

International

Delhi lobbies for boycott of confce

OIC meet in Islamabad tomorrow

ISLAMABAD, Sept 5: Islamic countries are set to meet here Wednesday to develop a common front on key issues facing the international community, including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, Afghanistan and the Middle East, a foreign office spokesman said.

The three-day extraordinary conference of foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) is to be inaugurated by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

"Our objective as a host country is to have action-oriented decisions on all the four burning issues," the spokesman told AFP.

The issues require some political direction from the OIC foreign ministers which enables us to take certain stands at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly, he said.

Senior officials are to meet here Tuesday to prepare the agenda of the main conference.

Some 20 ministers, among them 14 foreign ministers, have already confirmed their participation, despite India's lobbying for a boycott, he said, adding that the response was "better" than the previous emergency meeting of Islamic foreign ministers in Turkey last year.

At least 45 members of the 51-nation OIC have decided to send their representatives to the session, convened at "short notice," he said. Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Siladzic would lead his country's delegation to the conference, he said.

Concerning Afghanistan, where ex-Mujahideen factions have been fighting since the fall of the communist regime in April 1992, he said there was no decision about Afghan-

istan's representation because the country's factions have not agreed on a foreign minister.

He said India sent out its envoys to a large number of Islamic countries, urging them not to attend the Islamabad conference.

Pakistan is very happy that a vast majority of our friends and brothers have refused to heed the Indian pressure," he said.

The last conference met at Karachi in April 1993, when the Islamabad peace accord on Afghanistan, which ended last June, was still in place. This week's conference will aim to promote a reconciliation among the warring factions through consultations and a call for a cessation of hostilities, he said.

On Bosnia, the conference will take a decision on recommendations of an OIC con-

tact group which met recently in Geneva. It called for confirmation of territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, protection of safe areas, lifting of an arms embargo and the monitoring of weapons supplies to the Bosnian Serbs, he said.

Observers said among the four key issues of the Islamic world, Kashmir is considered a significant item on the agenda from a Pakistani point of view.

"We are looking to OIC support for an end of repression in Kashmir, where a half million Indian army is currently engaged," he said.

As for the Middle East, the conference is likely to support continuing moves toward peace, he said. The OIC countries believe that UN resolutions on Jerusalem and the territories occupied by Israel should be fully implemented, he said.

Al Arqam chief's wife, spokesman arrested

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 5: The head of a banned Islamic sect has been joined by his wife and an aide in indefinite detention under a law that strips them of their right to trial, police said Monday, reports AP.

Khadja Aain and Ashaari's spokesman Said Sulaiman were detained under the internal Security Act, which also was used against Ashaari when he was deported from Thailand on Friday, said Shamsuri Arshad, the police deputy inspector general.

The government moved against Ashaari after banning last month his Al Arqam group, a religious-business movement that was born in Malaysia in 1968 and grew into a widespread organisation covering Southeast Asia and some other Muslim countries.

Al Arqam is accused of being a national threat because it posed extra along with its family and aides in Thailand since 1988, supervising his religious order and a dirs 118-million business empire of textiles, food, restaurants, audio cassettes and taxi services.

His wife, their 6-month-old daughter Ummi Mubarak and spokesman Said were taken into custody after they also were deported by Thailand on Saturday.

Off the Record

Plan to take revenge backfires

MANILA: A man angered by his noisy neighbours tried to hurl a grenade at them but it exploded as he struggled with his wife, police said Monday. The man was killed and six others, including the wife, were injured, reports AP.

Eddie Fajardo, 23, died instantly in the blast Sunday night at his home in suburban Malabon, police investigator Renato Concepcion said.

Police said Fajardo, who wanted to go to sleep early, got into a heated argument with his neighbours, who were having a drinking party.

He then grabbed the grenade, but his wife, Annaliza, tried to stop him as he was about to throw it. The grenade exploded as they grappled with witnesses said.

Key to diplomatic success

TOKYO: Japan's 70-year-old Prime Minister has found the key to diplomatic success when travelling abroad — take your daughter, your doctor, your own bottled water, and avoid local vegetables as much as possible, reports Reuter.

These are the ingredients for health, according to reports of officials who oversaw Prime Minister Tomio Murayama's visit, last week to southeast Asian nations.

They said the prime minister sailed through the arduous trip of four nations in eight days without the slightest sign of any health problem.

This wasn't the case on Murayama's first overseas trip in July to the economic summit in Naples. He collapsed with a stomach ailment during the summit, his first appearance on the international stage.

Strangest reaction!

