

## Rwandan talks resume amid fighting

KIGALI, Rwanda, June 2: Ceasefire talks resumed Thursday in Rwanda's capital after a night of shelling, mostly on the western edges of Kigali where rebels advanced to tighten their grip on the city, reports AP.

United Nations spokesman Abdul Kabia said the heaviest fighting was near Gadhafi Corner, a rebel-held intersection on the west side that controls access to the road to Gitarama, the army's last avenue of retreat.

Army gunners also targeted rebel positions at the airport for the first time since insurgents captured it nearly two weeks ago. There rounds hit the tarmac but did not cause any casualties or disrupt UN aid flights into the city.

A morning lull in the fighting allowed UN aid workers to resume deliveries of food and water to about 25,000 stranded civilians living under UN protection in Kigali. Heavy shelling in the city centre had halted the aid convoys on Wednesday.

More than 2 million people have fled their homes in Rwanda, where nearly two months of fighting and ethnic savagery have claimed an estimated 200,000 lives. Most of the victims were minority Tutsis murdered by the militias of extremist Hutu political parties.

The butchering of civilians by the militias has been accompanied by renewed fighting between the mostly Tutsi Rwandan Patriotic Front rebel movement and the Hutu-dominated government army. The civil war has claimed far fewer lives than ethnic violence.

## China still against UN sanctions DPRK threatens to quit NPT

TOKYO, June 2: North Korea issued a new threat today to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) if the United Nations and its watchdog agency maintained their demands over the North Korean nuclear programme, reports AFP.

"In case pressure is put on us again, we will no longer fall victim to the unreasonable demand but will have to go our own way," a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman, quoted by the official news agency KCNA, said.

The warning came after the UN Security Council on Monday urged North Korea to suspend removal of fuel rods from a five-megawatt reactor at Yongbyon, suspected by the United States to be a nuclear bomb factory.

On Wednesday, North Korea warned of "decisive counter-measures" if the world community imposed sanctions in a bid to prise open its facilities to the scrutiny of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The threat was not spelt out.

The spokesman, in the dispatch received here said: "It is more than intolerable that we have suffered from big obstacles in our peaceful activities, restricted by the unilateral demand of the IAEA."

"If the IAEA secretariat and the UN Security Council, bereft of impartiality, insist on pressure with an unreasonable attitude, we will no longer feel any need to be restricted by such pressure."

North Korea "suspended" the threat to quit the NPT after it won an agreement for a direct dialogue with the United States.

Meanwhile AP says, China said Thursday it still opposes using sanctions to pressure North Korea into allowing fuller international monitoring of its nuclear programme. Throughout the 15-month-long standoff between North Korea and the world over its nuclear programme, China has helped shield its neighbour and ally from UN sanctions and urged dialogue.

Despite the latest developments, "China's position favouring a settlement of the

## Dalai Lama won't shift HQ from Dharmasala

NEW DELHI, June 2: The Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled leader, has dropped plan to shift his headquarters from the northern town of Dharmasala after townspeople appealed to him to stay, a spokesman said Thursday, reports AP.

The killing of an Indian in a fight with a Tibetan on April 22 had prompted the Nobel laureate to offer to leave the town where he has been since 1960, one year after he and thousands of his followers fled Tibet.

During the past few weeks, civil groups and politicians, including the Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh state, assured the Tibetan leader his people were still welcome.

"In the light of appeals and assurances given by the representatives of the people, His Holiness has abandoned the idea of shifting from Dharmasala," said Tashi Wangdi, a minister in the self-proclaimed government.

Wangdi said the local people promised "to stop politicians from exploiting any stray incidents." The Tibetans believed that politicians of several parties had used the fatal brawl to stir up anti-Tibetan feelings in a play for votes.

Many residents of Dharmasala, which in 1960 was little more than an abandoned British army base in the Himalayan foothills, resent the success of the Tibetans, who attract Buddhist pilgrims and Western tourists.

The Dalai Lama left Tibet after a failed uprising against China, which sent its army there in 1950.

