

Pak police to exhume Gen Asif Nawaz's body

ISLAMABAD, Sept 10: Pakistani police on Thursday ordered the exhumation of the body of former Army Chief Asif Nawaz after his widow registered a case claiming he was murdered last January, reports Reuter.

Deputy Inspector General of the Punjab police, Shoab, said that foreign and Pakistani forensic experts would be appointed to conduct an autopsy on the exhumed body.

"We are not going to jump to conclusions but investigate scientifically," he said.

Nuzhat Nawaz said she had sent a sample of her husband's hair, retrieved from his hair brush, to a laboratory in the United States for analysis. The forensic report confirmed her belief that her husband was poisoned, she said.

An analysis from the na-

tional medical services, inc. Laboratories in Pennsylvania said the hair sample they had received contained over 16 times the normal level of arsenic.

The arsenic concentration in the hair of this individual is within a range which can be considered toxic and may be an amount which is fatal, the laboratory report said.

As Army Chief, Asif Nawaz was the most powerful man in Pakistan.

"It has been my firm belief that my late husband did not die a natural death ... I firmly believed that he was poisoned to death by certain persons who perceived him to be a threat to their power and ambitions, the widow said in a report registering a case of murder late on Wednesday.

She named no suspect in the alleged murder.

Jewish settlers vow to fight Palestinian self-rule

JERUSALEM, Sept 10: Jewish settlers, horrified at Israel's recognition of the PLO, have vowed to fight Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories, says Reuter.

Hundreds of settler demonstrators and their supporters from throughout Israel set up a din of metal pounding on metal, whistles and shouts the moment Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet announced the historic recognition on Thursday.

The steady drumming of noise from their position opposite Rabin's office could be heard a half km (miles) away at Israel's parliament. It continued unabated for more than four hours.

"They'd like to beat Rabin but it's impossible to beat Rabin so we're letting off steam

this way ... they're giving away our home said Moshe, 18, from a settlement near the Palestinian City of Nablus in the occupied West Bank.

"The great battle for the land of Israel and settlement has entered a new reality, it will be much harder and intense, said settler leader Rabbi Yoel Ben Nun over the din.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal, speaking to reporters after the cabinet decision, said the way was now open for Arab and Jew to live in harmony in a new era.

The 100,000 settlers fear that new era could end their more than 20-year-long attempt to force annexation of the occupied territories. They say the occupied lands, captured in 1967, belong to the Jewish people by biblical birthright.

Meanwhile, a leading PLO opponent of the deal with Israel said Palestinians were in shock today at the speed of the accord and predicted it faced a tough test in the years ahead.

"PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat pulled it off. The American bulldozer (pushing for a signed pact) is going so fast, Shaqif Al-Hoot, who withdrew from the PLO's Executive Committee last month, told Reuters.

"In my opinion the price (won from Israel) was not enough. It is not convincing, added Hoot, 61, the PLO's representative to Lebanon since 1965.

"What did we get from so much war? This was passed despite the opposition of one third of the (PLO) Executive Committee but who cares in the

end ... we are still in shock, assessing the agreement."

"Those who are for the agreement are pointing out positive things, telling people it is only the first step and (Palestinian) sovereignty will happen in the end," said Hoot, who still has deeds to his home in Jaffa, now Tel Aviv, which he left in 1948.

"Others see the empty half and are very pessimistic, expecting a hell of a lot of trouble in the occupied territories and the diaspora. The coming years will test the credibility of the agreement."

"The future of the refugees, sovereignty and the right of self-determination will only be discussed three years after the declaration," he added.

US, ROK agree to postpone talks with North Korea

SEOUL, Sept 10: The United States and South Korea agreed Friday that high-level talks with Communist North Korea would be postponed until the northern regime makes moves to resolve nuclear issues, Korean officials said, reports AP.

US Assistant Secretary of State Robert L Gallucci, and his South Korea counterpart, Shin Ki-bock, agreed that North Korea has failed to fulfill two key conditions for new talks with the United States, officials said.

The conditions include progress in inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation in allowing UN nuclear inspections.

"Both countries agreed that at the present, conditions for holding the third round of talks (between the United States and North Korea) have not been satisfied," said Chang Jae-Ryong, director of the Foreign Ministry's US bureau.

North Korea had requested talks with the United States, with which it has no diplomatic relations, to ease its international isolation and to increase foreign investment.

Two rounds of US-North Korean talks have been held since June. A third round was tentatively scheduled for mid-September.

The United States and South Korea hope the high-level talks will defuse tensions on the divided Korean peninsula and help resolve suspicions that North Korea is making nuclear weapons.

North Korea claims its nuclear program is peaceful, despite Western intelligence data which indicates it has enough weapons-grade material to build a crude nuclear weapon.

