

Alija to recommend parliament accept peace plan

SARAJEVO, July 13: Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said today he would recommend parliament accept the latest international peace plan on condition it preserves the territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports Reuters.

He told reporters during a Sarajevo visit by the French and British foreign ministers that he did not like the plan, which divides Bosnia roughly in half between Serbs and the Muslim-Croat Federation, but the alternative were worse.

"We don't think the plan is good. On the contrary, the plan is bad," Izetbegovic said. "But all other options are worse."

"We are going to propose to parliament to accept the plan. We will make one condition. Bosnia-Herzegovina has to continue to exist within internationally recognised borders. Its integrity and sovereignty must be confirmed."

British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, who is accompanied by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, said the peace plan did not partition Bosnia and preserved its international recognised borders. The warring factions have been told they must reply by July 19.

He said a threat to lift an arms embargo on the Muslims if the Serbs did not agree to the plan would have dangerous consequences "but at the end of the day that might become unavoidable."

AFP adds: Bosnian government forces are facing a two-pronged attack in the western Bihac pocket from Serbs in the east and Muslim rebels in the north, a UN spokesman said here today.

There was heavy overnight shelling on the Grabez plateau, east of Bihac town, with 199

explosions reported along the lines dividing Bosnian government forces and Bosnian Serbs. UN protection forces spokesman Commander Eric Chapron said.

Meanwhile, shelling continued in the far north of the country, notably along the Posavina corridor and in the region of Doboj.

Small arms and machine gun fire was reported near Maglaj and shelling a few kilometers further south, near Zavidovici, along the western Ozren front, where much of the recent fighting between government and Serb forces has been taking place.

Turkish diplomat asked to leave Australia

CANBERRA, July 13: A senior Turkish diplomat was asked to leave Australia for the activities not in line with his official status, reports Xinhua.

A spokeswoman for the Foreign Affairs Department confirmed to Xinhua, today that Turkey's Deputy Consul-General in Sydney Bilge Erol has been asked to leave the country for "the activities inconsistent with the Vienna convention."

However, the spokeswoman gave no further explanation on the matter. Meanwhile, the Australian government sources said that the recall of Bilge Erol back home was not related to Espionage or political activities, according to local press today.

"These are private matters," local press quoted sources as reporting.

The Turkish diplomat was expected to leave Australia by the end of the month.

Arafat requests hot line with Rabin

Israel closes border crossings

JERUSALEM, July 13: Israel on Wednesday closed border crossings after accusing Yasser Arafat of violating the Israel-PLO accord by bringing "terrorists" involved in attacks on Israelis to the Gaza Strip, reports AP.

Israel's radio quoted a senior official as saying that the incident represented a "breach of faith" that would affect treatment of Arafat in the future.

Israeli officials confirmed that Arafat had requested a hot-line with Rabin to prevent misunderstandings in the future.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was furious, according to one aide. Rabin said Arafat had tried to deceive the Israeli authorities by "Sneaking them

in," the daily Haaretz said. Speaking to his ministers Tuesday night, Rabin said it was a grave violation of the autonomy agreement and that Israel would ensure that all conditions were honoured in full.

Israel objected to four PLO officials among an entourage of 13 who accompanied Arafat when he arrived Tuesday to set up permanent residence.

Israel objected in particular to two of the four who were involved in the takeover of high school in Maalot in 1974 in which 21 Israeli teen-agers, one Israeli soldier and three Palestinian guerrillas were killed.

"They tried to sneak in," said Uri Dromi, Israeli govern-

ment spokesman. "They took advantage of the fact we arranged a shortened procedure for the hole entourage to get in."

He said Israel insisted they get out and in the meantime we closed the crossings between Egypt and the Gaza Strip and between the West Bank and Jordan.

Reporters at Arafat's headquarters in the Palestine Hotel in Gaza City said four PLO officials came out with their luggage and Arafat said goodbye to them. They then left for Rafah.

The guerrillas involved in the Maalot attack were identified in Israeli reports as Mamdouh Nofal, alleged mastermind on the operation, and Miyad al-Jiyusi.

Israel also objected to Jihad Amirin, former member of the Marxist Democratic Front and Mustafa Liftawi, also known as Abu Firas, one-time head of the Western sector intelligence group in Beirut that planned scores of military operations against Israeli targets.

