

**N Korea builds underground runways**

SEOUL, Oct 8: A South Korean newspaper reported Friday that Communist North Korea has built seven underground runways to protect its planes, reports AP.

The reclusive country is also building two more underground runways near its main nuclear complex in Yongbyun, where international experts believe weapons-grade nuclear waste is stored, according to the Joong-ang Daily News, a major daily.

Some 50-MIG-19 jet fighters have been stationed at the two military airports near Yongbyun, the newspaper quoted high-level military sources as saying. Jets were also observed using underground strips near its capital, the sources said.

Defence Ministry officials said they could not confirm or deny the report.

**Clinton to send fresh troops to Somalia**  
**Aideed orders followers to retaliate**

MOGADISHU, Oct 8: Renegade warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed defied President Bill Clinton's decision to send fresh troops to Somalia and rallied followers today to fight back, reports Reuters.

"Defend yourselves against US aggression," Aideed's clandestine radio message blared across the bombed-out city.

The fugitive warlord repeated accusations the United Nations had distorted its humanitarian mission in order to recolonise the country, but appealed to his people not to harm relief workers and handful of journalists in the broken city.

The broadcast was timed to coincide with Clinton's televised speech in which he vowed the US would not "cut and run" and announced he was sending an extra 5,300 troops to "protect

our troops and to complete our mission."

Clinton, under pressure from Congress and a public outraged by television pictures of Somali gunmen parading bodies of dead US servicemen, promised the American people all but a few hundred troops would be home by March 31.

Mogadishu was calm overnight — the first time for several days UN installations in the city did not come under mortar attack or sniper fire from Aideed's gunmen.

But the heavy clatter of helicopter gunships echoed through the night air, competing with the mournful wailing of a single Somali voice.

In sharp contrast to Clinton's solid 10-minute speech, Aideed's broadcast rambled on for a full hour and again focu-

sed invective on his favourite topics — US imperialism, UN colonialism and foreign oppressors.

Major David Stockwell, a UN military spokesman, said the main role of the new troops would be "force protection."

"That means protecting convoys, bases and compounds and the main supply routes," he said at an early morning briefing.

Clinton made clear the reinforcements would be under US and not UN command.

The 15,000-strong UN force in the city has been virtually confined to bases for two months and has ceded Mogadishu's streets to Aideed's gunmen.

Stockwell said he had no idea when extra troops and military hardware would arrive, but witnesses said activity

around Mogadishu's airport was already intense.

Giant C-5 galaxy aircraft have been delivering men, tanks, helicopters and equipment for the last three days, they said.

Clinton was forced to act after at least 13 US soldiers were killed and 84 wounded in a gun battle last Sunday.

A further six Americans were listed as missing, possibly including two corpses which were dragged about the city and burned by joyous Somali youths.

Max Hadorn, chief delegate for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Mogadishu, estimated Somali casualties from the 16-hour battle in residential areas and a city market at 200 dead and 700 wounded, a third of them women and

children.

Of the missing Americans, only warrant officer Michael Durant, pilot of the third US Black Hawk helicopter to be shot down, was known to be alive and held prisoner. The ICRC was trying to win the right to visit him.

His whereabouts were not known, but Aideed's militia said it wanted to use him in bargaining for the release of about 180 Somalis detained by the United Nations.

A US administration official said the reinforcements would be "very aggressive" in helping restore order, but many aid workers believed there was no clean way out of the Somali quagmire and yet more deaths would result.

Refugee workers from the United Nations and some inde-

**Bodos attack settlers, non-tribals**

NEW DELHI, Oct 8: Tribal guerrillas campaigning for autonomy in Assam launched a major attack on settlers and non-tribals Thursday in the northeastern Indian state, news reports said, according to AFP.

Bodo tribal activists torched scores of homes in Assam's Kokrajhar and Bongaigaon districts, forcing some 2,000 people to flee, United News of India said early today.

The Press Trust of India said that up to 1,000 victims of the unprecedented arson had taken shelter in makeshift camps elsewhere after the attack, the first reported by Bodo tribesmen in recent years in Assam.