North Korea has blocked international inspectors from its secretive nuclear sites since earlier this year.

BRIEFLY

Aspin puts off Sarajevo tour: US Defence Secretary Les Aspin has cancelled plans to visit Sarajevo next week, Pentagon spokeswoman Kathleen de Laski said Thursday, AFP reports from Washington.

On Thursday the New York Times said that President Bill Clinton's national security advisor Anthony Lake became furious when he learned about Aspin's intention to go to Sarajevo.

The daily quoted an administration official as saying the trip to Sarajevo would be too dangerous for the Defence Secretary, and would have focused attention on a situation that is considered a political loser in the United States, and possibly raised unrealistic expectations among Bosnian Muslims.

Death threat against Menem: A television station broadcast a death threat Thursday against President Carlos Menem, reportedly left by an anonymous caller to its studios, AFP says from Buenos Aires.

The male voice on the answering machine recording, broadcast on channel lines evening news programme, accused Menem of corruption and called him a traitor.

The voice warned that Menem would be shot if he made a scheduled appearance Monday on a popular daytime television show "Lunching with Mirtha."

Pope arrives in Estonia: Pope John Paul arrived in Estonia, third stop on his ground-breaking Baltic tour, for a one-day visit yesterday, Reuter reports from Tallinn.

Live television showed him kissing the ground and being welcomed by President Lennart Meri. The Roman catholic church leader had previously visited Lithuania and Latvia on his first trip to the former Soviet Union.

Life expectancy up in China: China's average life expectancy has risen to a record 17 years, more than double the average when the communist state was founded in 1949, according to the Ministry of Public Health, Reuter reports from Beijing.

Ministry official Qiao Qinzeng said infant mortality had been reduced to 14.5 per 1,000 and 23 per 1,000 respectively in China's cities and rural areas, the official China Daily reported on Friday. That is down from an overall average of 200 per 1,000 in 1949.

Tajik rebels destory six Russian munitions depots

MOSCOW, Sept 10: Muslim rebels in Tajikistan attacked and destroyed six Russian army artillery munitions depots near Dushanbe, triggering huge explosions and fires that continued to burn today, AFP news agency said, reports AFP.

The attack, the most serious assault by rebels near the capital in nearly a year, coincided with a visit to Dushanbe by Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev who has been urging the government to negotiate with the opposition.

The report, quoting a spokesman for the Russian State Committee for Emergency Situations, said the attack Thursday caused no casualties and posed no danger to local residents.

Firefighters were continuing work to extinguish several small blazes still burning at the site of the depots about 24 kilometres

(10 miles) southwest of the Tajikistan capital, Interfax said.

Explosions of the munitions, reserves of the Russian army's 21st motorised division based in Tajikistan, continued for hours after the attack but had ended by late Thursday, it added.

Two other munitions dumps were also attacked but remained intact.

Kozyrev, who met in Dushanbe Thursday with the Speaker of the Tajik parliament, Bartur Rakhimov, said afterwards that "everything has to be one" to organize talks between the government and leaders of the Muslim rebels.

Tensions between Russia and Tajikistan on one side and Afghanistan, where many Tajik rebels are based, rose sharply this summer following a rebel attack on a Russian border guard post that killed 25 soldiers.

Kim seeks Rao's help to halt N-proliferation

SEOUL, Sept 10: South Korean President Kim Young-sam asked for India's help Friday in halting nuclear proliferation in Asia, especially in communist North Korea, reports AP.

Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao pledged Indian efforts for the peaceful use of nuclear energy, but sidestepped any direct comment on North Korea, with which India also has relations.

"India's basic policy is that nuclear weapons should be eliminated from the earth," Rao said. "Consequently, we will work towards stopping the proliferation of nuclear weapons."

India, believed to have developed nuclear weapons, has stayed out of an international nuclear safeguards accord aimed at stopping the spread of nuclear weapons.

North Korea, which claims its nuclear programme is peaceful, has said India is sympathetic with it on the nuclear issue.

Rao, a key author of his country's new market-oriented economic reforms, appealed to South Korean businesses to invest in India.

He proposed at a luncheon of Korean and Indian businessmen that South Korea's main economic groups make studies of the Indian market to identify business opportunities.



Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic (R) meets with United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali Sept 9. Izetbegovic arrived from Washington where a meeting with President Clinton yielded little in terms of force against the Serbs. — AFP photo

Sihanouk to undergo operation

PHNOM PENH, Sept 10: Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Friday that his return to Cambodia would be delayed several weeks so he could undergo an operation to remove a small tumour in his colon, reports AP.

Sihanouk said in a statement that doctors in China, where he has a residence, discovered the tumour on Wednesday and he must have it removed before returning to Cambodia. The statement did not say if the tumour was cancerous.

