

## Pakistan extradites 2 drug lords to US

ISLAMABAD, Apr 3: Two of Pakistan's most notorious drug lords have been extradited to the United States where they will face prosecution for more than 100 counts of heroin and hashish smuggling, US officials said on Monday, reports AP.

Iqbal Baig and Anwar Khattak were put on a US government plane on Sunday evening only hours after their appeals against extradition were turned down by the High Court in Rawalpindi, the city adjacent to the capital of Islamabad.

"They're gone," Jack McCreary, a spokesman for the US Information Service in Islamabad, said on Monday morning.

The two men were expected to arrive on Monday at a military base on the East Coast of the United States but officials said they didn't know which one. They were likely to be arraigned shortly after their arrival, the officials added.

Baig and Khattak together ran one of Pakistan's biggest heroin and hashish trafficking networks, according to US and Pakistani officials. Both were

imprisoned in Pakistan where they had been convicted of drug smuggling.

Baig and Khattak will face 102 counts of smuggling heroin and hashish into the United States and the trials are likely to take place in either Brooklyn, New York, or Michigan, where the alleged offenses occurred, a US official said.

Their extradition appeared timed to precede Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to the United States, which begins on Wednesday.

The United States has pressured Pakistan to crack down on drug trafficking, and Benazir has said she will be seeking US help to combat the drug smuggling and terrorism that plague her country.

She has tried to portray her country as a moderate Islamic state in need of Western assistance, and the extraditions are likely to win her support from US officials.

This is the second high-profile extradition case involving the United States and Pakistan in recent months.

## Serbs bomb UN 'safe area' of Bihac

# Efforts to halt Bosnian war appear at virtual dead end

SARAJEVO, Apr 3: The faltering ceasefire in Bosnia received yet a further blow when Serb forces bombarded the UN declared "safe area" of Bihac and diplomatic efforts to end the three year old war appeared at a virtual dead end, reports Reuter.

UN officials said the Serbs shelled government controlled Bihac town on Sunday and staged infantry assaults with rebel Muslims on positions of the Muslim led Bosnian army a few dozen km (miles) to the north near Velika Kladusa.

Analysts said they feared Bosnia could be considered a long low level conflict, with statement on the battlefield, as the west seemed to have abandoned its attempt to impose a peace plan on the recalcitrant separatist Serbs.

A UN spokesman said 15 shells landed inside the "safe area" radius around Bihac

town in northwest Bosnia. Eleven hit built up districts inside the town.

UN observers reported damage but no casualties, similar attacks in the past have killed or wounded dozens in the main town of a mostly Muslim region of some 160,000 people beset by Serb forces since June 1992.

An amateur radio report from the Bihac enclave spoke of "everything burning from shelling in the area of Velika Kladusa, a rebel Muslim held town near the northern confrontation line of the pocket."

UN sources said rebel Muslim and Serb forces launched a fierce attack on Vronograc 15 km (nine miles) east of Kladusa and about 50 km (30 miles) north of Bihac town, but could not say if the front line had shifted.

The United Nations has designated Bihac town, on the

enclave's southern edge, as a "safe area" eligible for protection by UN soldiers based there and NATO warplanes patrolling overhead.

The Serbs have shelled several "safe areas" without NATO retaliation since November when they held some UN soldiers as hostages in reprisal for three allied air raids on their positions near Bihac.

NATO powers subsequently shelved threats of force to make the Serbs give up conquered land under an international peace plan opting to reserve a UN humanitarian mission crucial for the survival of civilians in Serb encircled government enclaves.

A UN mediated ceasefire, due to last four months, took effect on January 1 but has been unravelling in the absence of follow up peace talks thwarted by the Serbs refusal to yield some of the 70 per

cent of Bosnia under their control.

Both sides, including the frustrated Muslim led Sarajevo government which would have got a 50 per cent share of Bosnia under the peace plan, have used the truce to regroup, and rearm.

Government troops launched two tactical offensives on Serb held strategic highlands in north central Bosnia last month, six weeks before the expiry of the ceasefire.

