Blanc in the French Alps, Emergency Services said, reports Reuter from Grenoble.

Rescuers also found the body of a third climber who went missing on Sunday but were unable to recover the corpse because of the risk of starting an avalanche.

Another mountaineer was killed on Sunday nearby in the French Alps, Emergency Services said.

**Extremists kill a Egyptian guard:**

Six alleged fundamentalists who tried to storm a building housing police officers in upper (southern) Egypt on Monday killed a guard there, police sources said, AFP reports from Assiut.

The Muslim extremists shot at windows as they approached the building in Qusya, 350 kilometres (217 miles) south of Cairo in Assiut province, they said.

A guard, Mohammad Rashwan, opened fire on the assailants who shot and mortally wounded him, they added.

## Libya ready to compensate Pan Am victim families

CAIRO, Aug 10: Libya is ready to pay compensation to the families of people who died in the bombing of Pan American and Uta airlines in 1988 and 1989, the country's envoy to the Arab League Ibrahim El-Beshari announced Monday, reports AFP.

Beshari told the Egyptian news agency Mena he expected the United Nations to lift in November or December an air and arms embargo imposed on Libya for its refusal to extradite two Libyans suspected of involvement in the attacks.

Beshari said his country had taken "practical steps" to comply with Security Council Resolution 731 which calls for Libya to renounce terrorism, and it was ready to "pay compensation to the families of the victims" of the airliner bombings.

All 259 occupants of a Pan Am airliner were killed along with 11 people on the ground when it crashed on the Scottish town of Lockerbie, after a bomb had exploded on board the plane in December 1988.

The following year all 170 people on board a French Uta airliner died when it exploded over Niger.

The UN Security Council is to convene next week to discuss the sanctions issue, as it had done every four months since they were slapped on Libya on April 15, 1992.

Western diplomats said they expected the UN to maintain the sanctions.

The Libyan Ambassador to Tunisia, Abdel Aati El-Obeidi, briefed British officials on alleged Libyan links with the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA) in Cairo last week, Beshari said.



NEW DELHI: Elderly freedom fighters of the 'Quit India' movement listen to an address given by Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao on Monday. The nation is marking the 50th anniversary of the decisive final phase in the struggle for freedom from British rule. — AFP photo

## Israel rules out direct talks with PLO

JERUSALEM, Aug 10: Israel's government ruled out direct talks with the Palestinian PLO on Monday and said it would keep negotiating with a Palestinian peace delegation from the occupied territories, reports Reuter.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said a threat to resign by three top members of the locally-based Palestinian delegation did not mean Israel would talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

"It is a Palestinian problem," Rabin said on Monday. "It is not our business what is the composition of the Palestinian delegation as long as it is composed of residents of the territories."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, asked whether Israel should negotiate directly with

the PLO, said: "everything has its time. This question too has its time and it is not now. At this stage, there is a delegation we can negotiate with."

Palestinian sources in the occupied territories said delegates Faisal Al-Husseini, Hanan Ashrawi and Saeb Erekat had threatened to quit because they wanted greater input in crucial decisions on the 21-month-old peace negotiations with Israel.

The sources said the negotiators battled PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat over the terms of self-rule they presented to US Secretary of State last week. They said the delegates felt the original PLO document made too many concessions to Israel.

The row prompted some Israeli doves to renew calls for direct negotiations with the PLO

because it appeared to be taking a more moderate stand than the delegation.

However Peres said the PLO was more hardline than the delegation on some issues and more conciliatory on others.

Rabin's government has already ended a ban on private contacts with the PLO. Last week, Israeli radio revealed that Environment Minister Yossi Sarid had held talks, with Rabin's knowledge, with Arafat's political advisor Nabil Shaath in Cairo.

"The policy of the Israeli government is to deal with residents of Judea, Samaria (the West Bank) and Gaza," said Israel's chief negotiator with Palestinians, Elyakim Rubinsten.

