

Serbs detain 2 UN officials, a woman

SARAJEVO, July 27: Bosnian Serb forces have detained two UN aid officials and a Muslim woman in eastern Bosnia, an spokesman Major Dacre Holloway said late Tuesday, reports AFP.

A man and woman working for the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), accompanied by the Muslim woman, were stopped at a checkpoint in Serb-held town of Visegrad, some 30 kilometers (18 miles) northwest of the besieged Muslim pocket of Gorazde, Holloway said.

The Muslim woman is a civilian who is not working for the UNHCR, and apparently her presence was the reason why the Serbs stopped the group.

The trio are currently being held at a barracks in Visegrad where Holloway said they were still stuck late Tuesday.

The aid workers are based in Gorazde.



Policemen stand guard outside a school in New Delhi on Wednesday, as security has been stepped up for school children in the Indian capital following the murder of two kidnapped children.

— AFP photo

BRIEFLY

Afghan confce on Oct 23:

A conference in Afghanistan has set October 23 to elect a new government leadership for the war-ravaged country, the official Kabul Radio said on Tuesday. Reuter reports from Islamabad.

It said the conference in the Western city of Herat, also attended by embattled President Burhanuddin Rabbani, decided on Monday to hold a traditional *loya jirga* — or grand assembly — on October 23 to "elect the country's leadership."

The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, did not explain whether the grand assembly, likely to be held in the capital Kabul, would elect only a president or a prime minister as well.

Carlos under house arrest:

Venezuela's Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered former President Carlos Andrew Perez freed from jail and placed under house arrest pending trial on corruption charges, the court said. AFP reports from Caracas.

Carlos, who is 72, took advantage of a law that allows defendants older than 70 to await trial at home. Carlos is expected to move Tuesday to the home of his wife Blanca De Perez.

His Interior Minister and cell mate, 69-year-old Alejandro Izaguirre, was also released. The two were ordered imprisoned on May 18 in connection with an alleged diversion of 17.2 million dollars in funds from a secret state account.

Yemen lifts overnight curfew:

The Yemeni government on Tuesday lifted the overnight curfew which came into effect more than two months ago because of the civil war, the Interior Ministry said. AFP reports from Sanaa.

The curfew has been lifted because the reasons which caused it have been removed, the ministry said quoted by the official news agency Saba.

The war ended on July 7 when Northern forces loyal to President Ali Abdallah Saleh defeated a southern bid at secession. Curfews were imposed at the start of the conflict in early May.

Date for Aristide's return sought:

Ousted Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide said Tuesday that a "date certain" must be set for his return to Haiti and for the departure of the de facto military leaders of the Caribbean nation. Reuter reports from Port Au Prince.

"The wait for democracy must not endure any longer," Aristide said in a statement released in Washington. "A date certain for my return and for the departure of coup leaders must be set in order to sustain the hope of the nation that democracy will be restored."

US welcomes Russian decision:

President Clinton on Tuesday welcomed Russian President Boris Yeltsin's pledge to withdraw troops from Estonia, describing it as part of "the vibrations of peace," flowing from the Israel-Jordan agreements, AFP reports from Washington.

"As you know, this has been one of the principal objectives of American policy, so that now for the first time since the end of World War II, on the last day of August there will be no more Russian troops in Germany or anywhere in Eastern Europe," Clinton said.

Clinton, flanked by Jordan's King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, spoke during a White House press conference for the Middle East leaders.

New govt in Gambia named:

Gambia's new President Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh reopened the West African country's borders and airport on Tuesday and named a government drawn equally from soldiers and civilians, Reuter reports from Banjul.

"I would like to inform just now the news conference that the borders, airport and seaport open today," he told reporters.

Jammeh said that for 30 years Gambia had suffered from injustice and corruption and foreign aid had benefited only a few. He promised a commission of inquiry into past corruption cases.

62 killed in Turkish violence:

Fifty-one Kurdish rebels and 11 Turkish soldiers have been killed so far this week in clashes between Turkish troops and separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) in the southeast of the country, officials said Tuesday. AFP reports from Ankara.

The fighting took place in the Hakkari, Sirnak, Bitlis and Diyarbakir regions, according to the police authorities in the latter region.

More than 400 people — soldiers, policemen, rebels and civilians — have been killed in the region this month, according to an AFP count based on official figures, and more than 13,650 people have died since the PKK launched its rebellion in August 1984.

Heavy fighting in Tajikistan: 12 troops die

DUSHANBE, July 27: Islamic rebels killed 12 government soldiers and captured 10 more in one of the heaviest battles of recent weeks in the troubled Central Asian nation, the ITAR-Tass news agency said Wednesday. Reuter reports.

A "major armed clash" took place near the village of Khati, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) east of the capital of Dushanbe, the agency said, citing unidentified government military sources. The sketchy report did not say when the fighting occurred.

The militants have launched regular hit-and-run attacks, mostly in the south of the country.

Dissolution of Nepali parliament Court decision next week likely

KATHMANDU, July 27: Nepal faces a constitutional showdown with the Supreme Court to hear arguments on whether the dissolution of parliament earlier this month was legal, reports AFP.

The court's decision, ex-pected possibly as early as next week, could have dire conse-quences for caretaker Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala, who advised the King to dis-solve parliament after his government programme were de-feated in the House of Repre-sentatives.

Koirala is expected to argue his case with the best lawyers from the Attorney General's office. They will try to get the petition thrown out on ground that an elected Prime Minister has every right to give counsel to the King to dissolve parliament and call the mid-term polls.

Nepal's best lawyers are ex-pected to defend the writ petition and seek the reinstatement of the body, which was dissolved July 10.

A panel of between five to sever judges, headed by the Chief Justice Biswomath Upadhyaya, who headed the Constitu-tion Drafting Commission, will make the decision, a first in Nepal's struggling democra-cy.

Meanwhile, 36 Nepali Congress dissident ex-MPs and 82 NCP (UML) ex-MPs are col-lecting signatures for a peti-tion to the King requesting the reinstatement of parliament in order to maintain democratic norms and conventions, a Nepali Congress source said.

The application by the 118 members of the dissolved par-lament would make it easier

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra of Nepal has also demanded a written ex-planation from Koirala regarding the volatile political situa-tion threatening to spin the country into chaos.

A royal palace source said that according to the constitu-tion, when the King seeks such advice from the Prime Minister, the leader must inform the King on the current state of the country's affairs including political, social and security matters.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra of Nepal has also demanded a written ex-planation from Koirala regarding the volatile political situa-tion threatening to spin the country into chaos.

A royal palace source said that according to the constitu-tion, when the King seeks such advice from the Prime Minister, the leader must inform the King on the current state of the country's affairs including political, social and security matters.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.

King Birendra has also sought advice from the State Council — the royal advisory body — on how to relax the tense political crisis which arose after the dissolution of parliament, said the source.

for the King to tackle the cur-rent political problems of the country, according to those in favour of such a move.