

BRIEFLY

Mandela agrees to visit Israel: ANC President Nelson Mandela on Monday met Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, accepted an invitation to visit Israel and thanked South African Jews for fighting against apartheid, AP reports from United Nations.

A statement by Israel's UN mission said it was the first time that the ANC president had met an Israeli leader, who extended the invitation. Mandela accepted with pleasure, it said.

The date of the visit was not set.

Five killed in Kashmir violence:

Muslim rebels killed five civilians in Kashmir after dubbing them police informers, as five militants died in unending violence in the Indian state police said Monday, AFP reports from Srinagar.

The civilians included a 67-year-old man and a Hindu, police said in this summer capital of Kashmir. The five were killed on Sunday and Monday after being accused of passing information to Indian security forces.

They were the first reported killings after New Delhi named a Hindu, M M Sabharwal, as the new police chief of Kashmir, where a four-year-old separatist campaign by Muslim guerrillas has left thousands dead.

IRA bombs rock Belfast: Two IRA bombs exploded Monday in Belfast, causing no injuries but underscoring that peace may be a long way off despite a flurry of reports suggesting progress in ending the conflict, AP reports from Belfast.

The first bomb exploded early Monday in central Belfast, causing minor damage to some buildings. A second bomb went off Monday night at a shopping centre in the south of the city. No damage was reported.

More than 3,000 people have died in 23 years of political and sectarian violence in the troubled province.

Road mishap claims 2 in China:

Two people died and one was injured when a truck collided with a passenger train in China's eastern Jiangsu province, the China Daily reported Tuesday, AFP says from Beijing.

The brakes of the truck failed and it smashed through the barrier at a railway junction near the town of Xinzhou on Friday, colliding into the side of the passing train, the English language daily reported.

The train was one of China's latest double-decker tourist services, travelling from Shanghai to the Jiangsu capital Nanjing, 300 kilometres (180 miles) to the west.

James Doolittle dead: Retired Lt. Gen.

James H Doolittle, who became a national hero when he led the first World War II bombing raid on Japan in 1942, died Monday at 96, AP reports from Pebble Beach.

Doolittle died at his son's home after suffering a stroke earlier this month.

He established an unparalleled string of aviation records in the 1920s and '30s, first as an army pilot and then as an employee of the Shell Oil Co. In 1925, he became one of the first people to earn a doctorate in aeronautics.

But he was remembered above all for leading the April 18, 1942, raid on Japan.

Maoists kill 5 in Peru: Maoist Shining Path guerrillas killed five people and seriously wounded two others in attacks around the country, police said Monday, AP reports from Lima.

In the worst attack, the rebels on Sunday shot dead three traders in Lima's working-class Canta Grande district, police said. The rebels accused the three of being drug addicts.

Also Sunday, rebels overran the Andean community of Larraguiri in the department of Puno, 525 miles (845 kilometres) southeast of Lima, killing a policeman and destroying the police station and government buildings.

In other violence, rebels killed an eight-year-old girl and seriously wounded her parents last Thursday near the central jungle town of La Merced, 145 miles (230 kilometres) east of Lima.

Lankan planes bomb rebel bases:

Shri Lankan air force planes bombed suspected rebel bases in two northern districts Tuesday, the military spokesman said, AP reports from Colombo.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the attacks in the districts of Jaffna, the rebel stronghold on the northern peninsula, and Kilinochchi on the mainland, eight miles (12 km) south of the peninsula.

An indefinite curfew was imposed Monday in the districts of Mannar and Mullaitivu, on the northwestern and northeastern coasts, after five soldiers were killed in battles with Tamil guerrillas, said spokesman Brigadier Nalin Angammal.

Commission to study grievances of Pak non-Muslims

ISLAMABAD, Sept 28: Pakistan's caretaker government set up a commission on Monday to study the grievances of the Islamic country's non-Muslim minorities and recommend remedies, reports Reuter.

The commission, headed by Religious Minority Affairs Minister Abdul Shakoor-U-Salam, will look into laws, executive orders and procedural practices that may be discriminatory towards the minorities, a government statement said.

Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi's caretaker government must hand over to an elected government after the national elections set for October 6.

Just over three per cent of Pakistan's predominantly Muslim population of more than 120 million are non-Muslims, including Christians, Hindus, Parsees and Buddhists.

A process of Islamisation of Pakistan society started in the 1980s by the late military ruler, General Mohammad Zia-Ul-Haq, led to complaints of discrimination.

DPRK beefs up border forces along South

TOKYO, Sept 28: North Korea has beefed up its forces along the border with South Korea and tripled the number of military flight drills, Japanese media said Tuesday, reports AP.

The national Yomiuri newspaper, quoting sources in Japan's defence Agency, said North Korea's military buildup began early this year.

A similar Washington-dated report in the Mainichi newspaper's Monday evening edition said the information came from analyses by the U.S. Pacific Army and the U.S. Defence Intelligence Agency.

Clinton, Ghali mildly clash on the role UN should play

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 28: President Bill Clinton and UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali politely clashed on Monday on the role the United Nations should play as the world's policeman, reports AP.

Clinton wants the United Nations to limit its actions, Boutros-Ghali wants the world to realise that the UN is playing a new role in bringing peace to a troubled world and wants patience and support for peacekeeping efforts that circle the globe.

In his first speech before a UN General Assembly, Clinton, the bright new President of the United States with a massive

domestic agenda to fill, urged the UN to be more selective in taking on peacekeeping chores and said Washington would be cautious in joining future far-flung missions.

The United Nations simply cannot become engaged in every one of the world's conflicts. If the American people are to say 'yes' to UN peacekeeping, the United Nations must know when to say 'no,' he declared.

But Boutros-Ghali, in a speech to a luncheon meeting of world leaders, seemed to take exception.

"The challenges the world faces will not wait. International action is needed in many fields," he said.

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With Clinton to his right and waiters behind him holding open bottles of champagne for a toast to world peace, Boutros-Ghali declared, "The United Nations which you have come here to attend is not the United Nations of the past. It is a practical instrument for advancing the interests of the world as a whole."

"I hope that supporters and sceptics will understand what is required for success. First it must be understood that there will be failures as well as successes. The United Nations is not a magic wand."

"The challenges the world faces will not wait. International action is needed in many fields," he said.

"This past year has brought some discouraging setbacks. It has also brought some striking

successes. We can take pride in what has been achieved."

But he warned that the problems the United Nations faces cannot be solved quickly and said: "Staying in power is crucial. If the forces of chaos and corruption conclude that the United Nations is short of breath, they will prevail simply by waiting for the world to turn its attention elsewhere."

The UN has more than 80,000 armed peacekeepers scattered around the world, trying to help in 15 countries on four continents. Its forces are credited with stopping starvation in Somalia but not bringing peace there.

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US debt to the United Nations shortly. Washington owes nearly 1 billion dollar for peacekeeping and general dues, half of the total UN debt.

But he wanted the American assessment, which is 25 per cent of the overall UN budget and 31 per cent for peacekeeping, to be cut back in the future.

In his speech, Clinton sought to assure the annual gathering of the world's leaders that the United States was not entering a new period of isolationism.

But he also told the world body that UN peacekeeping operations had not kept pace with its rising responsibilities and "must adapt to new times."

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