

Ghali for punishment of war criminals

CANBERRA, Sept 13: United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali urged the international community today to punish war criminals and politicians directing actions which violate human rights, reported AFP.

In a message read to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference here, he also condemned the deliberate targeting of UN and other humanitarian personnel, warning that such conduct must not be tolerated.

"Our anger and outrage at such tactics must not be allowed to diminish," he said in a message to 500 parliamentarians from 100 countries.

"I call upon the international community to take action. Those responsible must not be allowed to go unpunished."

His message was delivered to the inaugural ceremony of the conference by former US diplomat Joseph Verner Reed, now a special representative of the US Secretary General.

The speech also warned the

UN would play a more interventionist role to stop governments abusing the human rights of their citizens.

The state is the best guarantor of human rights, the concept of human rights has acquired real meaning.

"But, when states prove unworthy of their sovereign responsibilities, when they violate the fundamental principles laid down in the charter of the UN when — far from being protectors of individuals — they become tormentors, the international community must take action."

He said the challenge to the United Nations of human rights abuses was reflected in the growing use of peacekeepers for humanitarian missions.

"Protecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance, facilitating national reconciliation and restoring democracy self-government are international priorities that have increasingly benefited from UN assistance," he said.

The speech also warned the

S African parliament meets to okay end of white rule

CAPE TOWN (South Africa), Sept 13: Parliament convenes Monday to pass legislation that would end white rule, but it faced bitter opposition from white conservatives who threatened a civil war if the bills were passed, reports AP.

At issue in this 11-day special session are four bills, approved in black-white negotiations that would put the country on an irreversible path toward multiracial democracy.

The most controversial

would establish a Transitional Executive Council, a multiracial panel representing the different political groups that would help govern the country until elections are held next year. The council would severely undercut the president's powers and have the power to veto presidential legislation.

The other bills would set up a commission to oversee the country's first multiracial election.

"We are here to fight these measures," he said over the weekend.

tions, and formally end government control of the media.

Debate on them was not expected until next week, and parliament must meet again in November to approve a new, post-apartheid constitution being worked out by black and white negotiators.

The laws are virtually assured passage in the all-white Parliament, which is dominated by President FW de Klerk's National Party, but it won't be smooth.

The right-wing Conservative Party leader, Ferdi Hartzenberg, said he was "ready for the fight" the Conservatives planned to put up to try to block the bills.

There had been rumours the Conservatives would boycott the session, but Hartzenberg denied this.

More than 10,000 blacks have died in clashes blamed on the ANC-Inkatha feud, and violent eruptions often follow major breakthroughs in negotiations. Small militant black groups who see negotiations as

The Conservatives have 39 seats in Parliament to the National Party's 93 and have virtually no chance of forming an alliance with other white parties to block the legislation.

But militant white extremists who support the continuation of apartheid could cause violent disruptions that would threaten fair balloting.

Passage of the bills also could spark backlashes by black groups opposed to them. The biggest of these groups is the Inkatha Freedom Party, which has accused the National Party and African National Congress of hijacking negotiations with no regard for dissenting views.

As it debates the bills, the government will be meeting with the Conservatives and Inkatha in an attempt to bring them back to negotiations. But the approval of the bills by black and white negotiators, led by the government and ANC, have sent a clear signal to boycotting groups that elections, not unanimity among rivals, are top priority.

a play by whites to cling to power also oppose the legislation.

The government's chief negotiator, Constitutional Affairs Minister Roelf Meyer, said such groups would not be allowed to delay the planned April 27 election date.

"I believe that postponing the election would lead to more violence, and for that reason we could not even consider it," Meyer told reporters Monday before the afternoon session opened.

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India to produce N-fuel to run power station

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: India will produce its own nuclear fuel to run a power station now fed by enriched uranium from France, a top nuclear scientist said Monday, reports AP.

France declined to renew its fuel agreement because India refuses to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty or to allow international inspection of its nuclear installations.

The last fuel consignment from France for the 320-megawatt Tarapur power plant near the western city of Bombay arrived early this year.

But scientists are making a mixture of plutonium and uranium called Mox to replace the French fuel, AN Prasad, Director of the Bhabha Atomic Research Center was quoted by United News of India as saying.

Off the Record

Water pistol saved him from a spitting cobra

JOHANNESBURG: A 4-year-old boy escaped from a venomous snake by shooting it with his water pistol, a newspaper reported Monday, says AP.

The Star of Johannesburg said Calvin Morse was confronted by a spitting cobra outside his home near Nelspruit, east of Johannesburg, and squirted water at the aggressive snake. The reptile slithered away, the newspaper said.

Spitting cobras are so named because they spit venom into the eyes of their targets, temporarily blinding them, before moving in to strike with sharp fangs.

The snake spit a small amount of venom into Calvin's eye before disappearing, the Star said.

