

## Talks on Somalia postponed for fourth time

NAIROBI, May 30: Talks between Somalia's warring factions scheduled to open here today have been postponed for the fourth time in two months, a UN official said, reports AFP.

A new date for the talks will be announced later, after further consultations between the United Nations and the Somali groups, said Huntley Anderson, an official of the UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM).

The decision to postpone the negotiations was taken at a UN officials' meeting held here during the weekend and on Monday and attended by the UN Secretary-General's special representative to Somalia Lansana Kouyaté.

Anderson could not give details on the reasons for the postponement. "We want to make sure the meal is well cooked before serving it," he said.

The talks, to prepare the ground for a national peace and reconciliation conference, were proposed after Somalia's two chief warlords, Mohamed Farah Aideed and self-styled Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohamed, signed a UN-brokered national reconciliation agreement in Nairobi in March.

## Cuba blames US for Belgian embassy incident

MEXICO CITY, May 30: Cuba has accused the United States of inciting more than 100 asylum-seekers to storm the Belgian embassy, reports AP.

A total of 114 Cubans raced through an open door or hopped a wrought-iron fence to get into the embassy on Saturday. They displayed a placard appealing for asylum and denouncing President Fidel Castro, the Mexico City newspaper Excelsior reported from Havana.

## BRIEFLY

**Indian president in Bucharest:** Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma arrived in Bucharest yesterday on a four-day official visit during which he is expected to sign several cooperation accords involving tourism and organised crime, local radio reported. AFP says from Bucharest.

Sharma was invited to Bucharest by his Romanian counterpart Ion Iliescu.

**Ex-Japanese minister jailed:** A former Cabinet minister was sentenced to three years in prison Monday for accepting bribes of 90 million yen (\$65,000 dollar) in one of the corruption cases that helped oust Japan's government last year, AP reports from Tokyo.

Fumio Abe, 71, was convicted of taking the bribes from Kyowa Co., a steel-frame maker, on seven occasions between 1989 and 1990 in return for favours while he headed the Hokkaido Development Agency, a Cabinet-level post.

**Niyazov arrives in Malaysia:** Turkmenistan's President Saparmurat Niyazov arrived in Kuala Lumpur Monday for a three-day official visit during which he will hold talks on economic cooperation, AP reports from Kuala Lumpur.

Niyazov, accompanied by five deputy prime ministers, five Cabinet ministers and five provincial governors, was given a plush ceremonial welcome that included a 103-member honor guard.

**Australian Everest climber dies:** An Australian mountain climber has died while descending Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain, the Australian department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said yesterday. Reuter reports from Sydney.

Michael Rheinberger, 53, was one of two climbers in a large American-organised expedition who reached the summit but were trapped overnight by bad weather as they made their way down, a department spokesman said.

**Walesa to stand for re-election:** Polish President Lech Walesa said on Sunday he would stand for re-election in next year's presidential contest. Reuter reports from Warsaw.

State television showed Walesa moving into his new Warsaw residence, a historic 18th-century palace, and quipping that it would be his home for the next seven years.

A television reporter asked whether that meant he would stand for re-election. The President replied: "From what I see, it seems I shall have to." He did not elaborate.

**Agra totally literate district:** Agra was declared the first totally literate district in UP at a function held Sunday night, PTI reports from Agra.

Speaking at function to award certificates to neoliterates, the Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Arjun Singh said the total literacy programme, initiated by Rajiv Gandhi in 1988, had made great strides in the last six years.

**China executes 4 for smuggling:** In an attack on rampant smuggling by coastal officials, China executed three frontier police and a former trade officer for smuggling cigarettes, official newspapers said Monday. AP reports from Beijing.

Smuggling has become a multi-billion dollar business in recent years, with cigarettes, liquor, cars and other high-tariff items brought in from Hong Kong or from ships that anchor offshore.

## Two missing in Russian dam burst

MOSCOW, May 30: Two people were missing and several homes were washed away after a dam burst in a village in central Russia, a news agency reported Monday, reports AP.

Part of a major highway was also washed away near the village of Satis, 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of the city of Nizhny Novgorod on the Volga River, the Interfax news agency said.

The dam burst Sunday, washing away several houses in the village. Two people were reported missing, the agency said.

Repair work on the dam has begun, the agency said.

Repair work on the dam has begun, the agency said.

## International

# Rwandan rebels cut off army's last avenue of retreat

NAIROBI, May 30: Rebels cut off the army's last avenue to retreat from Rwanda's capital Monday, just hours before the two sides were to begin UN mediated talks on a cease fire, reports AP.