The assaults appear to have fizzled out after modest gains, sapped as in the past by the government's inability to match the Serbs in heavy calibre firepower.

Serbs have since shelled UN "safe areas" including Tuzla and Gorazde in retaliation for the Muslim offensives, both sides have indicated they will not renew the ceasefire.

## Off the Record



Russian soldiers scrub the "Victory" memorial statue on top of a roof in Poklonnaya Gora in Moscow on Sunday. The memorial is scheduled to be inaugurated May 8 to honour the 50th anniversary of Soviet victory in World War II. — AFP/UNB photo

### Letters 'For Your Eyes Only' lost

LONDON: Roger Moore's ex-wife Dorothy Squires said on Sunday she had lost 300 love letters from the actor who played James Bond — letters she said were for her eyes only, reports Reuter.

Squires who was married to Moore from 1953 to 1969, said she may have lost the letters when her furniture was auctioned in 1990 after she was made bankrupt.

"The letters were very precious to read over the years," the 80-year-old singer told Britain's press association news agency. "A lot of the time they comforted me, I would never publish them."

Moore, 67, who starred in Bond classics including "The Spy Who Loved Me" and "For Your Eyes Only" declined comment.

Squires only granted him a divorce in 1969 after he had lived with his third wife, Eusa Mattioli for seven years.

Moore and Mattioli separated in January, newspapers said he had fallen in love with wealthy Danish widow Christina "Kiki" Tholstrup, 53.

### Diana's brother says British newspapers 'sick' & 'evil'

LONDON: Princess Diana's brother Lord Spencer berated British newspapers on Sunday, calling them "sick" and "evil" for their reporting of his wife's alleged eating disorder, reports Reuter.

He confirmed that his wife, the 29-year-old Countess Spencer, was being treated at an exclusive clinic in Surrey, southern England, for "psychological problems."

Newspapers said she was suffering from bulimia, a slimming disease in which victims force themselves to vomit after eating. Diana herself has been quoted as saying she once suffered from bulimia.

Lord Spencer said he planned to protest formally to the press complaints commission about the tactics of journalists who had "constantly harassed" his wife Victoria, a former model.

He accused them of using false identities to pester patients at the clinic.

"If ever proof was needed that sections of the tabloid newspaper business in this country are riddled with hypocrisy and evil then it was provided today," he said in a statement to Britain's press association news agency.

"To use someone's illness to fill your newspaper has to be the ultimate proof that sick minds dominate this part of the British media."

The commission, consisting mostly of members nominated by newspaper, has no legal powers.

### Children of divorced parents doing worse at school

LONDON: Children of divorced parents suffer problems throughout life, doing worse at school than the offspring of couples who stayed together and showing behavioural problems, British researchers reported on Sunday, says Reuter.

Martin Richards of Cambridge University's Centre for Family Research said the age children were when parents divorced was a major factor. Those aged 12 to 15 were the worst affected, and pre-school children were also badly affected.

"Parental divorce brings many upheavals and emotional issues for children," Richards told a meeting of the British psychological society.

Richards and colleagues followed 17,000 children born in one week in 1958 in Britain, the United States and New Zealand.

He found the children of divorced parents, on average, left home earlier and started families sooner than did the children of "intact" families.

## S Korea begins massive military exercises

SEOUL, Apr 3: South Korea began massive military training exercises Monday amid escalating worries over the fate of a deal to freeze rival North Korea's nuclear programme, suspected of developing weapons, reports AP.

The combined tactical exercises, the largest South Korea has staged on its own in recent years, will continue until Saturday near the eastern front line, with 80,000 troops from the army, navy and air force participating, Defence Ministry officials said.

They said the exercises also will involve reservists, but did not disclose the number. Similar exercises will be

held later this year along the western front line, the officials said. Seoul, the capital, is only 56 kilometers (35 miles) from the North Korean border.

Ministry officials said the first-day exercises included airdrops of food for ground troops moving to positions in rugged mountains. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Kim Hong-Rae joined in, flying an F-5F jet fighter.