## BRIEFLY

**CPC plans newspaper for HK:** China is planning to set up a Communist Party newspaper for Hong Kong after taking over the British territory in 1997, and is drawing up guidelines for the media, a monthly magazine said Wednesday, AFP reports from Hong Kong.

The newspaper is to be named Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Daily, the magazine said.

**Demirel starts Moldova visit:** Turkish President Suleyman Demirel yesterday began a three-day official visit to Moldova, during which he will sign a package of bilateral agreements, Xinhua reports from Moscow.

Demirel is expected to discuss with Moldovan leaders mainly the conditions on which Turkey will provide large investment for the Moldovan economy, particularly for the southern part of the country there the Gagauzes, a people related to the Turks, live.

"We consider the official visit by the Turkish president to be an important step towards establishing friendship between our two peoples," said Moldovan President Mircea Snegur.

**459 Indonesians die during Hajj:** The annual Saudi pilgrimage claimed the lives of 459 Indonesian Muslims, mostly through illness or old age, Antara news agency said yesterday, Reuters reports from Jakarta.

Antara, quoting Religious Ministry officials in Saudi Arabia, said some also died because of the intense heat.

It was unclear if the figures included five Indonesians killed in last week's Hajj stampede near Makkah, Saudi Arabia.

**21 Shining Path rebels killed:** The army killed 21 Maoist guerrillas and captured eight others during fighting in Peru's eastern Andes and coca-growing Huallaga river valley, the military said Wednesday, Reuters reports from Lima.

A statement from the regional military-political command said 17 Shining Path rebels died Monday in clashes with army patrols in the northeastern Andean province of Huamalis in Huanuco district, some 200 miles (320 km) north of Lima.

Army patrols shot dead another four guerrillas and seized weapons and ammunition in firefights May 23 in Leoncio Prado province, also in Huanuco, 220 miles (350 km) north of Lima, the statement said.

**14 Hindu devotees die:** A tractor-trailer bringing back Hindu devotees from a shrine in the western state of Rajasthan crashed into a water reservoir, killing 14 people, news reports said Thursday, AP reports from New Delhi.

A brake failure caused the tractor to veer off the road Wednesday near the town of Tonk, about 300 kilometers (187 miles) southwest of New Delhi, United News of India said. Thirty-nine people were injured.

Nine of the victims were women, the agency said.

**Russian killed in Tajikistan:** A Russian officer was murdered in the Tajik capital Dushanbe, and a serviceman was killed after stepping on a mine along the border with Afghanistan, a news agency said Thursday, AP reports from Dushanbe.

The deaths Wednesday brought the number of Russian servicemen killed this week in Tajikistan to four, raising tension in the former Soviet republic, where the pro-Communist government faces opposition from Islamic militants.

LL Col. Yuri Shktpkin was killed Wednesday in Dushanbe near his home, one day after another Russian officer was shot as he got into his car, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

**Iranian FM to visit Iraq:** Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati is to visit Iraq in July to discuss normalising ties between the two former enemies, the official Iranian News Agency IRNA said yesterday, AFP reports from Tehran.

The visit will take place some time from July 1 to July 10, Velayati told IRNA on the sidelines of a Non-Aligned Movement conference in Cairo.

A delegation is due in Baghdad on June 11 to prepare Velayati's visit, which will be the first by an Iranian Foreign Minister to Iraq since the 1991 Gulf War, when US-led forces drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

**Ukraine parliament asked to ratify NPT:** President Leonid Kravchuk on Wednesday urged Ukraine's parliament to ratify the International Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), but warned Kiev would scrap any such commitment in case its territorial integrity was threatened, AFP reports from Kiev.



President Bill Clinton (R) is accompanied by Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Martino as they pass by an honour guard of Italian army and navy troops upon his arrival in Rome yesterday. Clinton started a three-day visit to Italy to participate in celebrations leading up to the 50th anniversary of D-Day. — AFP photo

## D-Day a defeat for Germans?

FRANKFURT, June 2: The leader of Germany's Jewish community says he believes many Germans still see the Normandy landings as a defeat rather than the beginning of liberation from Nazism, reports Reuters.

