

# Azeri planes bomb Kafan : 7 killed

YEREVAN, Aug 18: Two Azerbajjan aircraft today bombed the southeastern Armenian town of Kafan, killing seven people and injuring about 30, the Armenian Defense Ministry said according to the Snark news agency reports AFP.

The Sukhoi-25 fighter bombers carried out the operation around 7:00 am in apparent retaliation for a continuing Armenian offensive on the strategic town of Fizuli, located southwest of the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Kafan is an industrial town located about 50 kilometres (31 miles) south of the enclave. The ethnically Armenian en-

# Govt accepts opposition demands Accord to end unrest in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Aug 18: Nepalese Prime Minister Girtija Prasad Koirala expressed his satisfaction at the 9-point agreement just signed on Tuesday by the ruling Nepali Congress and the main opposition, the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN) after 17 rounds of talks for 53 hours, reports Xinhua.

The Prime Minister, who was present at the signing ceremony, said that I am very happy with the agreement achieved between the ruling party and the opposition to end the anarchic state of affairs which the country has been obliged to suffer for some time past.

He said, "It is my fervent wish that this state of mutual goodwill, agreement and cooperation will take a permanent character."

He noted that "democracy is a process of mutual debate and dialogue, dialogue is the only basis for the solution of any problem."

The dialogue and agreement just concluded has established that any problem can be resolved through mutual negotiation and agreement, he stressed.

Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, President of the Nepali Congress commented that "the signing of the agreement is the victory of the people, not of any party."

In a statement to the press after the signing, CPN Uml General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal said that the movement started from one-point demand (to set up a new investigation committee for the jeep accident) was later developed into a movement for a 10-point demand including the resignation of the Prime Minister.

"Our party took the movement and negotiation as two faces of a coin," he said adding that with this concept our party launched the movement.

After a long bilateral negotiation, Tuesday, the Nepali Congress government has accepted our 9-point demands and declare to fulfil these demands, he added.

As to the case of the Prime Minister's resignation: "The Troika of the Nepali Congress has reached understanding with us," Nepal said.

"Believing to their promise in this context, we are going to stop the present movement," he said.

The CPN Uml, together with other six left parties, launched their nation-wide movement against the government since June 25.

Nepal hoped in his statement that the agreement between the government, the Nepali Congress and the CPN Uml will be fully fulfilled.

# Off the Record

## Ram Dhan pleads innocent

NEW DELHI: A man charged with beheading his young niece and her husband has pleaded innocent of carrying out the death sentence passed by village elders furious at their elopement, press reports said Wednesday, says AFP.

"I don't know anything," a nervous Ram Dhan repeated Tuesday when he was produced before a court in the northern Indian city of Muzaffarpur, the Pioneer said.

He had been named as the man who swung the axe after his niece Sarita, 20 and her husband Satish 21, were sentenced to die by elders in the village of Khandarwall, 90 kilometres (54 miles) from here in northern Uttar Pradesh state.

Ram Dhan, who allegedly ran away to escape arrest after the beheading, said he had surrendered on August 12, he was innocent. He said other villagers had framed him after killing the couple.

"How can I murder Sarita, whom I brought up since infancy, or her husband?" he asked.

The brutal beheading made front-page headlines here and prompted calls in parliament for the killers to be arrested and punished.

# BRIEFLY

## Accord on Afghan refugees:

Pakistan, Afghanistan and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) signed an agreement to facilitate the returning of Afghan Refugees from Pakistan, Xinhua reports from Islamabad.

The pact was signed here yesterday by Pakistan Minister for States and Frontier Regions Nisar Memon, visiting Afghan Minister for Refugees Repatriation Farooq Azam and the senior official of the UNHCR.

Under the agreement, a tripartite commission will be established for the safe, orderly and voluntary repatriation of the Afghan refugees.

## Quake rocks Taiwan:

An undersea earthquake measuring 5.3 on the open-ended Richter scale rocked Taiwan yesterday but no damage or casualties were immediately reported, the central weather bureau said, AFP reports from Taipei.