Princess Anne is "absolutely thrilled"

LONDON: Princess Anne, the only daughter of Queen Elizabeth, is expecting a child at 43 after 10 months of marriage to her second husband, the People newspaper reported on Sunday, says Reuter.

In what it termed a world exclusive, the tabloid newspaper said Anne and naval commander Tim Laurence were expecting a child in 1994.

"We are not prepared to discuss possible pregnancies until the moment comes when the couple involved are ready to announce it," a Buckingham Palace spokesman said.

The newspaper quoted a friend of the princess as saying: "It has been kept a closely guarded secret but I have been told she is three months pregnant. It's wonderful."

The newspaper also quoted a well-known peer who is friendly with the couple as saying Anne was "absolutely thrilled."

The princess has two children, Peter and Zara, from her first marriage to Captain Mark Phillips.

This marriage to the former cavalry captain ended in divorce in April 1992 after 18 years, the last three lived apart.

When the cops failed to pay the bill

MANILA: Don't bother calling the district police headquarters in Olongapo City advertised as the window to Philippine economic revival. The line was cut when the cops failed to pay the bill, reports AP.

Co. Josefino Farao said the lines to the headquarters of the Metropolitan District Command of the Philippine National Police were cut by the state telephone company "Because they didn't pay their bill," which amounted to 200,000 pesos (drs 7,100).

Farao, now assigned to a subordinate command, said commanders suspected some of the policemen may have run up the bill by making personal calls abroad.

Olongapo, roughly 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of Manila, is the home of the former US Subic Bay naval base. It is being promoted by the government as the country's model industrial development zone.

The scene was too much for many whites

JOHANNESBURG: The young woman in a green miniskirt and matching high heels smiled serenely as she faced shoppers from her wooden throne in a discount supermarket, reports AP.

"How do you keep your hair straight?" a black woman asked. "Why don't you speak Afrikaans," demanded a glaring white man.

"Why don't you speak Xhosa or Zulu?" shot back the host of the show, a rumpled fast-talker who called himself Scoot Scott.

It was a typical appearance for the first black Miss South Africa, Jacqui Mofoekeng, whose selection August 14 meant the loss of another slice of white life in South Africa.

Once the Domain of debutantes from wealthy suburbs, the coveted crown and its 1 million grand (about dollars 300,000) in prizes this year went to a 21-year-old from Soweto, whose heroes include Martin Luther King Jr. and who cites township violence as her greatest concern.

When she travels to the United States on September 19, she hopes to meet her role model, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

"I know tonight, as I sit here with a crown on my head, there are people dying in the townships. I have not forgotten them," Mofoekeng said as her two white runners-up stood beside her at the glittering ceremony.

The scene was too much for many whites, who have watched their positions of prestige slip away as President F.W. de Klerk negotiates the end of apartheid. Beauty pageants are big business in this male-dominated country, where women are only just beginning to compete with men in business and politics.

Troops deployed in Beirut to prevent demonstrations

BEIRUT, Sept 13: Thousands of Lebanese troops deployed across Beirut and around Palestinian refugee camps today to prevent demonstrations over a PLO-Israeli peace pact, says Reuter.

The military said the moves were a routine measure after the central security council, grouping the Interior Ministry, police and army, reminded the country of a government decision taken in July to ban all public demonstrations to maintain security.

A major rally was called by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah in the Cola district of Beirut, where scores of heavily-armed soldiers with anti-tank rockets and machineguns took up positions near tanks.

The 372,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are divided over the historic peace agreement with some agreeing with PLO leader Yasser Arafat that it is the first step towards a Palestinian state and others saying it is a cheap sell-out of their cause.

The ban on demonstrations was announced in July during a week-long Israeli blitz on South Lebanon but it was not enforced.

BRIEFLY

Michael Jackson in Moscow: More than 150 Russian teen-agers screamed, waved gloved fists in the air and unfurled banner saying "Siberia loves You, Michael!" as singer Michael Jackson arrived in Moscow on Sunday, AP reports from Moscow.

Jackson is scheduled to give his first and only concert in the former Soviet Union on Wednesday at Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium.

Despite allegations that he molested a 13-year-old California boy, loyal fans waited hours at Sheremetyevo 1 Airport to welcome the pop superstar.

"All my life I've loved him and wanted to see him. It was my dream and suddenly he's coming and I can't believe it," said a near-hysterical Natasha Yevdokimova, 17.

'Deng in good health': The daughter of China's paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, says her father is in good health and enjoying life like any other senior citizen, reports said Monday, AP reports from Seoul.

Deng Lin, 52, eldest daughter of China's elder statesman, told Korean reporters on her arrival in Seoul not to believe frequent rumours of her father's failing health or death.

"My father had his 89th anniversary recently and is in good health and spends his life as any ordinary older person does," she said. She declined to answer political questions.

South Korea and China established diplomatic relations last year.