Ignatz Bubis learned of the June 6, 1944 landings while languishing in a Nazi concentration camp in Poland. "For us it was like a signal that the war would come to an end," he told Reuters in an interview.

"When we heard the next day what had happened we were very happy. For us this was may be a step that would bring us freedom," he said.

But many Germans after all these years still do not see the event as the beginning of liberation, said Bubis, 67, who is chairman of the Central Council of Jews, umbrella group for Germany's 40,000-member Jewish community.

"Many people in Germany are still thinking May 8 was the day of capitulation and not the day of liberation," he said of the 1945 VE (victory in Europe) Day.

When the vast majority of Germans regard D-day as the beginning of liberation from Adolf Hitler then it would be right to invite Germany to Normandy commemorations, he said.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl did not receive an invitation to the 50th anniversary of D-Day "because it was the day when the democracies started to put an end to the Nazi regime."

Bubis said he had no plans for June 6.

"If I was invited I would go," he chuckled.

Bubis was not satisfied with an opinion poll that said 64 per cent of those questioned saw the Allied victory over Hitler's Germany as a liberation. Only 13 per cent preferred to see it as a defeat for Germans, according to the Forsa institute poll, which was released on Tuesday.

"I am not sure," he said. "Sixty-four per cent is a majority but I think 90 per cent should believe it was not a defeat but a liberation."

He said it was important that the Allies celebrate the 50th anniversary of D-Day "because it was the day when the democracies started to put an end to the Nazi regime."

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## Pakistan ready to extradite Egyptian militants

CAIRO, June 2: Pakistan is prepared to finalise an extradition agreement with Egypt to deport suspected Islamic militants to stand trial for terrorist activities, a senior Pakistani diplomat said Wednesday, reports AFP.

"Pakistan will be prepared to sign any extradition treaty with Egypt," Sardar Ahmed Ali, the Pakistani Foreign Minister said. "We have exchanged the drafts and there is no disagreement."

Egypt and Pakistan initiated an extradition agreement last March, whereby suspected Islamic radicals would be deported to Egypt, where they are wanted for terrorist acts.

All, who is in Egypt for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) ministerial meeting, said that Mubarak accepted an invitation to travel to Pakistan within the coming two months, to discuss the extradition plans and bilateral relations.

Egypt maintains that radical Islamic leaders have taken refuge in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran.

## School teacher shot dead by Naga rebels

SILCHAR, Assam, June 2: A general security alert has been sounded in the north Cachar Hill district of Assam bordering Nagaland after suspected Naga insurgents shot dead a school teacher at the district headquarters town of Haflong yesterday in a fresh spate of violence, reports PTI.

Official source here today said that a gang of Naga youths whisked away Sablaj Jaisi (40) from the high school while he was attending a condolence meeting, took him to a nearby hut and shot him dead.

## PLO-Israel battle over Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, June 2: Yasser Arafat has threatened a "holy war" to liberate Jerusalem, Yitzhak Rabin warned he may boot key PLO offices out of the city, reports AP.

A war of words is escalating between Israel and the PLO over the future status of Jerusalem, the most sensitive issues on the Arab-Israeli agenda.

Sharp words are everywhere in Israel's parliament, on television talk shows, in newspapers and the cafes of the spiritually divided city of 560,000 people.

Arafat stirred anger among Israelis with a speech last month in a Johannesburg mosque in which he called for a "Jihad," or holy war, to free the city from Israeli rule.

"Jihad means genocide. It is inconceivable that the one who made peace... talks of genocide," said Shmuel Meir, the city's fervently devout deputy mayor, explaining why he called for the assassination of Arafat.

Jibril Rajoub, the new PLO security chief for Jerusalem and the West Bank, recently told Arab villagers in Israel's Negev Desert that "Palestinians will continue the struggle until we establish a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital."

"The Israelis must withdraw from the eastern side of Jerusalem because Jerusalem is a red line for us," he said.

Each side accuses the other of trying to create "facts on the ground" that will reinforce competing claims to the city in advance of negotiations, which under the Israel-PLO accord do not have to start for another two years.