"We are talking about two who were involved in one of the most terrible and harsh affairs — the massacre in Maalot. They were involved in this directly and therefore we think that they should not come in now," said Environment Minister Yossi Sarid.

Sarid said the guerrillas entered with Arafat through a special entrance accorded the PLO leader, and their identities were only discovered later.

Colombian team leaves US abruptly

WASHINGTON, July 13: A high-level Colombian delegation returned home abruptly from Washington Tuesday after the head of the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) called off a scheduled meeting at the last minute, reports Reuters.

In Bogota, the Defence Ministry said the cancellation was against the long tradition of respect and cooperation between the two police forces.

"This does not reflect the tradition that has characterised the relations between the two institutions," it said in a politely worded statement.

This ruffle in diplomatic feathers was another in a recent series of flaps in US-Colombian relations.

Frank Shults, a DEA spokesman, said the agency learned belatedly that Vargas was seeking to resolve drug policy differences that have put US intelligence-sharing with Colombia on hold.

West is inhuman, says Gaddafi

TRIPOLI, July 13: Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi warned Tuesday his country would triumph in any confrontation with the West which he denounced as "barbaric base and inhuman," reports AFP.

The official agency Jana reported that Gaddafi said in a speech in Marj, on the Libyan coast, that the United States, Britain and France "are trying to terrify us, starve us and impose a blockade on US".

"It is barbaric behaviour and base politics which proves that the West is inhuman, has no conscience and lacks morality and that nothing will work with it except confrontation."

Air, military and diplomatic sanctions have been imposed on Libya since April 1992 by the UN Security Council following Tripoli's refusal to hand over for trial two Libyans suspected of bombing a Pan Am Boeing which exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988 killing 270 people.

Gaddafi warned any confrontation with Libya "will be hard."

DPRK-US talks next week

TOKYO, July 13: North Korea said today it will hold talks with US officials next week on arranging a resumption of their high-level dialogue in Geneva, reports Reuters.

Radio Pyongyang, monitored in Japan by radio press, said that the two sides had agreed to a meeting in New York after Sunday's funeral of North Korean President Kim Il-Sung to arrange for the resumption.

The dialogue, aimed at resolving the confrontation over Pyongyang's suspected nuclear weapons drive, opened last Friday, only to be suspended the following day when news broke of Kim's death.

Radio Pyongyang said today that the head of the North Korean delegation to Geneva, first Deputy Foreign Minister Kang Sok Ju, had returned home to attend the funeral.



Indian Muslims march on the Pakistan embassy in New Delhi on Wednesday to protest the expulsions of two Indian diplomats by Islamabad. The two South Asian rivals have sparked off a "spy-war" by expelling each other's diplomatic personnel, plunging ties between the two countries to a new low and dimming hopes for a resumption of talks on a code of conduct for diplomatic personnel.

Congress celebrates Rao's 3 years in office today

NEW DELHI, July 13: India's ruling Congress (I) Party was feverishly putting the final touches today to preparations for a rally here Thursday billed as the largest since independence, reports AFP.

More than one million people are expected to converge on the grounds of the 17th-century Red Fort in old Delhi on Thursday to celebrate the three years of leadership of Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao. Congress officials said.

The capital has been draped in green, orange and white bunting — the colours of the Indian flag and the Congress Party — and billboards featuring portraits of Rao and past Congress leaders have sprung up across the city.

Major intersections feature larger-than-life size cutouts of former Prime Ministers Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and the "father

of the nation," Mahatma Gandhi.

Thousands of trains, buses, trucks and vans have been hired to bring Congress supporters from all of India's 25 states to the rally site.

Congress spokesman V N Gandgil said that between one million and 1.5 million people were expected to attend the rally, making it the biggest gathering here since independence from Britain in 1947.

Colourful tents have been erected to house more than 100,000 people at the venue and a 400-foot (120 meter) long dining hall has been built to feed the crowds.

Hundreds of open air toilets have been set up under the imposing red sandstone walls of the Red Fort, completed under Moghul rule in 1648.

The 72-year-old Rao, who took power in June 1991 and set in motion economic reforms aimed at ending decades of protectionism, is the only

scheduled speaker and is to address the gathering from behind a transparent bullet-proof shield.

Other security precautions for the scores of VIPs — very, very important people as they are known here — included sharpshooters on rooftops, teams of elite commandos, dogs trained to detect explosives and bomb disposal squads.