So far, both news agencies said, there were no reports available of any casualties.

The state government deployed the army in the two lower Assam districts after the torching by the Bodos of hundreds of homes, the news agencies said.

**BRIEFLY**

**Leak at Russian N-plant:** A small amount of radioactive sodium leaked from a Russian nuclear power station in Yekaterinburg in the Urals, the Itar-Tass news agency reported Thursday, AFP says from Moscow.

The level of radioactivity in the power station's ventilation system rose because of a leak of sodium 24, which has a half life of around two weeks, the agency cited the atomic energy ministry as saying.

"There is no danger of contamination in the area," the ministry said, adding that no personnel were evacuated from the plant.

**Former French PM fined:** Former Prime Minister Michel Rocard was fined 18,000 francs (1,750 US dollar) Thursday for defamation for having accused a far-right politician of torture during the Algerian war for independence, AP reports from Paris.

Rocard, a socialist, was fined 10,000 francs plus 8,000 francs for damages in a suit filed by Jean-Marie Le Pen, head of the ultra-rightist National Front.

Rocard had said on a television interview show in February 1992 of Le Pen "He then went to Algeria. He tortured." A Paris court ruled that Rocard "did not have sufficient evidence to believe the veracity of his attacks" and could thus not justify his comment.

**Jackson resumes world tour:** Michael Jackson, dogged this summer by allegations of child molestation, has resumed his worldwide "Dangerous" concert tour after a break, his publicist said, AP reports from Los Angeles.

Jackson was scheduled to kick off the new leg of his tour with appearances in Buenos Aires' River Plate Stadium set for Friday, Sunday and Tuesday.

From Argentina, he is to move on to Chile, Peru, Mexico, Venezuela and Puerto Rico.

**Diana Ross honoured:** Pop star Diana Ross, who received a lifetime achievement award Thursday night, reminisced about her early days in industry and said, "It seems like yesterday. I love the music," AP reports from London.

"I have been very lucky, although it has been a lot of hard work but it is all down to the selection of the songs and the musicians and they have all been wonderful," said the glamorous 49-year-old actress and singer.

The award, from EMI records and the Guinness Book of Records, calls her the most successful female pop artist of all time.

**Thai jet fighter crashes:** A Thai jet fighter F-5R crashed into the sea Thursday and its pilot was feared dead, an air force official said, Reuters reports from Bangkok.

A spokesman for Thai Air Force said the US-made single seat fighter was on a training operation from Suratthani airbase south of Bangkok when it crashed into the Gulf of Thailand about 43 KM (27 miles) south of Koh Samui.

A rescue team was sent out to search for the plane and pilot but after six hours it found only oil traces near the site where the plane was supposed to have gone down.

**3 cops die in Colombia blast:** A guerrilla bomb set off by remote control blew up a Bogota bus carrying police, killing three and injuring 30, some seriously, Colombian police said on Thursday, Reuters reports from Bogota.

They said three men in a Volkswagen car appeared to have carried out the attack in the Bogota district of Championero as the bus passed by. It was carrying more than 30 police to a change of guard at a nearby police station.

Police immediately cordoned off the area around the charred wreck of the bus and ferried the dead and injured officers to hospital.

**Floods kill five in S Africa:** Torrential rain caused floods that killed five people and left another seven missing and presumed drowned, officials said Friday, AP reports from South Africa.

Military helicopters swooped over flood areas and rescued more than 70 people from rooftops and trees after the Umfolozi River in northern Natal province overflowed its banks.

The coordinator of rescue operations, Mike Hulett, said there was a good chance more bodies would be found once the waters subsided. Five people were confirmed drowned in the area, and seven were missing.

**Koirala leaves for UN:** Nepalese Prime Minister Ghrjya Prasad Koirala left Nepal Friday for New York to attend the 48th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Xinhua reports from Kathmandu.

The Prime Minister is scheduled to address the UN General Assembly on October 13.

During his stay in New York, Koirala will meet with UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.