PLO officials complain that Israel has sealed off Jerusalem

from the West Bank, barring Palestinians from jobs, markets and the Al-Aqsa Mosque — one of the Islam's holiest sites.

"We are fighting a battle to end the isolation of Jerusalem from the other parts of the occupied territories," said Faisal Hussein, the PLO official in charge of Jerusalem policy.

Hussein spoke at the Orient House, the three-story stone building in Jerusalem that has been a focus of Israeli unease because of its role both as a PLO foreign ministry and a spawning ground for PLO policy.

Palestinians also complain that Israel, to strengthen its hold on the land, is building new Jewish neighbourhoods in the eastern sector of the city captured from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast war.

The PLO is also busy at work building up its institutions — more than 200 so far — in an effort to lay the groundwork for the city to be the capital of a Palestinian state.

It is already the economic, intellectual and religious focal point for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

For Jews, Jerusalem is the site of the last remnant of the ancient Jewish Temple and the religious heartbeat of Judaism.

Israel annexed east Jerusalem three weeks after it was captured on June 6, 1967, and proclaimed the united city as its "eternal capital." The claim is not recognised by most nations, including the United States, which has its embassy in Tel Aviv.

Rabin said the PLO had promised to set up its autonomy headquarters in Jericho or the Gaza Strip and warned he might have to close PLO offices in Jerusalem if they tried to run the self-rule government from there.

## Off the Record

### 'Bill Clinton' candies for Roman schoolchildren

ROME: Hillary Rodham Clinton started her visit to Rome on Thursday handing out boxes of "Bill Clinton's M and Ms" candy to 20 elementary schoolchildren from a public school in the heart of the historic city, reports AP.

The third, fourth and fifth grade students of the Giannurco Elementary School, where English is taught from the first grade, gave the American first lady, a tour of Piazza Navona, a main tourist spot.

The oval-shaped piazza has its origins in a site for games dating back to the 1st Century. It regained popularity as a fashionable gathering spot for Romans in the Renaissance and is noted today for its fountains, including two by the Baroque master Bernini.

As she walked around the fountain of Neptune in the far end of the square, Mrs. Clinton, dressed in a bright raspberry suit, chatted with the boys and girls, each wearing blue shorts and a white t-shirt with the child's name written across the front in coloured letters.

"She's a lot nicer than we imagined - not at all strict," said Lorenza, 10.

"You can tell she likes kids," chimed in Matteo, 8.

Hillary talked about her daughter Chelsea, 14, who she said was in the middle of exams back home.

Mrs. Clinton was accompanied by her mother, Dorothy Rodham, and Rose-Anne Bartholomew, wife of the US ambassador to Italy. The first lady complimented the children on their English and invited them to visit the White House.



### Shooting contest for would-be sheriffs

FARGO, North Dakota: It was high noon and the guns were drawn in Cass County, reports AP.

But there was little suspense Wednesday as two men running for sheriff had a shootout. They'd agreed to call it a draw, regardless of who won.

Ken Schwab last month challenged the other four men running for sheriff to a shooting contest, saying it would test a law officer's ability to protect the public. Only Assistant Cass County State's Attorney Stephen Dawson accepted.

The two men squared off at noon Wednesday, taking 24 shots at paper targets at a firing range. Dawson outshot Schwab 222-207 out of a possible 240 points.

Sheriff Don Rудnick declined to take part, saying a shootout had nothing to do with the June 14 election. Deputy Sheriff Budd Warren was out of town.

Candidate Ron Brakke, a convicted felon, is forbidden by federal law to possess a firearm and did not participate.

### Animal lover now behind bars

NEW DELHI: A 25-year-old man who tried to cut off the horn of a rhinoceros in India's oldest zoo told police he was an "animal lover" who wanted it for research, the Telegraph Daily said Wednesday, reports AP.

Mahesh Kumar Bansal told police after his arrest Monday in the eastern city of Calcutta that because of his love for animals he dabbled in veterinary research, it said.

The cotton trader said he had been conducting tests on monkey urine and had "experimented with an infertile cow to see if it could bear a test tube calf," police said, adding that he appeared "mentally disturbed."