Sihanouk said this newly is covered health problem, as well as the hardening of his arteries, requires him to seek prolonged treatment at the central state hospital of Beijing. He said he hoped he would be well enough to return in October.

Sihanouk was originally to return to Cambodia September 15 after almost two months abroad in North Korea and China.

He was to be here for the adoption of the country's new constitution and the formation of the government elected in the UN-organised elections this past May.

Sihanouk addressed all Cambodians in the statement, saying "I will hurry to return to our country and close to you in order to serve you when the problem in the base of my large intestine is resolved," he said.

Off the Record

System of transferring prisoners unescorted

LONDON: A convicted robber who had served six months of a 32-month sentence escaped after he was given a bus ticket and instructions to transfer to another prison, police said, reports AFP.

"It makes a mockery of all our hard work," a policeman said Thursday while searching for Roy Turner, 32.

"This is yet another indication of the lax legal system in this country. It's ludicrous."

Turner, convicted of robbing a betting parlour, fled after being allowed to transfer himself unescorted from Everthorpe prison to Rudgate open prison, a distance of about 70 miles (110 kilometres).

Everthorpe Governor Roy Smith defended the honour system of transferring prisoners unescorted, saying, "We have been doing this with success for 18 months and I don't feel a mistake was made in this case."

Victim runs into rapist after 2 yrs

WINCHESTER (England): A rape victim queuing at a job centre found herself face-to-face with the man who attacked her more than two years earlier, a court heard on Thursday, reports Reuter.

The prosecution said the 19-year-old woman recognised Richard Bartelot, 30, by his voice at the job centre and froze in terror when he asked her: "Don't I know you?"

She denied knowing him. But she looked over his shoulder as he filled in a form and noted the first few letters of his name so that she could notify the police.

Bartelot admitted raping the woman as she walked home from college and was jailed for four years by the court in the southern English town of Winchester.

130 zoo animals die due to abuse at hands of visitors

BEIJING: One of China's largest zoos has lost 130 animals in three months due to abuse at the hands of visitors, an official newspaper reported Thursday, according to AP.

Eleven of the animals that died between March and June at the Shanghai Zoo were from species nearing extinction and eight were under state protection in China, the China Youth Daily (Zhongguo Qingnian Bao) reported.

In most cases, the animals died after ingesting large amounts of plastic bags fed them by visitors.

The newspaper detailed the death of Haibin, a female giraffe given to the zoo by Japan. She had produced four babies since 1981, nearly doubling the zoo's giraffe population, and was worth about 100,000 yuan (US\$ 17,360), it said.

But in June, about a month after giving birth for the fourth time, Haibin developed a bad case of diarrhoea that did not respond to treatment and died. An autopsy revealed two clumps of plastic bags in her stomach and intestines, each measuring about 20 centimetres (8 inches) long and 5-6 centimetres (about 2 inches) in diameter.

Deer mice harmful?

GLASGOW (Scotland): Scientists are looking for ways to tackle a new killer virus harboured by Deer mice on a Navajo Indian Reservation in southwestern United States, reports Reuter.

Dr Brian Mahy, of the Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta, Georgia, told an international virology conference in Glasgow on Tuesday that the virus was the most virulent of its type so far found.

Around half the 15 people killed in the new outbreak were Navajo Indians and only four people have survived infection by the virus, Mahy said.

"A big problem is getting the Navajo to accept that the friendly little deer mice can do them any harm," he added.

The infection has been traced to contact with the urine or droppings of a fast-growing population of deer mice.

A chronology of 45 years of Arab-Israeli struggle

PARIS, Sept. 10: A chronology of 45 years of tension, war and negotiation between Israel and its Arab neighbours is as follows, reports AFP.

November 29, 1947: The UN General Assembly adopts a plan to partition British-mandated Palestine into independent Arab and Jewish states. Jerusalem was to be put under international control as a holy city for Jews, Muslims and Christians.

Fighting breaks out between Jews and Arabs, leaving 1,700 dead.

May 14, 1948: Hours before the end of the British mandate, David Ben Gurion proclaims Israel's independence. It is immediately recognised by the United States, followed by the Soviet Union. The following day Arab armies invaded the new Jewish state.

January 7, 1949: The first Arab-Israeli War ends with Israel in possession of more territory than had been allotted to it under the UN partition plan. Jerusalem is divided into two sectors. Armistice agreements are signed in Rhodes, Greece, between February and July establishing the new borders between the Jewish states, which controls 70 per cent of former Palestine and its Arab neighbours, around 850,000 Palestinians are forced into exile.

May 11, 1949: Israel becomes a member of the United Nations.