Small arms fire near UN headquarters in Kigali delayed the start of the talks Monday morning. UN spokesman Abdul Kabir said shooting kept negotiators and their UN escorts from reaching the headquarters. He said they would try again later Monday.

Most of the fighting Monday was concentrated around Gaddafi Corner, a key intersection on the west side of Kigali where soldiers had controlled access to the highway to Gitarama.

A UN source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the insurgents captured the intersection overnight and cut off the army's last avenue of retreat from the capital.

Rebels earlier had captured hills overlooking the highway to Gitarama, but despite rebel fire from the high ground the government was still able to move troops from Kigali to the seat of the interim government.

The UN source said the United Nations had received reports that the interim government had fled Gitarama over the weekend to Kibuye, a city in far western Rwanda on the shores of Lake Kivu. The source said UN officials in Gitarama had been unable to confirm the report.

Rebels reportedly were advancing on Gitarama from the east and the south. An Associated Press photographer who was in Gitarama on Thursday saw government workers stacking boxes of files, equipment and luggage outside the door of the government buildings.

After a night of only light fighting in most parts of Kigali, the United Nations said it would resume its efforts to evacuate some of the displaced people stranded at the national stadium and the Miles Collins Hotel.

Before the evacuations began, there were more than 12,000 people who had sought refuge from the ethnic sav-

age at 11 locations in the capital that are protected by the United Nations.

About 200,000 people are estimated to have been killed and about 2 million displaced since the ethnic bloodletting began after Rwanda's president was killed in a suspicious plane crash April 6.

Most of the dead were minority Tutsis and Hutu opponents of the government. They were slaughtered by the Hutu presidential guard, some military units and civilian gangs organized by extreme Hutu politicians.

The massacres shattered a ceasefire signed in Tanzania last August by the government, which is dominated by the majority Tutsis, and the Tutsi-led rebel Rwandan Patriotic Front.

Sporadic small arms and mortar fire Sunday thwarted UN plans to evacuate 800 of 4,800 people who have taken refuge for weeks with little food or water in the national stadium. About 1,180 people have been evacuated since Friday and another 1,500 left on their own.

A radio broadcast by the rebels on Sunday blamed government forces for a halt in the exchange of refugees. The radio report, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, said the government forced the exchange to stop after it tried to change the terms of an agreement on how many people would be exchanged.

Kabir said the UN would try again Monday to evacuate 800 to 1,000 people from the stadium, the hotel and if possible from a church school.

Evacuated Hutus are opting to go to government-controlled western Rwanda, while Tutsis prefer to relocate in rebel-held areas, mostly in the north and east of Kigali.

A young girl holds her sister in her arms on the roadside, 23 kms out of Kigali as they flee the war-ravaged Rwandan capital with their father on May 27. Their mother went missing in the fighting in Kigali and is believed to be dead. — AFP photo

## ROK asks US not to resume high-level talks with North

not to be identified.

Another ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the South Korean position was conveyed when Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo met with US Ambassador James Laney on Monday.

The two countries shared the view that the North Korean nuclear issue is entering its most serious stage and that the present situation is extremely worrisome, ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said of the Han-Laney meeting.

South Korea also is asking China to persuade North Korea to change its hard-line stand against full inspections, they said.

It was not known how the two countries were responding to the South Korean request.

The United States is a major ally of pro-western South Korea. China, as a longtime ally of the Communist North, is believed to have some influence in Pyongyang.

"It is our government's position that there should be no high-level US-North Korea talks unless agreement is reached with the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) on inspections," said a ministry official, who asked

not to be identified.

Another ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the South Korean position was conveyed when Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo met with US Ambassador James Laney on Monday.

The two countries shared the view that the North Korean nuclear issue is entering its most serious stage and that the present situation is extremely worrisome, ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said of the Han-Laney meeting.

Last week, the United States said it was willing to resume high-level talks with North Korea on the nuclear dispute and setting terms for better bilateral relations. Two previous rounds of talks made no progress.

But the situation took a sharp turn over the weekend after the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, declared that it had

not to be identified.

Another ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the South Korean position was conveyed when Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo met with US Ambassador James Laney on Monday.

The two countries shared the view that the North Korean nuclear issue is entering its most serious stage and that the present situation is extremely worrisome, ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said of the Han-Laney meeting.

Last week, the United States said it was willing to resume high-level talks with North Korea on the nuclear dispute and setting terms for better bilateral relations. Two previous rounds of talks made no progress.

But the situation took a sharp turn over the weekend after the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, declared that it had

not to be identified.

Another ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the South Korean position was conveyed when Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo met with US Ambassador James Laney on Monday.

