

# Winnie challenges dismissal in court

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 11: Winnie Mandela's lawyer has filed court papers against her estranged husband, President Nelson Mandela, challenging her firing from his Cabinet, reports AP.

The papers filed Monday in the Pretoria Supreme Court demand that Mandela disclose his reasons for dismissing her last month as Deputy Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology.

They also call for her reinstatement on grounds the dismissal was unfair. In an ironic twist, a longtime opponent of the African National Congress — the party of both Mandela and his wife — filed a separate court document supporting Winnie Mandela.

Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Home Affairs minister, said in his submission he was never consulted as a Cabinet member about Winnie's dismissal, as called for in the constitution.

Mandela is out of the country. His spokesman, Parks Mankahlana, said Tuesday the president's office had yet to receive any documents or summons and therefore had no comment.



# UN blames Serbs for targeting civilian areas in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Apr 11: New explosions and gunfire rattled Sarajevo on Tuesday, and fighting wracked front lines to the north of the Bosnian capital, reports AP.

The city's airport remained closed because besieging Bosnian Serbs refused to promise they would not shoot at airplanes, preventing a visit by international mediators. That illustrated the dominance of military activity over diplomacy as time runs out on a tattered four-month cease-fire agreement.

Several heavy explosions, possibly mortar shells, resounded through central Sarajevo overnight and early Tuesday. Small-arms and machine-gun fire rattled around one of the capital's most tense front lines at the city's Jewish cemetery, close to the city

centre. There was no immediate word on casualties.

The United Nations has blamed mortar attacks on the city centre in recent days on the Serbs, and accused them of targeting civilian areas with heavy weapons that have been banned from the Sarajevo area for more than a year.

On Monday, the government banned all public gatherings in the city as a precaution. In February 1994, 68 people were killed at a market by a single mortar blast.

The airport, Sarajevo's lifeline to the outside world, has been closed since the Serb small-arms fire hit a US cargo plane on Saturday.

Officials of the international community's so-called Contact Group — mediators from the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany — were

expected in Sarajevo for new talks. But the closure of the airport prevented that.

The mediators also were expected in Belgrade this week to talk to Serbia's influential President Slobodan Milosevic.

Mediators have been unable to make progress on a negotiated end to three years of war during the cease-fire period, which formally ends May 1. Combatants have said they do not want to renew the agreement, and the level of fighting in Bosnia has slowly increased.

UN spokesmen at headquarters in Zagreb, Croatia, on Tuesday reported increased fighting between the Muslim-led government forces and Serbs on Mount Majevica in northeast Bosnia, and heavy shelling in the area of Tesanj

in north-central Bosnia.

The Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA claimed Serb forces had repulsed a government attempt to capture a communications tower on Majevica.

On Monday, UN spokesman Chris Gunness in Zagreb said two children had been killed when shells hit a school in government-held Tesanj. He said the Bosnian Serb shelling appeared to be in retaliation for a government attack earlier Monday.

In the same area, the UN reported five civilians were wounded in Serb-held Tesanj in an artillery attack by government forces. And Gunness said there was heavy fighting around Zepe between the Serbs and Bosnian Croats, who are allied with the government forces.

# Off the Record

## Campaign against child obesity

SINGAPORE: Singapore has opened a new front in its war against obesity among children with a second campaign that steps out of school gyms, into the great outdoors, reports AP.

Singapore's fondness for government-sponsored social campaigns reached classrooms in 1992 when the Trim and Wit programme was started with a twin agenda: Regular physical activity during school time and proper nutrition in school snack bars.

On Sunday, the government launched the new Fit and Wit programme to educate students on a healthy diet at home and to make them swim, jog, run obstacle courses and perform gymnastics and aerobics.

A total of 115 students aged nine to 14 signed up for the five-month programme to be conducted mainly at a sports complex. In the evenings, the kids and their parents will attend classes on nutrition and dietary habits.

Parents also are being targeted because children were found to be gaining weight during holiday's nullifying the success of the Trim and Wit programme at schools, said Peter Hoon of the Singapore Sports Council. The council is spearheading the new campaign with the help of education and health ministries.

The Trim and Wit programme has helped 4,044 overweight kids reach acceptable weight levels, according to the latest government survey in May 1994. Still, 41,374 students remain obese, the survey said.

While the Trim and Wit programme was aimed at all fat children, Fit and Wit is only for students less than 40 per cent overweight because it requires them to do strenuous physical exercises. Fit and Wit is an acronym for Fitness Improvement Training and Weight Intervention.