"I flew a sortie to check for myself the readiness of our air force against North Korea, which keeps increasing tension," Kim told local reporters. The exercises will reach their peak Thursday with an amphibious assault landing under air cover on the east coast

## BRIEFLY

**Yeltsin signs AIDS Bill:** President Boris Yeltsin on Monday signed into law a controversial Bill that imposes mandatory AIDS tests for foreigners, prisoners and refugees. AP reports from Moscow.

AIDS activists have criticised the measure, saying it violates human rights and Russia's obligations under international agreements.

**Ukrainian held in Prague:** Czech police arrested a Ukrainian who opened fire in Prague airport and hijacked a taxi before being caught in a big manhunt, police said yesterday. Reuter reports from Prague.

The man, named only as Oleg Z., wounded a policeman in the shooting incident which happened late on Saturday but was not immediately reported. He was detained on Sunday.

**Desai's condition improving:** The clinical condition of former Prime Minister, Morarji Desai was stable and he was responding to verbal communications, doctors attending on him said yesterday. PTI reports from Bombay.

There was a marked improvement in his level of consciousness since last Friday and he was improving well, they said.

**WWII bomb defused in UK:** Army bomb disposal experts safely disarmed a huge World War II German bomb in southwest England on Sunday, allowing 4,000 evacuated people to go back home. Reuter reports from London.

Many of the inhabitants of Portland were evacuated for two days while bomb disposal expert Captain Mike Lobb disarmed the half-ton (500 kg) bomb.

**Blasts kill one in Guatemala:** A powerful bomb exploded near the presidential palace while UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was attending a dinner. One man was killed and a woman wounded, but no one in the palace was reported injured, AP says from Guatemala City.

The bomb exploded on Sunday night about 300 meters (yards) west of the palace. It was strong enough to break glass at nearby homes and could be heard through much of the city.

A second, less powerful bomb exploded a few minutes later in the same area, breaking some windows in nearby homes and offices.

**4 more beheaded in Saudi Arabia:** Two Pakistanis, a Saudi and an Afghan were beheaded in Riyadh on Sunday, raising to 62 the number of executions carried in the Kingdom this year, compared with 58, for the whole of last year. AFP reports from Riyadh.

An Interior Ministry statement read out on state television said a Saudi man, Idriss Barnawi, was executed for raping a taxi driver. The ministry said two Pakistanis and an Afghan were beheaded for smuggling heroin into the Kingdom. They had brought the drug in after swallowing it.

**43 hurt as US jet catches fire:** The tail engine of an American Airlines jet bound for Santo Domingo caught fire before takeoff at Kennedy Airport, forcing the evacuation of 108 passengers and crew members. Forty-three people were injured sliding down emergency chutes, authorities said, AP reports from New York.

The cause of the Sunday morning fire on the MD-11 wasn't immediately known. Thirty of the injured were taken to hospitals, said port authority spokesman Tom Middlemiss. The most serious injury was a broken leg.

**13 die in Thai train mishap:** Thirteen people were killed late on Sunday when a 10-wheel truck loaded with gravel collided with a Bangkok Express train 280 kilometers (175 miles) south of the capital, AFP reports from Bangkok.

Police in Prachuap Khikhon reached by telephone, said that more than 100 people were injured in the crash, 20 of them seriously. Ten passenger cars derailed and four caught fire in the accident.

### 7 Uzbek opposition leaders jailed

TASHKENT, Apr 3: Seven Uzbek opposition leaders accused of plotting to overthrow the hard-line government have been sentenced to prison by the Supreme Court in the former Soviet republic, reports AP.

The main defendant, Murad Dzhurayev, was sentenced to 12 years by a panel of judges meeting late Friday. Under Uzbek law, he could have been sentenced to death.

The court sentenced the other six defendants to between five and 10 years in prison. All of the defendants were members of the now-banned Erk party.

The seven activists were arrested by Uzbek secret police last summer in Almaty, the capital of neighbouring central Asian republic of Kazakhstan.