December 13, 1949: The Israeli parliament declares West Jerusalem the capital of Israel.

April 24, 1950: King Abdallah annexes the West Bank to the Trans Jordan, creating the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

October 29, 1956: The second Arab-Israeli War erupts into an international crisis. The Israeli army invades the Sinai peninsula three months after Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser nationalises the Suez Canal. Israel, joined by French and British forces, halts its offensive after condemnation from the United States and Soviet Union. Israel withdraws in March 1957 and is replaced by UN peacekeeping forces. Israel returns to its 1949 borders.

May 28, 1964: The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is formed in Jerusalem and draws up a national charter. The charter, revised in 1968, states that the "armed struggle is the sole means of liberating Palestine" and calls for the "elimination of Zionism in Palestine." Yasser

Arafat becomes head of the PLO in 1969.

June 5, 1967: After the withdrawal of UN troops from the Sinai and Egypt's blockade of the Gulf of Aqaba, Israel launches its "Six-day war", seizing East Jerusalem, the Sinai, Gaza, the Golan Heights and the West Bank.

Israel now occupies land four times larger than in 1949. It annexes East Jerusalem on June 27.

November 22, 1967: The UN Security Council adopts Resolution 242 calling for the "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict. The French version of the resolution reads "... from the territories occupied ...". The resolution also calls for "Guaranteeing the territorial inviolability and political independence of every state in the area, through measures including the establishment of demilitarised zones."

September 17-27, 1970: "Black September" in Jordan — at least 3,000 are killed after a government crackdown on Palestinian guerrillas backed by Syria trying to overthrow the

government. In July 1971, the last Palestinian "fedayeen" are expelled from the kingdom. Lebanon becomes their main base.

October 6-25, 1973: Onyom Kippur (the Jewish day of atonement), Egypt and Syria launch a surprise offensive in the Sinai and on the Golan to recapture land lost in 1967. After heavy fighting, the operation fails to gain new land. But Israel signs a disengagement agreement with Syria on the Golan in May 1974.

In September 1975, Israel signs a similar accord with Egypt on the Sinai.

December 21-22, 1973: Arabs and Israelis, except Syria and the Palestinians, hold their first direct negotiations in Geneva.

November 13, 1974: Yasser Arafat addresses the UN General Assembly in New York. "I have come bearing an olive branch in one hand and a freedom-fighter's gun in the other," he told the delegates. "Don't let the olive branch fall from my hand."

April 13, 1975: Civil war breaks out in Lebanon after

weeds and the road will be clear for a "new deal" that will define the geopolitical contours and strategic parameters of a new commonwealth.

In recent months, economic and political necessity has forced a number of commonwealth states to reconcile themselves with giving up some elements of sovereignty in exchange for support from Moscow.

Russia and five other former republics signed a deal on Tuesday to keep the Russian rouble as their common currency. The five will have to adjust their customs, tax, banking and credit policies to standards set by Moscow.

An agreement on broad cooperation within an economic union is due to be signed at a CIS summit in Moscow on September 24.

Landslide kills 22 in Philippines

TBOLI, Philippines, Sept 10: Monsoon rains loosened earth in a mining village in the southern Philippines, unleashing a landslide that killed 22 miners and a 5-year-old boy, the town's mayor said Friday, reports AP.

Nine other miners were injured but managed to crawl out of the debris.

Mayor Dad Tuan said the incident took place before midnight Tuesday in Tbolit town in South Cotabato province, about 1,008 kilometres (630 miles) south of Manila.

Tuan said the mudslide carried two bunkhouses and buried the structures below a 30-metre (100-foot) ravine.

"It was like a tidal wave, said one of the injured survivors, who only identified himself as Utik.

Days before the accident, the town's mining engineer had requested the residents to evacuate after discovering cracks on the upper slopes of the mining area but they ignored the warning, said Tuan.

Madrid between Israel and all Arab countries in direct conflict

with it, namely Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, as well as the Palestinians. During the talks Israel refuses any direct participation by the PLO, but closes its eyes to contacts between Palestinian delegates and the PLO.

1993: January 19: The 1986 Law forbidding those living within Israeli jurisdiction to have any contact with "Terrorist" organisations is abolished. But the Israeli government continues to consider the PLO a "Terrorist organisation."

April 9: Israel accepts for the first time the inclusion of Faisal Hussein, a leading nationalist from the occupied territories who is also close to Arafat, in the Palestinian delegation in the talks.

August 29: Israel announces an agreement in principle with the PLO on autonomy for the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

August 30: The autonomy accord, concluded by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO officials in Oslo on August 19 after a series of secret meetings, is approved by the Israeli cabinet.

Sept 9: Israel and the PLO reach an agreement on mutual recognition.