## All in vain

TEHRAN: An 81-year-old Iranian man was detained by police after his landlady, 58, complained he kept writing love letters to her even though she had rejected him, a newspaper said on Monday reports Reuter.

"I was expressing my special feelings towards her. I felt sorry for her so I proposed to marry her in all my letters," the man was quoted by The Daily Kar Va Kargar as telling a magistrate.

The landlady also said the man refused to move out of her house, the newspaper reported, adding that the court was reviewing the case.

## Newsmen take a dip over Fujimori's victory

LIMA: Javier Perez de Cuellar wasn't the only one to take a dunking in Peru's presidential elections. The staff of the leading opposition magazine took a dip Monday in front of the residential palace to make good on its word, reports AP.

The director of the opposition magazine Caretas had predicted President Alberto Fujimori wouldn't win re-election on the first-round of Peru's election process, and promised to bathe in the fountain in Lima's main plaza if he did.

Fujimori won hands down, posting more than 60 per cent of the vote in unofficial results to 22 per cent for Perez de Cuellar, the former UN secretary general.

Magazine director Enrique Zileri and six of the publication's reporters turned out Monday morning to get wet.

The only problem was the fountain was bone dry. But determined not to renege on a promise, Zileri ordered a tanker truck of water to the scene.

"We are keeping our word with good humour," said journalist Cecilia Valenzuela the only woman in the group.

"Hope we don't catch cold," she said, dressed in a T-shirt and jeans. Caretas is Peru's most important weekly news magazine.

## Conference on sex tourism

SAINT VINCENT, Italy: A Vatican-backed conference on sex tourism called for prosecution of those who take part in such tours as well as their promoters, reports AP.

Tourism industry, legal and health officials met here for three days to discuss ways to combat the exploitation of women and children by promoters catering to travellers.

They issued a declaration Saturday calling for severe legal penalties against the promoters of sex tourism and those who leave their country in search of sex, often with children.

The meeting was sponsored by the Italian government and World Tourism Organisation, with the participation of the Holy See.

# BRIEFLY

## Mandela arrives in UAE:

President Nelson Mandela arrived in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) yesterday on the first visit by a South African head of state to the Gulf OPEC oil producer, officials said. AFP reports from Abu Dhabi.

UAE President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahayan met Mandela at the airport and the two leaders drove to the guest palace where they will hold talks on political and economic links, the officials said.

## Bellamy to head UNICEF:

Peace corps director Carol Bellamy, an American with extensive experience in public service, has been chosen to head UNICEF. A spokesman for UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said on Monday. AFP reports from United Nations.

The appointment of Bellamy to head the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) brought to an end several weeks of intense behind-the-scenes wrangling between US and European diplomats over who should get the job.

## Arafat in Egypt:

PLO leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Egypt yesterday for talks with President Hosni Mubarak, airport sources said. Reuter reports from Cairo.

Arafat, who ordered a crackdown on Muslim militants after two weekend suicide attacks killed seven Israelis and one US citizen in Gaza, was expected to discuss the violence in Palestinian rules Gaza and Jericho.

## Rwanda blocks WFP aid convoys:

Rwandan authorities are blocking World Food Programme (WFP) aid convoys bearing supplies for some one million Rwandan refugees in camps in Zaire, the WFP charged in Rome on Monday. AFP reports from Rome.

The Rwandan government has frequently objected to the aid going to the camps, which, as well as housing civilians, also play home to thousands of extremist Hutus responsible for the genocide in Rwanda last year and the murder of upto a million people.

## Bus-train collision kills 14 in ROK:

At least 14 people were killed on Tuesday and 20 others were injured when a passenger train smashed into a bus on a provincial railroad crossing, police said. AFP reports from Seoul.

Police blamed careless driving, saying the bus driver failed to heed a stop signal. "The bus driver did not stop, although all of us spotted the red light and the train running toward our bus," Chung Soo-Jung, a passenger on the bus, told the Yonhap news agency from his hospital bed.

## 13 students killed in bus mishap:

Thirteen students, including five girls were killed and 22 others injured when the bus carrying them tumbled down from an overbridge and fell on to a railway track near Tumkur, about 70 kms from Bangalore yesterday. PTI reports from Bangalore.

Police said the students were returning home in the chartered bus from Bombay. The mishap occurred when the driver tried to overtake another vehicle.