NEW JERSEY: US author Toni Morrison smiles in her office at Princeton University while being interviewed by reporters on Thursday. Morrison said "I am outrageously happy" after hearing that she had won the Nobel Prize for Literature. — AFP photo

**Thatcher allowed arms sales to Iraq?**

LONDON, Oct 8: Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher approved

a decision to allow a British company to make illegal sales of military equipment to Iraq, a judicial inquiry was told here Thursday, reports AFP.

The inquiry heard extracts from an internal memorandum by a senior Defence Ministry official, Alan Barratt, saying that Thatcher had decided that export licences to Iraq granted to machine-tools manufacturer Matrix-Churchill should not be cancelled.

Thatcher had decided to ignore intelligence service reports that Iraq was putting the equipment to military use in order to protect intelligence sources, the memorandum said. It was the first time Thatcher

had been directly linked to the scandal. The British government has always officially maintained that it strictly respected the international embargo on sales to Iraq of material of military potential.

The scandal broke last November when three executives of Matrix-Churchill were acquitted of charges of breaking the embargo after it emerged that government officials had encouraged the illegal sales.

During the inquiry, ordered by Thatcher's successor John Major, former Foreign Office officials have accused the Ministers of Defence and Industry of applying strong pressure to maintain exports to Iraq.

Thatcher has also been invited to appear before the commission but has so far not replied.

**Iraq seeks int'l help to end sanctions**

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 8: Iraq urged the international community on Thursday to support its demand for an end to U.N. sanctions imposed after its invasion of Kuwait, reports Reuters.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf also called for a lifting of the "no fly" bans enforced since the end of the Gulf War.

"A single power, i.e. the United States of America, has sought to control the manner in which the U.N. addresses international issues and steers it in accordance with U.S. interests," Al-Sahaf said.

In a speech to the General

Assembly that made no mention of Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he said the United States had "not found it enough to perpetrate the military aggression it launched against Iraq on January 17, 1991."

That date marked the start of air strikes by a U.S.-led coalition that a few weeks later drove Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

Al-Sahaf said other acts of aggression had been carried out "under various false pretexts," including "some unfounded allegations claiming there was a conspiracy against the life of former President George Bush."

He said Iraq found itself in a situation not experienced by

any other U.N. founding member, including sanctions which deprived its people of basic human needs, prevented the export of its natural resources — oil — froze its assets and prevented the use of its civil aircraft and ships.

Referring to U.N. weapons teams sent to find and scrap Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction, he said Iraq had cooperated, in compliance with Security Council resolutions, but the council had not fulfilled its obligation to lift the three-year-old sanctions.

The United Nations says Baghdad has not yet complied with all its resolutions and a

large weapons team is now visiting Iraq.

Al-Sahaf said: "We hereby call upon all countries of the world to support our initiative for dialogue and understanding to prevail between the council and Iraq, so that this may lead without delay to the lifting of the unjust and iniquitous blockade imposed on our country, instead of resorting to the methods of coercion, threat and aggression."

He urged the international community to consider Iraq's demand for its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity to be respected and for the removal of the "no fly zones" illegally imposed on parts of Iraq.

**5 shot dead in S Africa**

JOHANNESBURG, Oct 8: Five people were shot dead when South African troops raided a house used by black guerrillas in the Transkei homeland today, the army said, reports Reuters.

"A quantity of arms and documents were seized ... a defence force statement said. "During the operation five people in the house were killed when they offered resistance."

The statement said the raid occurred early today at a house in Umata, the nominally independent homeland's capital near the Indian Ocean coast. It said the house was used by APLA (Azanian People's Liberation Army), the armed wing of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC).

"The house is a confirmed APLA facility," the statement said.

"The decision to raid the house was taken because intelligence indicated that it was used as a springboard for criminal acts of terror on unarmed South African civilians. This intelligence was obtained inter alia from sources in the custody of the South African police."

There was no immediate comment from the radical PAC.