## US steps up pressure on Russia to scrap N-deal with Iran

MOSCOW, Apr 3: US Defence Secretary William Perry stepped up pressure on Russia Monday to scrap its planned sale of nuclear reactors to Iran, but there was no indication the government intended to forgo the highly profitable deal, reports AP.

"Our first objective is to stop the sale," Perry told reporters before meeting Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and other government officials.

In an hour-long one-on-one session with Grachev at the Ministry of Defense, Perry made the Clinton administration's case against the reactor deal. Afterward, Grachev told reporters it was not a matter for his ministry to decide.

Perry was expected to discuss it further in a meeting later Monday with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Perry was not scheduled to see President Boris Yeltsin.

In his remarks to reporters before talking to Grachev, Perry hinted that he saw an uphill battle in trying to persuade the Russians not to complete the deal.

"The sale is a very big economic factor for them," he said. "It would be a very hard decision for them to make" to give up the estimated \$1.5 billion in earnings.

Perry said Washington was opposed to the reactor deal even if Russia worked out strict controls on how Iran would manage the reactors' spent fuel, some of which could, with sufficient technical know-how, be used to make nuclear weapons.

"Restraints would not give me the comfort factor of simply not having the reactor" in Iran's hands, Perry said, adding that Iran has no real need for the reactors.

"The country is awash in oil," Perry said, and thus can

meet its electricity generating requirements without supplementing it with nuclear power. "So one starts off being suspicious of why they want nuclear reactors".

There is a strong feeling in Moscow that Washington's objections are rooted in a desire to stop Russia from regaining a foothold in the Middle Eastern marketplace. That sentiment was expressed Sunday by Russia's atomic energy minister.

The United States controlled the nuclear technology market for 40 years, Viktor Mikhailov, said in a television interview. "Now no one wants us to earn money, too."

Mikhailov also said Iran "could not possibly be a nation of terrorists."

The United States contends Iran is clandestinely pursuing a nuclear weapons programme, although the Iranian government insists its nuclear programme is strictly civilian.



Palestinian police carry explosives seized at an apartment where a blast destroyed a three-story building in the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood of Gaza City on Sunday. Palestinian police say that a Gaza child died and at least four members of Ezzedeen al-Kassam, the militant wing of the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement were killed in the blast, including a 28-year-old leader of the group Kamal Kheil. — AFP/UNB Photo

## Chandrika for talks with LTTE

COLOMBO, Apr 3: President Chandrika Kumaratunga has proposed April 8 and 10 for resuming peace talks with Tamil rebels that have been stalled for more than two months, reports AP.

The dates were suggested in a letter on Saturday to rebel chief Velupillai Prabhakaran, officials said Monday. The talks could be held in rebel-held Jaffna, the town in northern Sri Lanka where the previous two rounds of talks were held. The rebels had not re-

sponded so far, said the officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The president had rejected the rebels' invitation to Jaffna on April 1, saying they had not given her sufficient notice.

Both sides have accused the other of bad faith. Kumaratunga says the guerrillas are stalling on the opening of discussions on a political solution to the 11-year conflict to squeeze more military concessions from the government.

The guerrillas have said they will consider abandoning the peace process until the government agrees within three weeks to lift an economic blockade of Jaffna and remove a strategic military base in the north.

The rebels have been fighting for an independent homeland, accusing the majority Sinhalese discrimination in education and jobs. More than 34,000 people have been killed in the ethnic war since 1984.

## Karachi killings: 5 militants arrested

KARACHI, Apr 3: Pakistani police said today they arrested five militants suspected of having killed at least 68 people in violence-hit Karachi, reports Reuter.

"We have arrested five members of a gang of hit men responsible for the murder of at least 69 people killed during the last year," a police spokesman said.

Police recovered stolen vehicles and weapons including two assault rifles, a stungun and a pistol. The spokesman did not say when the men were arrested.

At least 800 people were killed in Karachi in ethnic and sectarian violence in 1994 and more than 360 have died this year.