## Clinton's remarks protested:

Some 50 citizens staged a sit-in in Hiroshima on Monday to protest against US President Bill Clinton's remarks defending the atomic bombing of the Japanese city, a news report said. AFP says from Tokyo.

The United States does not owe Japan an apology for its Atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki at the end of World War II, Clinton said in Dallas, Texas on Friday.

## Deng's main rival Chen Yun dies:

Chinese ultra-conservative Chen Yun, the main political rival to senior leader Deng Xiaoping, has died, according to reports in Beijing and in Hong Kong. AFP says from Beijing.

In Beijing Japan's Kyodo news agency reported that the 90-year-old Marxist economist had died from undisclosed causes on Monday. Chen was transferred to the capital recently after being treated for pneumonia in Shanghai.

## Russian jets bomb Afghan dist:

Russian jets bombed a district of the northern Afghan province of Takhar on Sunday night, damaging several houses, official Kabul Radio said on Monday. Reuter reports from Islamabad.

The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, said four SU-25 jets had bombed some areas of Chah Ab district near the border with Tajikistan, where Russia has deployed about 15,000 troops to help the government fight Islamic guerrillas suspected of having bases in Afghanistan.

## Ciller defends drive against Kurds in Iraq

ANKARA, Apr 11: Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on Monday defended Turkey's drive against rebel Kurds in Iraq as US officials arrived in Ankara and pressure mounted to limit the operation, reports Reuter.

"I know there are people in Europe and elsewhere who do not fully understand the murderous nature of this organisation," Ciller said in a reference to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) fighting for an independent Kurdish homeland.

"They do not grasp why, for a strictly limited period, we have had to take our struggle into a narrow strip of Iraqi territory," she told visiting European journalists students.

# Filipinos flee mountain homes as hunt for rebels continues

IPII, Philippines, Apr 11: Hundreds of terrified villagers fled their mountain homes Tuesday as Muslim gunmen continued robbing and taking hostages while fleeing pursuing troops, officials said, reports AP.

Fighting raged on two fronts for a seventh day as government forces hunted gunmen from the Abu Sayyaf group who pillaged the predominantly Christian town of IpiI, a market centre 770 kilometres (480 miles) south of Manila, last Tuesday.

One gunman was reported killed and two others wounded in a brief jungle firefight Tuesday morning. Col Narciso Abaya, commander of the 102nd army brigade, told reporters. One wounded gunman

was captured, he said.

Abaya said the firefight erupted when 20 Abu Sayyaf militants, hungry and weak after seven days on the run, were scrounging for food when they encountered a unit of government militiamen.

Another clash was reported raging in the afternoon in nearby Bungco village, but there were no details available. Army troops were guided by Abu Sayyaf hostages who escaped Monday, the military said.

At least 28 Abu Sayyaf members have been reported killed since government troops started pursuing the insurgents after last Tuesday's raid, according to Maj Fredevindo Covarubias, military southern command

spokesman.

The fighting has forced more than 425 residents to flee Candis village near the town of Stocon, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) west of IpiI, relief workers said.

Some 2,700 persons are being housed in public buildings and parish centres in the nearby town of RT Lim, said social welfare officer Paquito Bayawa.

Officials said the residents are fleeing their homes for fear of being robbed and used as "human shields" by the gunmen.

On Monday, local officials and religious leaders vowed to work together to prevent the IpiI tragedy from exploding into a Christian-Muslim conflict.

Roman Catholic Bishop Federico Escaler reiterated his call on all Christians to refrain from airing accusations against the Muslim community, saying

"they should not be blamed for the acts of a misguided segment."

The IpiI raid has raised fears of new attacks by Muslim extremists throughout the volatile southern Philippines.

In Puerto Princesa, 500 kilometres (300 miles) west of IpiI, the military went on alert Tuesday after reports of armed men seen along a traditional Muslim escape route to Malaysia.

Maj Gen Carlos Tanega, western regional commander based in Puerto Princesa, said

## Lankan peace talks yield no results

COLOMBO, Apr 11: Current peace talks between the Sri Lankan government and Tamil rebels fighting for their own homeland in the north and east have not been as successful as hoped, a rebel leader said, reports Reuter.

"The government team came without the ability to make decisions. It was merely giving assurances," said political leader Tamil Chelvam at a news conference after one day of talks on Monday in the rebel-held Jaffna peninsula.

"The talks were not as successful as expected," he said.

The news conference was broadcast today over the Voice of Tigers radio monitored by residents in the government-controlled town of Vavuniya. The government will issue a statement later today, officials said.