The two countries shared the view that the North Korean nuclear issue is entering its most serious stage and that the present situation is extremely worrisome, ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said of the Han-Laney meeting.

Last week, the United States said it was willing to resume high-level talks with North Korea on the nuclear dispute and setting terms for better bilateral relations. Two previous rounds of talks made no progress.

But the situation took a sharp turn over the weekend after the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, declared that it had

not to be identified.

Another ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the South Korean position was conveyed when Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo met with US Ambassador James Laney on Monday.

The two countries shared the view that the North Korean nuclear issue is entering its most serious stage and that the present situation is extremely worrisome, ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said of the Han-Laney meeting.

Last week, the United States said it was willing to resume high-level talks with North Korea on the nuclear dispute and setting terms for better bilateral relations. Two previous rounds of talks made no progress.

But the situation took a sharp turn over the weekend after the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, declared that it had

not to be identified.

Another ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the South Korean position was conveyed when Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo met with US Ambassador James Laney on Monday.

The two countries shared the view that the North Korean nuclear issue is entering its most serious stage and that the present situation is extremely worrisome, ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said of the Han-Laney meeting.

Last week, the United States said it was willing to resume high-level talks with North Korea on the nuclear dispute and setting terms for better bilateral relations. Two previous rounds of talks made no progress.

But the situation took a sharp turn over the weekend after the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, declared that it had

not to be identified.

Another ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the South Korean position was conveyed when Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo met with US Ambassador James Laney on Monday.

The two countries shared the view that the North Korean nuclear issue is entering its most serious stage and that the present situation is extremely worrisome, ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said of the Han-Laney meeting.

Last week, the United States said it was willing to resume high-level talks with North Korea on the nuclear dispute and setting terms for better bilateral relations. Two previous rounds of talks made no progress.

But the situation took a sharp turn over the weekend after the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, declared that it had

not to be identified.

Another ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the South Korean position was conveyed when Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo met with US Ambassador James Laney on Monday.

The two countries shared the view that the North Korean nuclear issue is entering its most serious stage and that the present situation is extremely worrisome, ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said of the Han-Laney meeting.

Last week, the United States said it was willing to resume high-level talks with North Korea on the nuclear dispute and setting terms for better bilateral relations. Two previous rounds of talks made no progress.

But the situation took a sharp turn over the weekend after the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, declared that it had

not to be identified.

Another ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the South Korean position was conveyed when Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo met with US Ambassador James Laney on Monday.

The two countries shared the view that the North Korean nuclear issue is entering its most serious stage and that the present situation is extremely worrisome, ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said of the Han-Laney meeting.

Last week, the United States said it was willing to resume high-level talks with North Korea on the nuclear dispute and setting terms for better bilateral relations. Two previous rounds of talks made no progress.

But the situation took a sharp turn over the weekend after the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, declared that it had

not to be identified.

Another ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the South Korean position was conveyed when Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo met with US Ambassador James Laney on Monday.

The two countries shared the view that the North Korean nuclear issue is entering its most serious stage and that the present situation is extremely worrisome, ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said of the Han-Laney meeting.

Last week, the United States said it was willing to resume high-level talks with North Korea on the nuclear dispute and setting terms for better bilateral relations. Two previous rounds of talks made no progress.

But the situation took a sharp turn over the weekend after the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, declared that it had

not to be identified.

Another ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the South Korean position was conveyed when Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo met with US Ambassador James Laney on Monday.

The two countries shared the view that the North Korean nuclear issue is entering its most serious stage and that the present situation is extremely worrisome, ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said of the Han-Laney meeting.

Last week, the United States said it was willing to resume high-level talks with North Korea on the nuclear dispute and setting terms for better bilateral relations. Two previous rounds of talks made no progress.

But the situation took a sharp turn over the weekend after the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, declared that it had

not to be identified.

Another ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the South Korean position was conveyed when Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo met with US Ambassador James Laney on Monday.

The two countries shared the view that the North Korean nuclear issue is entering its most serious stage and that the present situation is extremely worrisome, ministry spokesman Chang Ki-ho said of the Han-Laney meeting.

Last week, the United States said it was willing to resume high-level talks with North Korea on the nuclear dispute and setting terms for better bilateral relations. Two previous rounds of talks made no progress.

But the situation took a sharp turn over the weekend after the IAEA, the UN nuclear watchdog, declared that it had

not to be identified.

Another ministry official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the South Korean position was conveyed when Foreign Minister Han Sung-joo met with US Ambassador James Laney on Monday.

The two countries shared the view that the North Korean nuclear issue is entering its most serious stage and that the present situation