

Yeltsin goes to Japan Oct 12

TOKYO, Sept 26: Russian President Boris Yeltsin will make an official visit to Japan on October 12, Japanese officials said Sunday, reports AP.

The date was agreed on at a meeting between Japanese Foreign Minister Tadomu Hata and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev in New York, the Foreign Ministry said in Tokyo.

The agreement came despite the turmoil in Moscow, where hard-line lawmakers were holed up in the Russian parliament building.

The ministry said a Russian advance party would come to Tokyo shortly to fix details including the length of the visit.

Japanese officials said a full agenda had not yet been set, but that subjects were expected to include four disputed northern islands seized by Soviet troops in the closing days of World War II.

Yeltsin has cancelled planned visits twice in the past year, although he came to Tokyo in July for the Group of Seven Summit.

Separate politics and religion to decide fate of Jerusalem: King Hussein

AMMAN, Sept 26: King Hussein suggests separating the religious and political questions about the future of Jerusalem as a way for Israelis and Arabs to solve one of the hardest problems in their quest for peace, reports AP.

"Jerusalem is the essence of peace between us," the King said Saturday night. "I don't know what will happen. May be there is a division between the religious aspect of the problem and other aspects of the problem, so that on the demographic aspect Jerusalem can possibly be the capital of both sides."

King Hussein said that protecting the rights of Muslims, Christians and Jews and their holy shrines in Jerusalem could also ease the threats Islamic extremists pose to the stability of their own countries — and to the rest of the world.

The return of Jerusalem, one of Islam's holiest cities after Mecca, is a sacred call to battle by Iran's Islamic revolutionary government and by increasingly militant Muslim organizations in the swath of

Arab nations stretching across North Africa, the Middle East and into Asia.

The King met with Western correspondents over a late-night dinner in Ma'wa palace, whose name in Arabic means 'shelter,' in a hilltop compound overlooking downtown Amman.

The PLO-Israeli accord on limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho has created confusion over the timing of parliament elections in Jordan.

The accord includes a goal of Palestinian elections for a West Bank and Gaza council by mid-June 1994, and Hussein has flatly rejected the idea of having Palestinians living in Jordan vote in both elections.

"They can't vote here and vote there at the same time," he said. "The basic question is

a personal choice for anyone whether they should go or stay."

Hussein said he expected to decide by Wednesday whether Jordan would postpone its parliament elections, or proceed as scheduled on November 8.

"There is even the possibility of having the elections simultaneously with the occupied territories or shortly thereafter," he said.

About 40 per cent of Jordan's 1.6 million eligible voters are Palestinian refugees from Israeli rule. Their decades of economic and political frustrations have provided fertile recruiting ground for Islamic fundamentalists, some of whom advocate overthrowing the monarchy.

Turning to what sort of ties the envisioned Palestinian

state would have with Jordan, the 57-year-old monarch said:

"The idea is confederation — or any other name — but it is something that the Palestinian side seems to be committed to, and I believe it will naturally happen."

He said the Jordanians and Palestinians should begin talks 'urgently' on the matter. "But the final linkage cannot come until there is a Palestine," the King said.

The King looked relaxed and said there was no sign of the cancer that forced the removal of a kidney a year ago. But with an almost apologetic look at his wife, Queen Noor, across the inlaid marble dining table, he said he had not been able to give up smoking at this momentous time of peacemaking.



BRIEFLY

King Birendra in Shenzhen: Nepalese King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya, on a week-long state visit to China, wrapped up Sunday a visit to the scenic southwestern tourist site of Guilin, the Xinhua news agency said, AFP reports from Beijing.

The royal couple arrived Friday in Guilin, famous for its limestone scenery, and spent the next day sightseeing along the Li River. They also attended a banquet hosted by the city's Mayor.

The King and Queen left Guilin Sunday morning for the southern special economic zone of Shenzhen, bordering Hong Kong, the official news agency said.

China's anti-corruption drive: In the latest salvo of China's anti-graft campaign, the government has ordered police to stop charging 16 types of fees and to end 10 types of corrupt behaviour, official media said Sunday, AP reports from Beijing.

Among the fees police must stop charging are those for missing person searches, for registration of residence changes and for handling criminal and public order cases, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

Among the corrupt practices police must stop are smuggling, bending the law to favour relatives and friends, tipping off criminals, having financial interests in entertainment centres such as dance halls and massage parlours, and accepting gifts or securities in connection with official business, the newspaper Legal Daily said.

Another Kuki village torched: Another Kuki village was torched yesterday morning in Manipur despite the continuing hunt by the security men for the arsonists, PTI reports from Imphal.

Official sources said that suspected Naga insurgents had raided Komathabi village in Chandel district and set on fire all the houses.

Meanwhile, coming operation was on at Khoupum in Tamenglong district to trace the NSCN (Muivah fraction) activists who looted arms from a post of the second Manipur rifles where on Saturday.