Metal detectors are to be used at all of the entrances to the rally site, which is to be guarded by thousands of policemen.

Gandgil, the Congress spokesman, said that Congress supporters had been told to remain "orderly and disciplined" but he could not rule out the possibility that "some other political parties" may try to stir up trouble.

The biggest worry of the organisers ahead of the mammoth rally is not security however, but the weather.



This picture of frolicking Bengal tigers, snapped at a wildlife park outside Seoul yesterday which covered the front pages of South Korea's national newspapers, and were seen as symbolising the tense efforts by the capitalist South and Stalinist North to work out a framework of co-existence.

People of Aden struggle to survive with little water, food

Tuesday in a widespread rampage that has already stripped bare most of the city's government institutions, offices and foreign consulates and many homes and shops.

If they could have taken the door frames they would have, said one shopkeeper in central Aden. "I think we have gone back 20 years in the last few weeks."

But residents said security police, who are gradually taking control of the city from northern troops, were beginning to respond to calls for help in keeping away looters.

Hawta district police were questioning three suspects. When asked for identity papers, one of the looters produced a stolen passport.

Yemen's Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Qader Baga mmal told Reuters in Aden that 90 per cent of the northern soldiers have withdrawn from the streets and handed control to the police.

He said ministers, who had gathered in Aden to try to find ways to restore order and basic services, would today discuss several proposals, including setting up a free trade zone in the port city.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, whose forces seized Aden on Thursday crushing southern bids to break from four years of unity with the North, said on Tuesday his government was working to restore normal life within a month to the city.

"We will exert all efforts to reconstruct the war damage. Life will be back to normal within 20 or 30 days," he said in an interview in Sanaa with Qatar's news agency and TV.

Scores of residents blocked a causeway leading to the city centre when food trucks carrying sheep arrived from the

northern capital Sanaa. They climbed on board and grabbed the sheep from the back of the trucks, put them in their cars and sped away.

In what has become a routine scene in Aden, hundreds of people gathered at about 50 water wells, of which aid workers say 40 are now fitted with pumps.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it was repairing damaged water pipelines but needed more support from northern authorities to operate in the chaos of Aden.

Fewer northern soldiers

Off the Record

Daughter bears her father seven children

DETROIT: Since she was 16, Lori Williams has borne her own father seven children. Five are in foster care, two are dead, and she and her father are in jail, reports AP.

But neither the incestuous relationship that has continued for at least 11 years nor the unusual deaths of their two baby boys are the reason they are jailed.

Williams, 27, and her father, Walter Williams, 54, are charged with child abuse for allegedly failing to feed their youngest child properly. The 11-month-old girl weighs a mere 11 pounds and has grown only two inches and five pounds since birth, authorities said Tuesday.

The father and daughter could get up to four years in prison if convicted.

"This appears to be a classic case in which this family needs intervention — not to mention the moral issue of a father impregnating his own daughter on seven occasions," Hillsdale County Prosecutor Mike Smith said.

Smith said he is also pursuing a psychological examination of Lori Williams to determine whether she is involved voluntarily with her father.

He doesn't know why charges were never brought when Lori first became pregnant 11 years ago in another, undetermined county. Sex with a child under 16 is a crime. At the time, Lori was living with her father and mother and five siblings, Smith said. The statute of limitations on sexual abuse is six years.

Williams left his wife in the early 1980s and took Lori with him, Smith said. It was unclear Tuesday where the mother or other children live now. The couple never divorced.

Mystery of Teet's tomb

SAKKARA, Egypt: Her name was Nadjet-m-Pet. "Teet" to her friends.

Archaeologists discovered her small but superbly decorated tomb in the spring as they dug into a mountain of sand in Sakkara, one of ancient Egypt's greatest burial grounds, reports AP.

They were shocked. Her neighbours in death were men, a who's who of power brokers from the reign of Pharaoh Teet more than 4,300 years ago. She was the first woman found in the Teet digs with a tomb of her own.

So who was Teet? Egyptologists are picking through her tomb in search of the answer, but so much has been lost it is likely the truth will remain forever a mystery.

One thing is clear: she was special and powerful. "Many things about her tomb are unique, including the fact it belongs to a woman," said Zahi Hawass, the antiquities official in charge of the cemetery of Sakkara, 27 kilometers (17 miles) south of the Giza pyramids.