The tremor struck at 12:40 pm (0840 GMT) and shook high-rise buildings across the island, the bureau said.

Its epicenter was located 37.8 kilometers (23.5 miles) east of Yilan on the northeast coast at a depth of 65.8 kilometers (40.9 miles).

## 6 electrocuted in India:

Six bus passengers were electrocuted in northern India when a crew member climbed atop the vehicle and accidentally touched a high-tension electric cable, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Wednesday, AFP reports from New Delhi.

The bus, which had halted in the town of Masu on Monday was jolted by a burst of electricity, the news agency said.

## US ship may visit Manila:

The US Navy is planning for a warship to visit the Philippines for the first such port call since the closing of the Subic Bay naval base last year, AP reports from Manila.

A spokesman for the US Pacific Fleet in Hawaii confirmed that plans are under way but said it was too early for a formal announcement.

On August 4, Stars and Stripes, the unofficial US military newspaper, quoted Defence Undersecretary Frank Wisner as saying the visit was in the works, but he did not identify the vessel.

Military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the visit was tentatively set for Sept 24, probably in Manila.

## Mount Anak spewing lava:

Mount Anak Krokatoa has shaken every 15 to 20 minutes throughout the past nine months, spewing hot lava into the air, an official said Wednesday, AP reports from Jakarta.

Igan Sudjana Sutawidjaja who heads the government volcano observatory for West Java and Sumatra, said the explosions have sent lava as high as 80 to 150 meters (215 to 403 feet) over a radius of five kilometers (3.1 miles).

"We don't know when the tremor will stop. The frequency of the explosions did not seem to change from day to day," he said.

## Storm hits Philippines:

Tropical storm Tasha pummelled the extreme northern Philippines Wednesday but there were no immediate reports of casualties of damage, AFP reports from Manila.

Tasha, gusting at up to 100 kilometers (62 miles) an hour, was 90 kilometers (56 miles) south of the Batanes Island group at 4 am Wednesday (2000 GMT Tuesday) and moving northwest at 19 KPH (12 MPH) toward southern Taiwan, weathermen said.

The civil defence office in Manila said it had no immediate reports of casualties of damage.

## Hekmatyar in Iran:

Afghan Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar arrived in Tehran yesterday on his first visit to Iran as head of government, AFP reports from Tehran.

He told reporters that during his two-day visit he would hold discussions with Iranian officials on "matters of mutual interest" and on ways to boost cooperation between the two Muslim countries.

Hekmatyar, who was heading a political and economic delegation, was received at the airport by Vice President Hassan Habibi and several Foreign Ministry officials.

## Indonesian accidents claim 47:

Four separate road accidents claimed the lives of 47 people and injured more than 150 in the Indonesian provinces of Sulawesi and east and central Java, news reports said in Jakarta yesterday, according to AFP.

The official Antara news agency yesterday reported that at least 31 people were killed and 27 others injured when a bus plunged into a 24 meter (79.2 feet) ravine Tuesday in Sawo district near the East Java town of Ponorogo.

The Daily Suara Merdeka said two other road accidents on Monday in Batang Regency, central Java killed 12 people and injured 80 others. The newspaper said six people were killed and 24 injured when a truck hit a bus carrying 30 passengers, and another six were killed and scores injured when two buses collided.



ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar (R) chats with Qazi Hussain Ahmad (L), chief of the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami Party, August 17 at a dinner party hosted by Qazi Hussain in Hekmatyar's honour. Qazi's party played a vital role in the battle against the forces of the former Soviet Union in Afghanistan. — AFP photo

# India's opposition angry over hoisting Pak flag in Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Aug 18: The BJP, on Monday in the Lok Sabha demanded a white paper on Kashmir as almost the entire opposition reacted with anger over the hoisting of Pakistani flags in the valley on the independence day and the killing of 16 bus passengers by the militants near Jammu on August 14, reports PTI.

The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Rajesh Pilot's assertion that the intensity of pro-Pak activity by on August 15 was much less as compared to what had happened during the

past three years failed to pacify the opposition.