## 60 Saudi academics barred from leaving country

NICOSIA, Aug 10: Around 60 Saudi academics have been banned from leaving the country from demanding that King Fahd release detained members of a human rights group, according to the London-based Liberty organisation, reports AFP.

Liberty, which describes itself as a human rights group for the Muslim world, said Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz summoned ten of the 60 professors to his office at the weekend "to tell them the King was angry with them because of the letter they recently sent to him."

They were told they had been

banned from travelling overseas, and that they would be "appropriately" punished if they failed to apologise to the King and withdraw their demands within 24 hours.

In the letter to the King, the academics called for the immediate release of 21 of their colleagues, including a founding member of the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR), an Islamic human rights group that was banned after it was established in May, and two of his colleagues.

They also asked King Fahd to remove restrictions on funding members of the CDLR, who have been dismissed from their

jobs, banned from practising law, and are under constant scrutiny and surveillance.

Many of the detained are academics, including Mohammad Al-Massari, Lecturer in Physics at King Saud University in Riyadh and CDLR spokesman, Abdallah Al-Hamid, Professor of Arabic at Imam University in Riyadh and CDLR founding member, and Ali Mahmud, Professor of Medicine at King Saud University.

Liberty called for international pressure for the release of the detainees and "the improvement of the human rights record in Saudi Arabia."



Pope John Paul II (L) speaks with Prime Minister Percival J Paterson on Monday after his arrival at Norman Manley Airport in Kingston. The Pope will spend three days on the island nation. — AFP photo

## India celebrates anniversary of 'Quit India' Movement

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: India brought the curtain down yesterday on year-long celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the 'Quit India' Movement, the decisive final phase in the struggle for freedom from British rule, reports AP.

Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao declared a national holiday, released commemorative postal stamps and coins and led parliament in paying homage to martyrs of the freedom struggle in a nostalgic trip into history.

School children presented a colourful programme of music and dance at the giant Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in an emotional tribute to the independence movement and India's diverse cultural heritage.

In brief remarks, Rao urged the present-day generation to draw inspiration from the 'Quit India' movement.

Some 5,000 people who took part in the freedom struggle alongside Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the slain independence hero venerated as the "Mahatma" (great soul) and the "father of the nation," were to be feted.

Rao, 72, was to address a rally later in the day at a central Delhi venue dedicated to the "Quit India" call given by Gandhi to the British.

British authorities cracked down hard after the "Do or die" resolution adopted by the Congress Party on August 8, 1942, at a mammoth meeting in Bombay.

All Congress leaders were arrested, triggering a patriotic upsurge which crippled the British administration during World War II. Violence broke out as millions defied the government in a "Baptism of fire".

The British, who called it the most serious rebellion since an 1857 mutiny, never quite recovered.

## Delhi sends more troops to quell Naga violence

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: More Indian paramilitary troops are being rushed to the remote Indian state of Manipur to put a halt to tribal violence which has claimed at least 41 lives, the Press Trust of India said today, reports AP.

The news agency quoted officials as saying in the state capital Imphal that reinforcements were being sent to Manipur to end the attacks which began Saturday on members of the Kukli tribe by activists of the rival Naga tribe.

Members of the outlawed National Socialist Council of Nagaland, which is fighting for an independent tribal homeland, are the main suspects behind the killings and arson in Kukli villages.

## 100 extremists held in Egypt

ASYUT (Egypt), Aug 10: Egyptian police said they detained or arrested 100 Muslim fundamentalists in Qena and Asyut in upper Egypt Monday, following the killing of police officers, reports AP.

In Nag Hammadi, El-Rahmaniya and Al-Qaer in Qena province security forces held 85 militants suspected of involvement in the killing of three police officers, including a general, at Nag Hammadi Saturday.

"Some of them had contacts with the fugitive assailants and provided police with useful information," police said. Security forces in armoured vehicles cordoned off access to the province north of the tourist resort of Luxor.

Another 15 suspected anti-government militants were detained hours after a policeman was killed at Goussiya, near here, Monday.