QUEESEVILLE, Ontario: A woman whose parachute malfunctioned plunged almost 10,000 feet (3,000 meters) into a marsh. After she landed on her back, she got up and apologized to her skydiving instructor, reports AP.

"It's the strangest reaction I've ever seen," said Kevin Kilring, an instructor at the Newmarket Skydiving School.

Sharon McClelland, 26, of Newmarket was making her second parachute jump — her first free fall — when her chute only partially opened Saturday.

"She failed to follow proper procedure and open her backup chute," said Frank Watts, owner of the parachuting school.

The partially opened parachute slowed McClelland's descent and ultimately saved her life.

"If I really knew what was happening, I don't think I would have made it," she said.



Miss Patinya Thongsr, 19, receives a kiss from an attendant after winning the Miss Thailand 1994 contest on Sunday. Thongsr will represent Thailand in Miss World contest.

— AFP photo

BRIEFLY

Chinese dissident jailed: Chinese authorities in Anhui Province have sentenced democracy and worker activist Zhang Lin to three years of "re-education through labour," his wife said yesterday. Reuter reports from Beijing.

Ji Xiao said by telephone she took their three month old daughter, whom her husband had never seen, to visit Zhang on Sunday before he was to be taken to the coal mine where he will serve his sentence.

4 shot dead at Detroit club: An early-morning shooting at an after-hours club on Sunday left four men dead and two injured, police said. Police responding to a 4:30 am call found the six men shot in a northeast side home, where the club was located, said Officer Dale Seaton, AP reports from Detroit.

The home was used for "after-hours activities," he said. No further information was immediately available on the shooting. Police were investigating.

ROK writer charged: The best selling South Korean writer on Monday was charged with violating a security law by writing a controversial novel allegedly siding with Communist North Korea, AFP reports from Seoul.

Cho Chong Rae, 51, has been accused of eulogizing a pro-North Korean leftist movement before and during the 1953 Korean War in his novel "Taeback mountains," police said.

Remains of Japanese soldiers: The remains of 10 Japanese soldiers taken prisoner in World War II were repatriated on Sunday after a ceremony at their war cemetery in the Buryat Republic in Siberia, the Itar-Tass news agency reported. AFP says from Moscow.

Government officials in Ulan Ude, the capital of the small Russian republic south of Lake Baikal, and a Japanese Health Ministry delegation laid wreaths on the tombs of the soldiers.

4 Nigerians to die in Sudan: A Sudanese court sentenced to death four Nigerian drug traffickers convicted of trying to smuggle cocaine and heroin into Saudi Arabia disguised as Muslim pilgrims, judicial officials said on Sunday. AFP reports from Khartoum.

They were arrested in May in Khartoum on their way to Saudi Arabia after swallowing a total of four kilogrammes of the drugs.

Another Bombay bldg collapses: At least five people were killed and six injured when a five-storey building collapsed near Bombay's central business district, yesterday, the third fatal collapse within a week. Reuter reports from Bombay.

Most of those trapped beneath the debris of the building in congested Zaveri Bazaar area were construction workers, a fire brigade official said.

US soldier airlifted to FRG: An American soldier was airlifted to Germany after breaking his hand while preparing for joint US-Russian military exercises in the Ural Mountains, officials said Monday. AP reports from Moscow.

Also Monday, an Army spokesman announced that US Defence Secretary William Perry had cancelled his trip to Russia this week because of the worsening situation in the Caribbean.

ROK FM leaves for US: South Korea's foreign minister left for Washington on Monday for talks with US officials on coordinating policy on North Korea's nuclear programme. AP reports from Seoul.

The United States is set to hold technical meetings with North Korea this weekend to work out terms for freezing the communist country's suspected nuclear weapons programme in exchange for economic aid and steps toward full diplomatic recognition.

Clash claims 8 in Chechnya: Clashes between government and opposition forces in Chechnya killed eight people on Sunday, as the Moscow-backed main opposition group intensified efforts to oust the government, police said. AFP reports from Grozny, Russia.

The fighting took place at Argun, 15 kilometers (nine miles) south of the Chechen capital Grozny. Forces led by faction leader Ruslan Labzakov were hit by a grenade attack launched by government troops.

24 crew feared dead in Cape Town: Radio messages from a stricken iron ore carrier that sank over the weekend indicated the 24 crew members went down with the ship, a rescue official said Monday. AP reports from Cape Town.

"It doesn't look as if they made it to the life boats," said Capt. Bill Dernier, head of South Africa's Maritime Search and Rescue Operations.

Poet Wright dies in UK: The lyrical, satirical and narrative poet David Wright, who said total deafness since childhood meant he perceived the world like an eccentrically-sited camera, has died at age 74. AP reports from London.