The former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar, said the unprecedented killing of bus passengers by the militants marked a turning point in militancy and urged the government not to be complacent about the situation there.

Some opposition members joined Chandra Shekhar in highlighting what they called contradictory statements by the Home Minister, S B Chavan, Pilot and the State Governor, Gen (ret'd) K V Krishna Rao, regarding the possibility of holding elections in the state.

Pilot said the government was ready for a discussion in the house on Kashmir.

He asserted that the security forces had acted with firmness in polling attempts by the militants to hoist the Pakistani flags on August 14, Pakistan's national day.

Wherever such incidents came to the notice, the flags were removed within an hour.

The matter was raised by M L Khurana (BJP) during zero hour.

# Kabul ready to accept Abdel-Rahman

ISLAMABAD, Aug 18: Afghanistan would welcome Sheikh Omar Abdel-Rahman if he were deported from the United States, fundamentalist prime minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said Wednesday, reports AP.

"He is a respected religious scholar and he has done nothing wrong," Hekmatyar was quoted as saying in the English-language Daily Nation newspaper.

A New York court Monday refused to stay a deportation order for the blind cleric, whose followers have been linked to the bombing of New York's World Trade Centre and another alleged New York bombing plan Abdel-Rahman was given ten days to appeal.

Hekmatyar called the Sheikh a "leader of the Islamic nation," said the News daily newspaper.

# Russia stops withdrawal from Lithuania

LONDON, Aug 18: Russia has stopped withdrawing its troops from Lithuania less than two weeks before they were all due out, Lithuanian Defence Minister Audrius Butkevicius said Tuesday in a speech monitored by the BBC, reports AFP.

Speaking on national television and quoted by radio, he said a note had been received from the Russian Defence Ministry saying the halt had been called "because no bilateral agreement has been signed," the BBC report said here.

