

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 Reuter.

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 internationally 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 consequence "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 Bihać 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 Grabež plateau, east of Bihać town, with 199

explosions reported along the lines dividing Bosnian Government forces and Bosnian Serbs. UN protection forces spokesman Commander Eric Chapman 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.

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International

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 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.

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.

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Israel also objected to Jihad Amir, 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.

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 Teti more than 4,300 years ago. She was the first woman found in the Teti dig 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 Teti 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 1,000 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 it 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 clarifying 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.

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.

In his talks in the Afghan capital, held indepth discussions 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 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.

'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 Reuter.

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.

Muslims demand Babri Mosque rebuilding date

NEW DELHI, July 13: The All India Babri Masjid Re-building 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.

People of Aden struggle to survive with little water, food

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, food or medicine, reports Reuter.

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 responding to calls for help in keeping away looters.

Looting by Southerners and northerners continued on

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

Yemen's Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Qader Baghrami 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.

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.

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

Yemen's Defence Minister 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-damaged 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

were visible in the dusty, garbage-strewn streets. Sewage water poured into one street.

Northern ministers gathered at a white-washed villa on a cliff overlooking the Indian Ocean to find ways to restore order to the city, which they declared the economic capital of Yemen. Defence Minister Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi told Reuters that the ministers had gathered in Aden, which southern secessionists had named as their capital, to closely inspect their ministries and decide how to restore normal life.

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