The South African born poet died of cancer on August 28 at Waldrone, 40 miles south of London, his family reported. Wright was prolific. In addition to poetry, produced guides to Portugal, an autobiography, anthologies of verse, book reviews, a biography of his fellow South African and poet Roy Campbell and modern English translations of Beowulf and the Canterbury Tales.

Israeli killed in Gaza: Arab gunmen in a moving car shot and killed one Israeli soldier and wounded two others in the Palestinian self-rule enclave of the Gaza Strip on Sunday, the Israeli army said. Reuter reports from Jerusalem.

"An Israeli soldier was killed and two other soldiers were wounded moderately, as a result of terrorist gunfire at them Sunday evening in the Gaza Strip," an army spokeswoman said.

2 Filipinos abducted: Two local businessmen have been abducted by unidentified armed men in the southern Philippines following the release of seven South Koreans held by Muslim guerrillas, police said yesterday. AFP reports from Cotabato.

Ethnic Chinese retailer Jorge Lim was abducted by four gunmen who barged into his home in General Santos City late Sunday, while six to Escudero was snatched from his hardware store in Mlang town earlier Sunday, police said.

US singer Lance dies: Rhythm and Blues singer Major Lance, who had a big hit in 1964 with his song "Um, um, um..." has died at the age of 55. Family members were quoted on Sunday as saying. Reuter reports from Atlanta.

He died in his sleep on Saturday and the cause of death was hard disease, said Lance, who won a Grammy Award in 1963 for the song. "Hey Little Girl" also produced a number of other hits including "Monkey Time."

An-Nahar re-appears

JERUSALEM, Sept 5: The east Jerusalem newspaper An-Nahar re-appeared today with an oath of support for the Palestinian cause more than a month after the Palestinian authority closed it down for pro-Jordanian sentiments, reports AFP.

"An-Nahar is back after 36 days in a new format," the daily said in an editorial. "We are a Palestinian newspaper down to the bone and Arab to the marrow."

"Our people are in a new period of building an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as capital under the leadership of the PLO."

Thousands of lazy cows clog traffic in Delhi roads

The cows have even held up

motorcades, causing security scares and problems for New Delhi's already harried traffic police.

"We want this menace to go," said Qamar Ahmed, a deputy commissioner of police heading the traffic section. "But what are we to do? The cows are squatting everywhere."

"It is a... traffic hazard," he added. "It impedes the flow of traffic and leads to accidents."

While the Indian capital's road system is open to a variety of transport, with horse carts still a popular mode of transport in some districts and camels and elephants seen playing the routes occasionally, there has been nothing like

the present bovine invasion.

A police officer was killed here last month when his motorcycle collided with a stray pig that darted across the road and the wayward cattle have been involved in dozens of accidents, although none has proved fatal.

The other day I saw a motorcyclist fall after hitting a cow," said Delhi resident Nargis Alam. "Luckily, he suffered only bruises and managed to drive on. Everyone cannot be lucky."

Traffic police chief Ahmed agrees. "most people (who meet with accidents) simply get up, dust their clothes and go away. There is hardly any

thing else to do."

"I have ordered my men to shoo away the cows wherever they see them," Ahmed added. "But there is a limit to this."

Traffic police are pressing the New Delhi administration, controlled by the Hindu-realist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, or Indian People's Party), to drive away the constantly dozing cows.

The BJP government, one of whose first decisions was to ban the slaughter of cows in the capital, says it is on the job, but the cow population on the roads shows no signs of declining.

Delhi's Rural Development Minister Sahib Singh Verma

estimates there are at least 10,000 stray cattle on the roads of New Delhi, their owners seemingly unconcerned.

The city authorities say they hearded up some 14,500 cattle from the city roads last year and earned more than \$2,000 dollars in fines from their owners. This year, about 5,000 cattle have been rounded up.

But the police refuse to join the campaign.

"Yes, it is our duty to ensure smooth traffic, but we cannot be catching cows," said Ahmed. "Anyway, we don't have the manpower and resources for such a job. If we take away the cows, who will feed them?"

US holds talks with DPRK today

SEOUL, Sept 5: The United States will begin three days of talks with North Korea this week on the return of the remains of American soldiers killed in the Korean War. South Korean officials said a Monday, reports AP.

The talks, scheduled to open on Tuesday at the border village of Panmunjom, will focus on the return of what the North says are the remains of 14 US soldiers killed in the Korean War, said the officials at the Unification Board.

US officials, observing the US Labour Day holiday on Monday, were not immediately available to confirm the scheduled talks.