# Tamils renew call for compromise

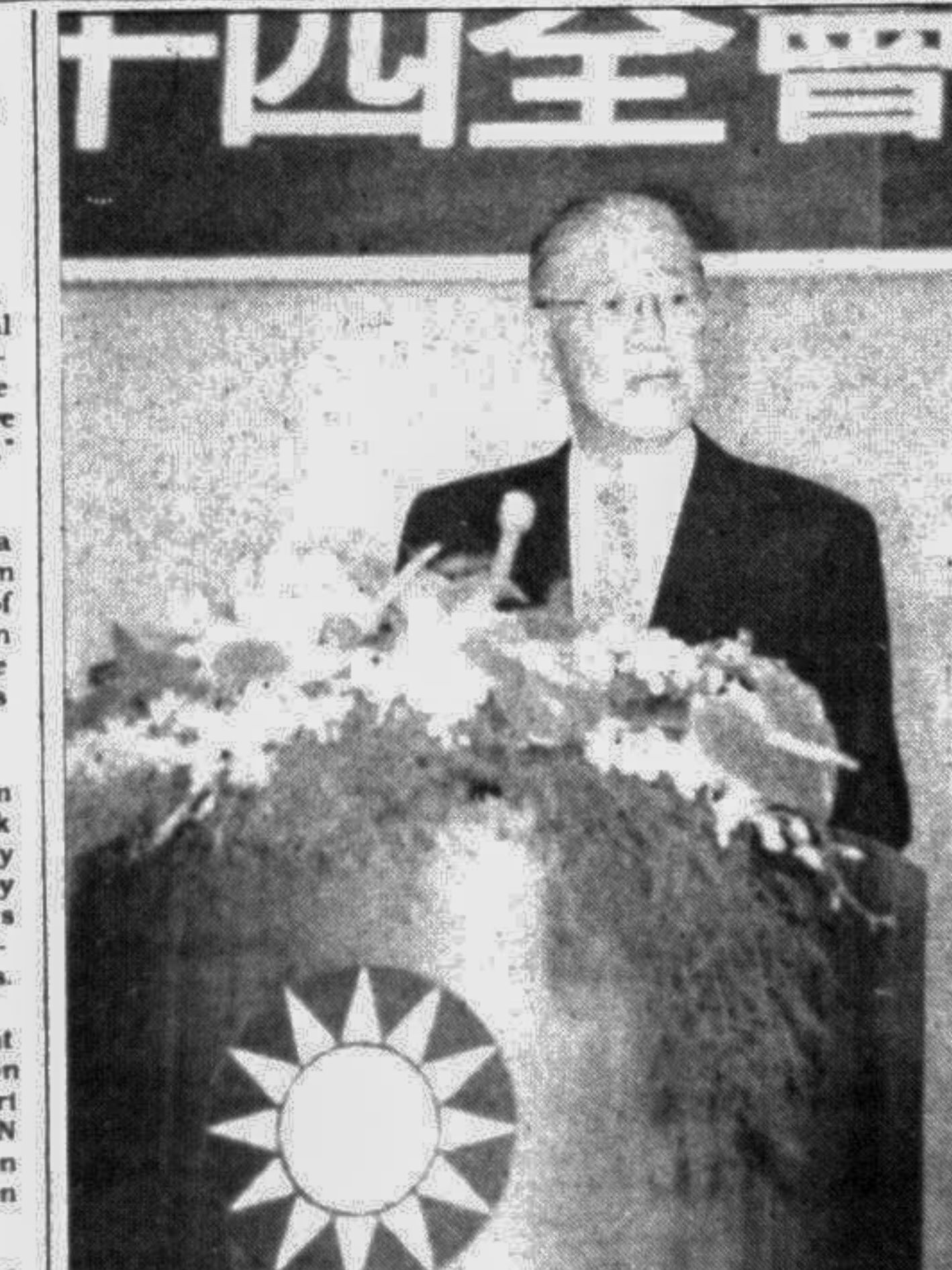
COLOMBO, Aug 18: Shri Lanka's dominant Tamil Tiger guerrillas Wednesday renewed an offer to compromise on their key demand for a separate state and settle for a federal formula to end the dragging separatist war, reports AFP.

The rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a statement from its London office accused Colombo of taking the cover of a parliamentary select committee to avoid direct talks with them to resolve the ethnic conflict.

The leader of the LTTE, Velupillai Prabhakaran, has declared that the LTTE was prepared to consider a federal structure with the north east forming the Tamil homeland.

"If the government of Sri Lanka persists in its determination to subjugate the Tamil people, the Tamils will have no alternative but to continue to fight to restore their own sovereign state," the statement said.

Prabhakaran, 38, told the BBC in February that he was willing to compromise on his demand for an independent state and he would consider a federal form of government to end the ethnic bloodshed which



TAIPEI: President Lee Teng-hui speaks after being re-elected chairman of the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) August 18 after he ran unchallenged in the first democratic voting process in the 99-year-old party. Lee garnered 1686 votes, representing 82.5 per cent of those voting. There were 357 invalid ballots. — AFP photo

# US considering expanded role in peacekeeping

NEW YORK, Aug 18: The Clinton administration is considering an expanded role for American troops in United Nations peacekeeping operations that would include having Americans serve under foreign commanders on a regular basis, the New York Times said in Wednesday editions, reports Reuter.

Administration officials say a presidential policy directive to allow for such an expansion of the American role has been drafted and is expected to be signed by president Bill Clinton next month, the paper said.

The decision to have Americans serve under foreign commanders would be a shift away from the tradition of American commanders for American troops, the paper said.

Since the end of World War Two the United States has only detailed individual officers as monitors for UN peacekeeping efforts or has generally provided air and sea transport for such operations.

The paper said the policy change has the backing of the Defence Department, the State Department, the National Security Council, and Madeleine Albright, the US delegate to the United Nations.

The New York Times quote officials as saying the directive goes beyond the Bush administration's acceptance of a multi-lateral approach to regional conflicts and reflects a belief that military responsibilities must be shared in the post-cold war world.