The spokesman accused the five men of killing 20 Shi'ite Muslims in pre-dawn attacks on two mosques on February 25, and murdering seven men in house last month.

## JKLF warns Delhi not to go ahead with planned polls

MUZAFFARABAD, Apr 3: The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), fighting against Indian rule in Kashmir on Sunday warned New Delhi not to go ahead with planned elections in the province, reports AP.

"Indian move to start a political process to hoodwink outside world will be opposed with full force," JKLF would do, but vowed that his organisation had the "strength" to frustrate the Indian plan, adding "Kashmiris are sacrificing their lives not for elections but for self determination."

JKLF, like other Kashmiri Muslim militant groups, demands a UN-sponsored referendum in Kashmir.

## Vajpayee slates action against Jayalalitha

PANJJI, Apr 3: The senior BJP leader, Atal Behari Vajpayee today disapproved Tamil Nadu governor, Dr M Chenna Reddy's action of sanctioning prosecution of the state Chief Minister, Jayalalitha on charges on corruption, reports PTI.

"It is politics," Vajpayee commented when asked at the party press briefing about his views on the issue.

"The relations between the two had never been cordial. The governor should not have been involved in such issues at all," he said.

## Hitler's remains was preserved by Soviets until '70

BONN, Apr 3: Adolf Hitler's corpse, which disappeared in Berlin in 1945, was preserved in Germany by the Soviets until 1970 when it was burned, the German weekly Der Spiegel reveals in its latest edition to appear today, reports AP.

In a 12-page cover story, the Hamburg magazine says that the final order for the incineration came from then KGB chief Yuri Andropov, who feared that the body could one day become the object of cult worship.

The magazine reproduces a letter from Andropov — later a Soviet leader — to then Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev dated March 13, 1970, the most important passages of which are handwritten: "In February 1946," writes

Andropov, "the human remains of Hitler, Eva Braun, Goebbels, his wife and children, in all 10 people, were buried in Magdeburg on the grounds of our garrison." Andropov goes on to say that the garrison's land was to be returned to the East German authorities and to prevent the corpses from being discovered, he proposed incinerating the remains.

The operation will be carried out under the seal of strictest secrecy" by a KGB unit, Andropov wrote.

The Andropov letter was authenticated by Vladimir Kryuchkov, Andropov's chief aide at the time and himself a later KGB chief.

According to Der Spiegel,

which has promised a follow up story for next week's edition. Andropov's advisers warned him that if Hitler's remains left Soviet control they could become a dangerous rallying point for neo-Nazis.

The magazine also said that it had a Magdeburg KGB transcript, in which it said that the remains, kept in five munitions cases since 1946, had been incinerated with the appropriate technology. The Nazi dictator's ashes were dispersed.

Until last year, even the most authoritative historians conceded that Hitler's body had never been found after he committed suicide in his bunker on 30 April 1945.

Several witnesses however have already said that Hitler

was buried in Magdeburg on the territory which Andropov mentions in his letter to Brezhnev. The discovery in March 1994 of human remains in the same street rekindled speculation about the fate of the dictator's remains.

Providing more evidence of events in Berlin in 1945, Der Spiegel cites documents discovered in Russian archives under the code name "operation myth" and describing a vigorous interrogation conducted by the Soviets after World War II of witnesses of Hitler's last hours.

Stalin ordered of the interrogation, Der Spiegel says, because he did not want to believe Hitler had committed

suicide, but all the witnesses questioned, some under torture, confirmed Hitler had died on 30 April 1945.

The mystery of Hitler's last days has caught the public imagination on a number of occasions, most notably in 1983 when a forger sold faked editions of what he claimed were Hitler's diaries to the German magazine Stern — and then the British Sunday Times — before being exposed and sentenced to three years in prison.

Mindful of the time of year, commentators said Der Spiegel's story was highly unlikely to be an April fool. The magazine does not come out until April 3, and a joke on this subject would be considered in very bad taste in Germany.