There's no doubt she held an important position in Pharaoh's court because Teet allowed her to be buried near the entrance to his pyramid, Hawass said.

Teet's tomb was discovered by an Australian-Egyptian expedition led by Neguib Kanawati of Sydney's Macquarie University and officials of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation.

Archaeologists are pulling out tomb after tomb originally laid out along well-manicured avenues, much like a city block. Shifting sand covered the tombs over the ages, and new tombs were built on top of Teet's tomb 1000 years after it was sealed. What lay below was heavily damaged.

Teet's tomb, 13 feet long and 6 feet wide, lost many decorations that could provide clues to her story. What survives is stunning.

The tomb is dominated by a large, expensive stone tablet covering the back wall. Hewn from the finest white limestone, it is covered with delicately crafted hieroglyphs.

Sex in space proves successful

SPACE CENTER, Houston: Sex in space has proved successful for the Japanese Medaka fish aboard shuttle Columbia, reports AP.

Scientists expect the experiment to help them design spaceborne fish farms, which one day might provide astronauts with an alternative to freeze-dried food on long trips, such as to Mars.

Four adult Medaka — two male and two female — were sent into space for Columbia's two-week laboratory research mission to see if they would mate successfully in weightlessness.

They have produced at least a dozen eggs in the first four days of the flight. The eggs are expected to hatch late this week or early next.

The shuttle also brought 340 Medaka eggs on board before blasting into orbit. At least four of them have since hatched, and one tiny newborn is already swimming.

Meanwhile, six Japanese goldfish are being studied for clues to motion-sickness in space. Five of them have had gravity-sensing organs in their inner ears removed in hopes of clarify the relationship between the organs and the malady suffered by about half of all astronauts.

OIC efforts for Afghan peace to continue

ISLAMABAD, July 13: Secretary General of Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Hamid Al Ghabid said he will continue his efforts for restoring lasting peace in Afghanistan, reports Xinhua.

"The Secretary General has found great encouragement and support for the OIC peace mission, which has reinforced his hopes for further intensifying the efforts of the Organisation to achieve this goal, to realise a permanent ceasefire and promote the political process," in Afghanistan, says a press release issued here on the OIC official's return from Kabul.

During his two-day visit to Kabul Ghabid met Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, Ittehad-i-Islami chief Rasool Sayyaf and ex-defence minister Ahmed Shah Masood.

In his talks in the Afghan capital, held indepth discus-

sion on the current crisis in Afghanistan and especially the prospects of launching a credible intra-Afghan process for a durable political settlement, which would guarantee and ensure for the Afghan people peace, stability and preserve the unity, sovereignty and independence of this Islamic country.

He found a clear expression of peace to reign supreme in Afghanistan and has been most touched by the widespread devastation caused by the ongoing conflict and the sufferings of the Afghan people, it said.

He hoped that all Afghan parties would cooperate with OIC efforts to break the present cycle of violence and bring about a lasting political settlement in conformity with the legitimate aspirations of the Afghan people.

Muslims demand Babri Mosque rebuilding date

NEW DELHI, July 13: The All India Babri Masjid Rebuilding Committee yesterday urged the Prime Minister, PV Narasimha Rao, to announce the date for reconstruction of the mosque at the same site as 'promised' by him at the proposed Congress (I) rally here on Thursday reports PTI.

In a letter to Rao, the committee leaders also demanded withdrawal of the centre's one-point reference on the temple mosque dispute to the Supreme Court.

ADEN, July 13: The Yemeni government is still searching for ways to ease the suffering of Aden's half a million people struggling to survive with little water and food, reports Reuters.

Almost a week after it fell to northern forces in two months of civil war, the people of this port city are still hungry and thirsty.

Fresh water has yet to be restored. Food remains scarce. Telephones and electricity are cut in most of the city and petrol is in short supply.

Looting by Southerners and northerners continued on

'No conspiracy behind Colosio killing'

MEXICO CITY, July 13: The chief investigator in the March assassination of Mexican presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio said Tuesday the evidence showed the gunman planned the killing alone and there has been no conspiracy, reports Reuters.

Deputy Attorney General Miguel Montes said in a statement that the confessed gunman in custody Mario Aburto was the material and intellectual author of the homicide and that he has a political motivation.