Bansal was caught by officials in Calcutta's Alipore Zoo when he jumped into a 10-year-old rhino's enclosure and tried to hack off the animal's horn.

Zoo director AK Das said night patrols had been reintroduced after the attack and fencing around certain enclosures raised.

### Planet Hollywood for Jakarta

JAKARTA: Planet Hollywood, a restaurant chain owned by a bevy of US film stars including Arnold Schwarzenegger, Sylvester Stallone and Bruce Willis, will open its first outlet in Jakarta in September, reports Reuters.

In a statement yesterday, the group said the 380-seat restaurant, which like its other 11 branches in the United States, Hong Kong and London will focus on movie themes, would be adorned with a sea creature carrying a globe and Hollywood memorabilia.

## US may stop commercial air service to Haiti

WASHINGTON, June 2: The Clinton administration is considering a shutdown of all commercial air service to and from Haiti in a bid to increase pressure on the military regime there, according to US officials, reports AP.

In addition, the officials said the administration may ban all bank transactions between the two countries. The sanctions regime now in effect bans trade but not financial dealings.

The administration has resisted imposing an embargo on commercial flights between Haiti and the United States because the thousands of Americans who still reside in Haiti would not have an easy escape route if conditions deteriorated. Many Canadians live there as well.

## UNSC for truce in Yemen

UNITED NATIONS, June 2: The Security Council called Wednesday for an immediate ceasefire in Yemen's civil war and the resumption of talks between the north and southern secessionists, reports AP.

In a resolution adopted unanimously, the 15 Council members also called for an immediate halt to arms shipments to Yemen and any other goods which could prolong the civil war that erupted on May 5.

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said after the vote he would name a special envoy to Yemen by Thursday to review prospects for restarting negotiations between the warring parties.

But Yemeni Deputy Prime Minister Abdel Wahab AL-Ansi, who was sent by the Northern government to New York, delivered a letter warning the international organisation to refrain from meddling in the country's internal affairs.

The resolution initiated by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations said that political differences could not be resolved through the use of force.

Saudi Prince Bandar Ben Sultan, the Saudi ambassador to Washington, called the vote a "victory for the innocent people" who have become victims in the conflict.

"Our priority is to save lives and then sort out the political problems," he added.

The vote comes as leaders of the breakaway South sent a message calling on the United Nations to send an international force — or at least observers — to supervise a ceasefire.

The UN force should be mandated under chapter seven of the UN charter which allows for the use of force if the North refuses to accept a UN call for a ceasefire, they said.

Earlier, diplomats said the United States, Russia, Britain, Pakistan, Oman and Djibouty felt that a resolution calling for a ceasefire could have a positive effect in Yemen.

But some countries, including France, New Zealand, Brazil and Argentina argued that it was dangerous to exclude from the text a reference to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yemen.

European diplomats expressed concern that such a move could constitute a bad precedent for other conflicts, such as in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Saudi Arabia apparently leans in favour of the secessionists in the South, who have been fighting Northern troops loyal to President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The former conservative North and Marxist South merged four years ago to form a united Yemen.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin (R) shakes hands with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam (L), as their wives Naina Yeltsin (L) and Son Men Sun (R) smile, during Kim's official welcoming ceremony at the Kremlin in Moscow yesterday. Kim Young-Sam is in Moscow on an official visit to discuss a wide range of questions, including the nuclear problem on the Korean peninsula. — AFP photo

## Indonesia bans 'Schindler's List'

JAKARTA, June 2: Indonesian film censors have banned the Oscar-winning Holocaust movie "Schindler's List," saying it contains too much violence and nudity, reports AP.

Soekanto, executive director of the Film Censorship Board, said Thursday the decision was reached at a full meeting of the board.

The board earlier had passed the film by Steven Spielberg. Though it has ordered some cuts of "sadistic and nudity scenes."

Islamic leaders called the film Jewish propaganda and insisted that it be banned.

Soekanto said, however, the board did not consider whether or not the film propagates Zionism.

"Schindler's List" won seven Oscars in February.