7 miners die in Ukraine: A methane explosion killed seven miners in eastern Ukraine's Donbass coalfield, local officials said on Saturday, the latest in a series of fatal mishaps in the area's outdated pits, Reuter reports from Kiev.

A duty officer at government offices in the eastern city of Lugansk said the blast occurred on Friday in the town of Xolote, 100 km (60 miles) to the west.

A team of industry officials was inspecting the mine, which was closed. Government experts were investigating the cause.

Policeman shot dead in Cairo: Suspected militants shot and killed a state security policeman in the southern province of Assut on Saturday, bringing to nine the number of policemen killed there this month, security sources said, Reuter reports from Cairo.

They said two gunmen shot Kamal Anwar Abdel-Hamid, 27, in the head and chest in the village of Nazlet Bakour, near Abu Tig, 345 km (215 miles) south of Cairo. Abdel-Hamid, who was standing by the side of the road, died instantly.

Police suspect the gunmen, who escaped, of belonging to the militant El-Gama's El-Islamiya (Islamic group), which has targeted policemen, Christians and foreign tourists in an attempt to overthrow the government.

8 fundamentalists killed: Eight Muslim fundamentalists were killed by security forces in an operation that followed the killing of five members of a patrol, the authorities announced Saturday, AP reports from Algiers.

The incidents took place Thursday the security services said, but released no details of the attack against the patrol in Saida in the western outskirts of Algiers.

Two Islamic militants were killed Tuesday in Ain Defla in the west of Algiers while a third was killed in Tebessa, in the east of the country, the authorities said.

Typhoon lashes Hong Kong: Typhoon Dot whipped Hong Kong with strong winds and torrential rains Sunday, disrupting land and sea traffic and injuring seven people, AP reports from Hong Kong.

The typhoon, packing winds of up to 130 kilometers (81 miles) an hour, forced many shops and businesses to close.

Public transport was curtailed and ferry services to the outlying islands were suspended. Also suspended were ferry services to China and the neighbouring Portuguese enclave of Macao.

Bloodshed to continue, warns Mandela

WASHINGTON, Sept 26: African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela warned Saturday that the bloodshed in South Africa will continue until voters elect a new government next year, reports AFP.

"Until these elections take place, we must expect this violence to continue in one form or another," Mandela said in a Cable News Network (CNN) television interview, the day after he called for an end to international economic sanctions against South Africa.

Mandela's call, in a speech before the anti-apartheid committee of the UN General Assembly, was in response to Thursday's vote by the All-White South African Parliament

Suu Kyi ready for talks with Myanmar junta on her terms

YANGON, Sept 26: The iron will of Myanmar junta and the stubborn determination of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi remain locked in quiet combat, and analysts here say neither likely will taste sweet victory any time soon, reports AFP.

Suu Kyi, winner of the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize, has been held incommunicado in her family's heavily-guarded home on the shore of Inya lake since July 1989, refusing to pay the military's price for freedom: immediate exile.

The military has laid down their terms and have made no attempt to compromise, said one diplomat. "There is no evidence that she is prepared to leave on those terms — there's a stand-off."

"They don't really know

what to do with her so they do nothing," he added.

An Asian diplomat also said there was no sign of the stand-off ending. "There is no meeting of minds."

Sources here dismissed rumours earlier this year that the 48-year-old Suu Kyi was negotiating with the junta, officially called the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

"In the long run I think she wants to negotiate but it has to be on her terms," said another Yangon envoy. "Their terms are unyielding."

"I think she will hold out," he added. "She will not accept release with any constraints on her freedom."

Ordinary Myanmar people fear even of mentioning her name in public, privately say

Suu Kyi remains in their hearts.

The frail-looking daughter of independence hero Aung San returned to Yangon from England in 1988 to nurse her ailing mother, and soon was swept up in the mass demonstrations that erupted after almost three decades of totalitarian military rule.

In her first public appearance she told a huge cheering crowd that Myanmar needed a second struggle for independence, and quickly became the focus of the pro-democracy movement.

The military seized power that September, killing thousands.

The National League for Democracy (NLD) that she co-founded swept elections in 1990 even though she had

been slapped under house arrest on vague accusations of violating security laws and barred from running in the elections.

The junta refused to yield power, however, insisting a new constitution be drafted and new elections held.

One foreign source here predicted the junta will wait until the passage of time renders the 1990 poll irrelevant before considering her release.

Earlier this year the junta hinted for the first time that Suu Kyi might be freed and allowed to stay in Myanmar.

"It is a matter of timing, time and conditions," deputy intelligence chief Lieutenant Colonel Kyaw Win said in January. "Once a new government is formed the situation regarding her release will be

changed."

A national convention is expected to finish drafting a new

constitution next year and the military, which diplomats say

is determined to retain power, may then hold new elections.

A western diplomat said Suu Kyi probably would not seek power upon her release but would demand her freedom.

"She doesn't expect to be made president," he said. "What she wants is to be free in her own country."