**Trauma haunts quake survivors**

KILLARI, India, Oct 8: Doctors working round-the-clock in India's earthquake relief centers have prevented epidemics of water-borne diseases such as cholera and have little time to help the many people suffering from shock and depression, reports AP.

Every night, 7-year-old Mahesh Gungote, who lost two sisters and uncle, wakes up in one of the 100 tents in Killari refugee camp screaming, "The house will fall; The house will fall!"

Within seconds, many other survivors are startled awake, and most of them spend the rest of the night thinking about relatives they lost when their homes collapsed in the quake on September 30.

"We are getting at least 100 new people a day suffering from trauma," Dr. Achijet Sowani said as he walked through the camp, which was built inside the gauges of a local sugar factory.

"More than half the patients I see are still suffering shock. The social workers are trying to talk people out of their trauma

and depression. But the treatment is hampered by the absence of psychiatrists and our battle against epidemics," he said.

More than 10,000 people were killed in the earthquake in southwestern India, by official count, and thousands more are missing, leading some death toll estimates to range as high as 30,000. Relief workers say 120,000 people have been left homeless.

Doctors have spent most of their time in detecting for gastroenteritis and cholera. Of this 5,000 people living in the Killari refugee camp, more than 500 have been treated for gastroenteritis, which brings on severe diarrhoea and dehydration.

Trucks carrying clean water distribute it daily to prevent people from drinking water from lakes and wells that were contaminated by rotting corpses of humans and livestock.

So far not enough DDT is available to spray around the camp to ward off malaria-carrying mosquitoes, Sowani said.

**Women demonstrate in Gaza**

GAZA CITY, Oct 8: Hundreds of Palestinian women demonstrated Thursday in Occupied Gaza City for the release of their sons and husbands held in Israeli jails, reports AFP.

The women staged a sit-in outside the offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and then marched through the town brandishing photographs of their menfolk and carrying banners proclaiming "no peace without freedom for all prisoners."

They called on Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to show leniency.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction held another demonstration for the prisoners in Nablus on the Occupied West Bank. Hundreds of Palestinian demonstrators were joined by members of Israel's "peace now" movement.

In Babluis, the main Palestinian leader in the occupied territories, Faisal Hussein, said: "there will be no peace as long as there are Palestinian" in Israeli prisons.

"These are our men, our fighters and we will never abandon them," he said. Nearly 12,500 Palestinians are held in Israeli prisons, according to the ICRC.

**Off the Record**

**Shiva's leg was moving on the funeral pyre**

BOMBAY: A 35-year-old man found in the wreckage of a collapsed home in the earthquake zone of western India was presumed dead and about to be cremated when rescue workers saw his leg twitch, a newspaper said yesterday, reports AP.

Rescuers noticed at the last moment Thursday that Shiva Nhari's leg was moving on the funeral pyre and immediately shifted him to a mobile army hospital in the small town of Khillari, the Maharashtra Times said.

Nhari was one of two survivors found Thursday, exactly a week after the giant temblor devastated villages in the southern part of Maharashtra state the other was a seven-year-old girl, Munnimma Ghulam Patwari, who was found unconscious but alive in the village of Taini.

An estimated 30,000 people are believed to have lost their lives in the quake, which registered 6.4 degrees on the Richter scale and flattened more than 70 villages and small towns in Maharashtra.

**Card of corruption**

TAIPEI, Taiwan: Premier Lien Chan urged government officials Friday to do contribute to an anti-corruption drive by refusing free golf club memberships, reports AP.

Lien was speaking at a legislative session where an opposition lawmaker claimed many officials accept VIP membership cards in exchange for favours to the golf club owners.

"A golf club VIP card is a card of corruption," said Lee Ching-hua of the New Party.

The cards sell for up to 5 million Taiwan dollars (US dls 190,000), he said.

Premier Lien, himself a golfer, said he did not have any such cards.



Miss Colombia, Kathy Saenz waves to audience after she is elected as the Miss National Costume of the Miss International beauty pageant in Tokyo on Friday on the eve of Miss International final. — AFP photo

**Cambodian troops intensify attack on Khmer Rouge**

PHNOM PENH, Oct 8: Cambodian government troops have begun a "significant" offensive into the northern stronghold of Anlong Veng, the base of Khmer Rouge General Ta Mok near the border with Thailand, government and diplomatic sources said today, reports AP.