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US Senator Robert Dole (L) is joined by his wife Elizabeth as he gives a thumbs-up to supporters before announcing his third bid for the Republican Party's presidential nomination on Monday, in Topeka, Kansas. Dole, who was President Gerald Ford's runningmate in '76, also challenged Ronald Reagan in the '80 primary and Vice President George Bush in the '88 primary. — AFP/UNB Photo

## UN arms inspector's report

### Iraq seeking germ warfare capability

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 11: In a blow to Iraq's campaign to ease crippling economic sanctions, the top UN weapons inspector concludes that Baghdad seems to be pursuing germ warfare capability, reports AP.

The report by Rolf Ekeus was distributed to members of the Security Council on Monday. The council was scheduled to discuss it Wednesday.

Russia and France, seeking business in Iraq, have pressed the council to ease sanctions. But that would require that the

grams (200 pounds) a year would be enough for Iraq's scientific and medical requirements.

In his report, Ekeus said his inspection team "has come to the conclusion that Iraq has not provided the full and comprehensive disclosure of its past military biological programme nor accounted for items and materials acquired for this programme."

"With Iraq's failure to account for the use of these items and materials for legitimate purposes, the only con-

clusion that can be drawn is that there is a high risk that they have been purchased and used for a proscribed purpose — acquisition of biological warfare agents," the report said.

Ekeus said his inspectors have received data from Iraq that allows monitoring of key sites that might produce germ warfare agents, even though the Iraq's information "varied from declaration to declaration to the point of contradiction."

A copy of the reports main conclusions was obtained by The Associated Press.

## Benazir optimistic about solution to Kashmir crisis

WASHINGTON, Apr 11: Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto voiced optimism on Monday that her country's explosive dispute with India over Kashmir can be resolved, reports AP.

"Kashmir can be settled," she said on CNN television.

"If South Africa can be settled, if the middle East peace process can be maintained and in Northern Ireland steps can be taken to bring about a political process, why not Kashmir?" she said.

As with South Africa and the Middle East, Benazir said the world community should intervene with Kashmir.

"I think it's very important for the world community or the United Nations or the United States to help mediate the peace," she said.

"I hope it does not have to lead to war. There has been no war since 1971," she said, noting that both sides were now building up weapons for the sake of "deterrence."



British pop-rock star Cliff Richard holds his platinum disc presented at a press conference in Johannesburg on Monday. Richard is on a world tour, which includes South Africa, to celebrate his 35-year pop career. — AFP/UNB photo

## Police, Hamas activists trade fire in Gaza

JERUSALEM, Apr 11: Palestinian police and supporters of Muslim militants exchanged fire on the streets of Gaza early today, hours after PLO leader Yasser Arafat ordered a crackdown on radical Islamic groups, reports Reuter.

"There was an exchange of fire between police and Hamas supporters", an official at the office of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's leader told Reuters.

There were no reports of casualties. Palestinian security forces have been ordered to crackdown on the militant Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups following two deadly suicide attacks on Israelis.

Residents said dozens of Hamas and Islamic Jihad supporters had taken to the streets in several Gaza neighbourhoods chanting "Allahu Akbar" (God is great) when they heard the sound of gunfire.

Arafat ordered his security forces on Monday to take "firm

measures" against Muslim militants after suicide bombings killed seven Israelis and one US citizen in Gaza.

Arafat told his higher security council he had information that Hamas and Islamic Jihad had instructions from abroad to step up attacks on Israelis in Palestinian areas.

"There is a decision by external parties to their branches to escalate tension and increase terrorist attacks in the Palestinian authority areas in order to weaken the Palestinian authority," the council said after a meeting with Arafat.

"Arafat demanded from his security council members to be warned and aware of these plots and actions and to follow up with firm measures the steps already taken by the security forces."

Hamas and Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the suicide car bombings on Israeli vehicles in the Gaza Strip on Sunday.

Arafat ordered his security forces on Monday to take "firm

## Ruling party sweeps polls in Zimbabwe

HARARE, Apr 11: The ruling ZANU-PF Party in Zimbabwe has won nearly all parliamentary seats at stake in general elections held at the weekend while the opposition is left with a mere two seats, according to nearly final results published late on Monday, reports AP.

With results in from 52 of the 65 contested constituencies, the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) had garnered 50.

The two other seats went to the regionally-based conservative ZANU-Ndonga party of veteran nationalist Reverend Ndabaningi Sithole in the Chipinge district near the border with Mozambique.