Sources here say SLORC officials visit Suu Kyi regularly to ensure she is well. Her husband, British academic Michael Aris, and their two teenage sons have since last year been allowed to visit whenever they want.

Last February, several other Nobelists began campaigning for the release of their 'sister,' who won the prize for her peaceful opposition to the junta.

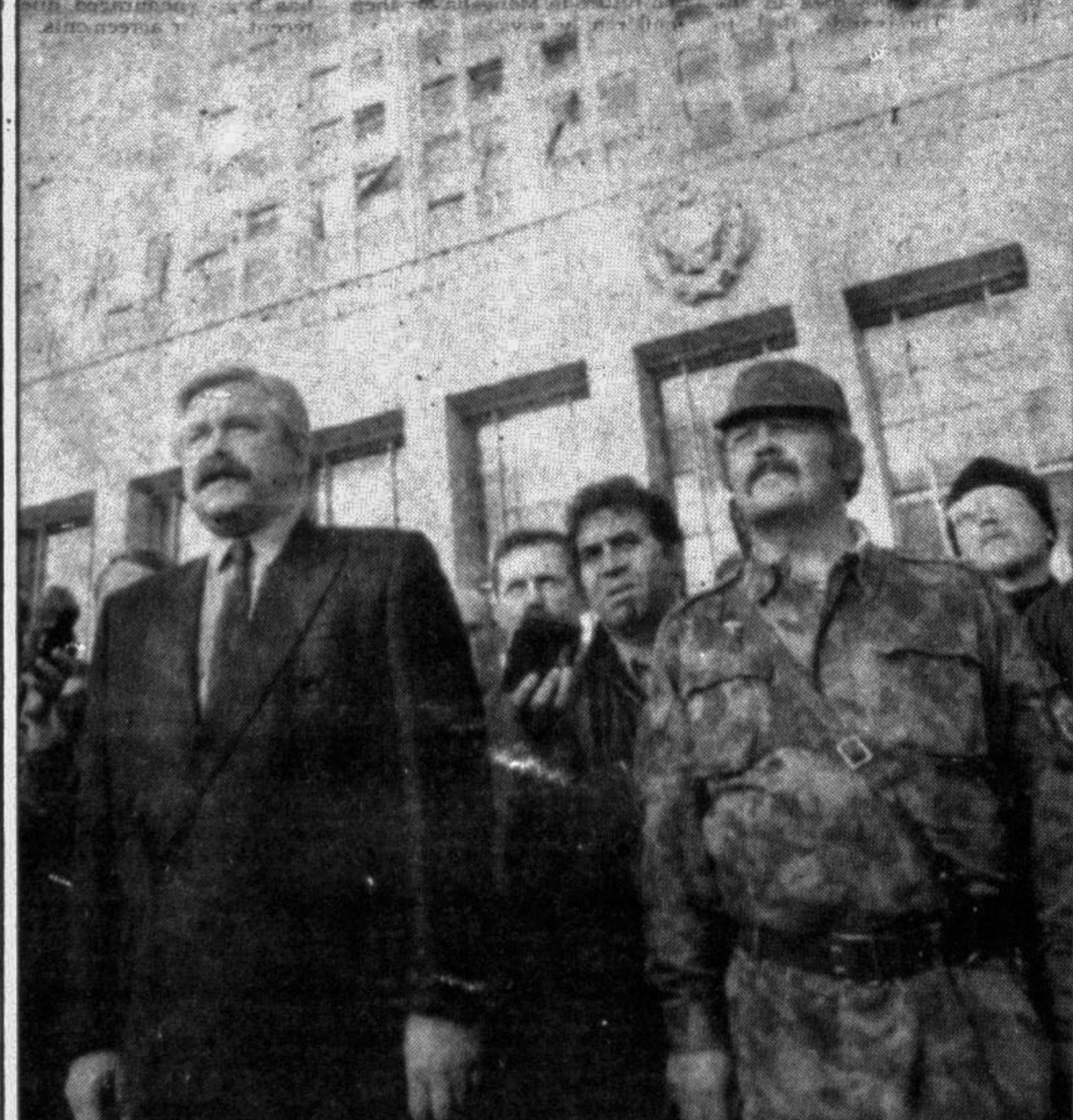
UNITA rebels attack govt troops

LUANDA, Sept 26: UNITA rebels on Saturday attacked government troops near the central Angolan town of Kuito, military officials said, hours before U.N. sanctions against the rebels were due to take effect, reports AFP.

The rebels attacked at Katoyo in the Kuito region and also killed an unspecified number of civilians who were searching for food at Kunje, about seven kilometres (four miles) from the centre of the beleaguered city.

Eleven civilians were wounded, the military officials stated.

The rebels were stocking arms and ammunition at Kunye, close to government troop positions.



Alexander Rutskoi (L), appointed as acting president by the Russian parliament, stands in front of the parliament building in Moscow on Saturday during a parade of volunteer defenders of the dissolved parliament. Next to Rutskoi is one of the unidentified commanders of the newly formed units.



Aung San Suu Kyi