"The difference with this administration proposal is that it envisions the United States, in principle taking part in any peacekeeping operation in any capacity," the paper quoted a State Department official as saying.

The initiative to change the policy comes at a time when the United Nations is undertaking more peacekeeping efforts than at any other time in its history, and is being criticised in Bosnia.

# North accuses South Korea of disturbing talks

TOKYO, Aug 18: North Korea angrily accused South Korea today of disturbing US-North Korean talks by spreading rumors that Seoul and the United States would resume a controversial joint military exercise, reports AFP.

A spokesman of North Korea's Foreign Ministry was quoted by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) as saying: "We will take an appropriate measure at the slightest sign of the resumption of the 'team spirit' military exercises."

The spokesman said South Korea was spreading rumors that the manoeuvres would resume next year.

# Over 1000 Americans spied for Soviet Union before breakup?

WASHINGTON, Aug 18: The FBI is investigating information from a KGB informant that "hundreds of Americans and possibly more than 1,000" spied for the Soviet Union before its breakup, according to a new book about the Bureau, reports AP.

One government official already has confessed to spying in recent years before the demise of the Soviet Union, and the FBI is working to develop new espionage cases, according to the book, "The FBI: Inside the World's Most Powerful Law Enforcement Agency" by Bill Carter.

FBI spokesman Bill Carter said Tuesday the Bureau had no immediate comment on any aspect of the book.

Besides the official who confessed, others refused to talk until they saw their lawyers, according to the book by Ronald Kessler that is scheduled to be published Thursday by Pocket Books.

The original information of widespread Soviet penetration of the US government came from a former KGB employee with access to Soviet files, the book said.

According to his account, the KGB had many hundreds of Americans and possibly more than thousand spying for them in recent years," Kessler wrote in advance proofs made available to reporters.

The information was so specific that "the FBI was quickly able to establish the source's credibility" and mobilized agents in most major cities to pursue the cases, the book said.

The book also reported that the FBI concluded it blew a possible opportunity to get admissions of spying from State Department diplomat Felix S Bloch.

Agents advised Bloch of his rights not to talk to them when, according to a subsequent FBI analysis, they had not legal obligation to do so, the book reported.

Kessler referred to an internal FBI critique of the bureau's investigation of Bloch in 1989 after receiving allegations he had passed secrets to the KGB while a diplomat in Europe.

In 1989, the FBI followed Bloch to ensure that he would not leave the country while they vainly sought evidence to arrest him. Bloch has never been prosecuted, though he was fired and lost his pension.

The book reported that the FBI confronted Bloch with the allegations against him during a June 22, 1989, interview at the State Department.

Bloch asked, "What are my options?"

Instead of saying "cooperate," a ploy used in 1985 to extract a confession from convicted spy Ronald Pelton, the agents advised Bloch of his constitutional right to remain silent.

Since the FBI agents had no plans to arrest Bloch at the interview, they were not under an obligation to read him his

# Krishna Swami to be retried

MORGANTOWN, W Va, Aug 18: A former Hare Krishna Swami will be retried on charges he built a multimillion-dollar enterprise through murder and beatings of followers at his mountaintop commune, a federal prosecutor said, reports AP.

Kirtanananda Swami Bhaktipada, 55, and follower Terry Sheldon, 44, of Detroit were convicted in March 1991 stemming from activities at the 250-member community of New Vrindaban, about 80 miles southwest of Wheeling.

The pair's convictions on mail fraud, racketeering and murder conspiracy charges were overturned July 1 by the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond.

htm, Barr expressed his determination to get rid of his after the 1992 election Bush agreed.

Criticized in a Justice Department report for misusing the perquisites of his office, Sessions was fired last month by President Clinton. Sessions maintained he had done nothing wrong and was being tarred unfairly by longtime Bureau officials who resisted his efforts to increase the number of women and minority agents and supervisors.

— Before his arrest, convicted Navy spy John Walker pointed a gun at FBI agents. The agents said they would have shot Walker if he had waited another moment before dropping the weapon.