Zaki new Pak envoy to US: Akram Zaki, currently Secretary General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been appointed Pakistan's Ambassador to the United States, it was officially announced here Sunday, APP reports from Islamabad.

A career diplomat and poet, Zaki will fill the post which fell vacant when Syeda Abida Hussaini resigned as ambassador in April in protest against the dismissal of Premier Nawaz Sharif by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Zaki, 62, has previously served as Ambassador in China, the Philippines and Nigeria, besides, holding senior diplomatic assignments in Washington and Ottawa.

Blast rocks hotel in Belfast: An explosion rocked a hotel in east Belfast in northern Ireland early Monday, injuring a policeman who was searching the area after a telephoned warning, police said. Reuter reports from London.

The officer was hurt as he tried to evacuate the Stormont Hotel, a local resident said. He said he saw a man running from a parked car shortly before it exploded outside the hotel. The building was reported to be badly damaged.

Delhi bomb blast incident

Three Sikh groups claim responsibility

NEW DELHI, Sept 13: Three Sikh separatist factions from Punjab have claimed responsibility for the weekend car bomb blast which killed eight people and injured 40 in downtown New Delhi, police and newspaper said today, reports AP.

The Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), Khalistan Commando Force (KCF) and the Bhindranwale Tigers Force of Khalistan (BTKF) rebel factions jointly claimed credit for Saturday's massive blast in central New Delhi, they said.

A spokesman for the three separatist groups Sunday telephoned a newspaper in the northern state saying they blew up the explosive-packed car in a bid to kill the chief of the youth wing of India's ruling Congress (I) party.

Maninder Singh Bitta, President of the Indian Youth Congress (I), survived with minor injuries, but four of his guards and four others died in the blast which destroyed 15

Drug dealing for the sake of a country's welfare!

Neo-Nazis hurt German image abroad, says Kohl

BERLIN, Sept 13: Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Monday warned that neo-Nazis have hurt Germany's image abroad, and promised to crack down on the rightist threat, reports AP.

Kohl has come under criticism for failing to curb the neo-Nazi violence that has swept across the country in the nearly three years since German reunification.

In some of his strongest language to date, Kohl declared that "Berlin is not Weimar," a reference to the ill-fated republican whose weaknesses led to the Nazi takeover in 1933.

Kohl, addressing a convention of his Conservative Christian Democrats, emphasized that the neo-Nazis are a minority.

"But the effect of this minority in other countries is bad. So, we have to crack down as hard as we can to nip things in the bud," he added. "We won't tolerate them."

Reflecting his party's philosophy, Kohl also spoke of the danger from the extreme left, in addition to that from the extreme right.

After its former battlefield ally FUNCINPEC won the most parliamentary seats in the election, the Khmer Rouge offered

Khmars want 15 pc share in govt ministries

PHNOM PENH, Sept 13: The Khmer Rouge guerrilla group spelled out Monday how much power it wanted in Cambodia's new government, saying national reconciliation depended on power-sharing, reports AP.

Among its proposals is that it hold a 15 per cent share of control over government ministries, even though it does not hold a single seat in the National Assembly. It also proposed taking 20 per cent control over the armed forces.

The Khmer Rouge is one of four factions that signed a 1991 peace accord to end 13 years of war and hold a UN-organized elections.

But the group backed out of the agreement and boycotted the election, held in May. The three other factions — the former Phnom Penh administration, the FUNCINPEC opposition party and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party opposition group — have formed a new administration.

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"Put an end to the two-headed government," the Khmer Rouge said in its statement.

Shevardnadze threatens emergency rule in Georgia

TBILISI, Sept 13: Eduard Shevardnadze, facing an insurrection in western Georgia by supporters of the former president, threatened Sunday to impose emergency rule over his troubled country, reports AP.

A presidential spokesman said Shevardnadze planned to ask the Georgian Parliament this week to declare a national emergency and impose a curfew.

At a Cabinet meeting Saturday, Shevardnadze announced he was assuming the powerful post of interior minister, giving him control of all police forces.

If parliament goes along with the state of emergency, police may be given temporary authority to conduct searches without warrants and hold suspects without court approval.

The most important effect of the declaration, however, could be psychological: It would help convince Georgia's 5.4 million people that Shevardnadze is determined to restore order.

He does not trafficking," he said. "He is wholly confusing. His face, which looks so grandfatherly to a visitor, can turn an aide to stone. His gentleness is belied by the rigid military control he wields over the 'organisation' and this growing community of 13,000 nestled in a tranquil Shan valley.

He is said to have murdered many who disputed his leadership of the rebel Shan state, but he surprised his own aides by breaking down in tears when he heard that the favourite daughter of a training officer had died of illness.

The organisation says its Mong Tai Army (MTA) which it claims now consists of as many as 30,000 soldiers, is a defensive force against Myanmar troops illegally occupying the state of Shan, not a force pro-

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