Government troops have advanced to within 10 kilometres (six miles) of Anlong Veng from the south and west, but the advance was slowed by rain and resulting muddy road conditions, one western diplomatic source said.

"I would call it quite significant," he said.

**MPs from around world urged to back democracy in Myanmar**

BANGKOK (Thailand), Oct 8: A human rights group Friday appealed to parliamentarians in more than 100 countries, to back a call for the restoration of democracy and release of all political prisoners in military-ruled Myanmar, reports AP.

The Canada-based International Center for Human Rights and Democracy seeks to get thousands of parliamentarians to sign a petition to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The petition urges the world body to take action to restore democracy in the Southeast Asian nation.

"It is our hope that this global petition signed by hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of elected men and women from around the world and submit-

ted before the end of this year will result in determined action by the United Nations," Center president Edward Broadbent told a press conference after launching the petition drive.

"We deplore and condemn the almost complete disregard for human rights Myanmar," the petition says.

It calls on the world body to press the ruling junta to unconditionally release all political prisoners, including pro-democracy leader and Nobel Peace prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi.

The petition also urges a swift transition to civilian rule on the basis of a 1990 general election, swept Suu Kyi's party but annulled by the ruling State Law and Order Restoration

Council (SLORC). Myanmar military has been condemned by nations around the world and its human rights abuses are being monitored by some governments and many non-government organisations.

The London-based Amnesty International earlier Friday charged that opposition party members and ethnic minorities in Myanmar "live in an atmosphere of fear which pervades all areas of the country."

An Amnesty report said that despite the release of more than 1,700 political prisoners since April 1992, hundreds of others were believed still imprisoned after unfair trials. These include 38 who won parliamentary seats in the 1990 elections.

The petition by the Montreal-based Center was a follow-up to similar appeals by 10 Nobel Peace Prize laureates. The Center organised a trip by the winners to Thailand and the Thai-Myanmar border last February.

Analysts say these and other pressures have had very limited effect on the isolationist Myanmar military, which has ruled Myanmar since 1962. In 1988, the military brutally crushed a nationwide pro-democracy uprising.

Broadbent said among the most effective ways to restore democracy would be collective action by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN. The grouping includes Thailand, Indonesia, Brunei,

Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines.

But ASEAN has criticised Western attempts to pressure Myanmar and instead has stepped up trade and investments in the resource-rich country. Thailand maintains especially close relations with the Myanmar military and China has sold SLORC vast quantities of weaponry.

In an unprecedented move, a 17-member Thai parliamentary committee demanded that all parliamentarians and governments of Southeast Asia bring pressure on the Myanmar military to "return full human rights to all the people of Myanmar" and release all political prisoners.

It also set a series of condi-

tions on Myanmar admission to ASEAN including turning political power to the victors of the 1990 elections and a cease-fire in the war against the country's ethnic minorities. The Thai government is advocating Myanmar's inclusion in ASEAN.

Broadbent said the 17 members of the Parliamentary Committee on Justice and Human Rights would be the first to sign the petition.

A committee member at the same press conference said "we never imagined that SLORC's silent war against the ethnic villagers ... would continue so savagely in the form of forced labour, rape, forced relocations, the establishment of free fire zones and executions."

**Gunmen hit Israeli patrol**

MARJAYOUN (Lebanon), Oct 8: Unidentified gunmen in south Lebanon opened fire at an Israeli patrol across the border inside the Jewish state Thursday. Security sources said there were no casualties in the attack, reports AP.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the gunmen attacked the patrol with machine-gun fire, operating from near the town of Markaba which is three kilometres (1.8 miles) west of the Lebanese-Israeli border.

Markaba lies inside Israel's self-styled "security zone" in south Lebanon. The sources said Israeli troops inside the zone shelled wooded valleys around Markaba.