



Supporters of political prisoners Kim Sun-Myong (C) greet the 71-year-old man on Tuesday at his release from jail after 45 years of incarceration. South Korea freed Kim, the man Amnesty International calls the world's longest serving prisoner of conscience, in an amnesty to mark Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule in 1945. — AFP/UNB photo

# Yeltsin gives Chechen rebels ultimatum to disarm fighters

MOSCOW, Aug 15: Russian President Boris Yeltsin gave Chechen rebels an ultimatum today to respond to a Russian disarmament order. Interfax news agency said, reports AFP.

The Chechen rebels must give an answer to a Russian plan for implementing disarmament of the fighters, Yeltsin said, Interfax reported.

"If we do not have an answer to our declarations before 18:00 (1400 GMT), we will react with all necessary determination," he said. Yeltsin said the independence fighters, who have been battling Russian forces since December, will not be permitted to regroup in the Russian-held lowlands of Chechnya.

"We will not allow the fighters to have the possibil-

ity to organise themselves in bands again on the plains," Yeltsin was quoted as saying. The Kremlin would not confirm or deny that the statement was made.

On Monday, the Chechen rebel military commander refused to sign a Russian plan aimed at speeding up the already agreed to disarmament of separatist forces.

This sparked a threat of renewed military action in the Caucasian republic by the Russian government.

"The government of Russia warns that it will not permit illegal armed formations and groups committing violence, terrorist acts and sabotage to continue to act with impunity in the republic," the statement carried by the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

"To this end, all the necessary measures will be taken

to defend citizens' rights," the statement said.

Under a July 30 pact, the rebel Chechen forces, except for small self-defence units in certain areas, are to disarm while the Russians are to withdraw all but two of their brigades, leaving about 6,000 men.

So far, none of the conditions have been fulfilled and the negotiations on fundamental issues, such as Chechnya's political status, have virtually ground to a halt.

Reuters adds, the prospect of renewed fighting hung over Chechnya today after Russia vowed to crack down on rebel forces if their leaders did not immediately accept its terms for implementing a military agreement. Moscow issued a strong

statement on Monday signalling its patience had run out over the rebels' failure to disarm under the agreement signed on July 30.

It accused separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev of trying to alter the terms of the deal and said he was scotching hopes of ending eight months of fighting.

"Although many field commanders and militants sincerely wish for peace and are prepared to face peace, Dudayev and his closest entourage have been pushing the population towards new, senseless bloodshed," the government statement said.

The statement, issued through ITAR-Tass news agency, said peace talks could continue only if the Chechens took real and immediate steps to carry out all parts of the military deal.

# Rao accuses Pakistan of exporting terrorism

NEW DELHI, Aug 15: Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao today accused Pakistan of exporting terrorism and said the beheading of a Norwegian tourist in Kashmir showed how brutal the guerrillas could be, reports Reuter.

"Pakistan is exporting terrorism and we saw a picture of it how brutally the terrorists are working there in Kashmir," Rao said in an address to mark the 48th anniversary of Indian Independence day.

The decapitated body of Norwegian tourist Hans Christian Ostroe, one of five Western hostages held by militants, was found in the forests of India's troubled province of Jammu and Kashmir on Sunday. The killing triggered worldwide condemnation.

India has said it will not accede to the separatist Al-Faran group's demands that it

free 15 separatists. The group threatened to kill the other captives if its demands were not met within two days.

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Monday denounced the beheading of Ostroe as terrorism, but reaffirmed Islamabad's support for Kashmiris fighting Indian rule in the troubled state.

Islamabad denies it arms the separatists.

Rao repeated that Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India and no one could take it away.

He said Pakistan was occupying a part of Kashmir and had no right to claim it.

"But since it is a neighbouring country it is possible for it to train and arm militants," Rao said. India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars since independence from Britain in 1947 over Kashmir.

## BRIEFLY

**OIC emergency meet on Aug 26:** The Organisation of the Islamic Conference has scheduled an emergency meeting of its foreign ministers to discuss the crisis in Bosnia, an official said Monday, AFP reports from Sanaa.

Yemen's Deputy Foreign Minister, Ghaleb Ali Jamil, told reporters that the meeting would take place in the Yemeni capital on August 26. He said the foreign ministers of the 51 members nations of the Pan-Islamic OIC would attend the meeting, which would "examine ways to help Bosnian Muslims."

**Quake shakes C Japan:** An earthquake registering 4.0 on the Richter scale shook central Japan yesterday but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, the Meteorological agency said, AFP reports from Tokyo.

The epicentre of the quake, which occurred at 2:08 PM (0508 GMT), was located about 40 kilometres (24.8 miles) underground in Shiga prefecture in central Japan, the agency said.

**Storm claims 23 in S China:** Tropical storm Helen killed 23 people and affected more than five million when it battered south China's Guangdong province at the weekend, the Beijing-funded Ta Kung Pao said yesterday, Reuter reports from Hong Kong.

Heavy rain and strong winds swept across eight cities in the province leaving a trail of destruction with economic losses estimated at 1.33 billion yuan (US 160 million dollar), the Hong Kong newspaper said.

**Hurricane 'Felix' kills 3 in US:** Rip tides and rough surf caused by hurricane Felix had killed three people and left one missing on the US eastern shore by late Monday, AFP reports from Washington.

In North Carolina, rip tides were blamed for the deaths of two people and had left one missing. One person drowned in Virginia due to the choppy surf conditions.

**Blast hurts 15 in Guatemala:** A hand grenade attack on an anti corruption campaigner injured 15 people, including six children, during a village festival in western Guatemala, police said on Monday, Reuter reports from Guatemala City.

Unidentified assailants threw the grenade from a moving car late on Sunday as crowds of villagers gathered to celebrate a festival in Joyabaj in the western province of Quiché, a police spokesman said.

**Dos Santos arrives in Brazil:** Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos arrived in the Brazilian capital on Monday for the start of a five day visit, Reuter reports from Brasilia.

Dos Santos accompanied by several ministers arrived at a military base aboard an Angolan airliner, he was greeted by Foreign Minister Luis Felipe Lampreia and did not speak to reporters.

**4 die as mines flooded in China:** At least four people were killed and 15 others are missing after three coal mines in southern China's Guangdong province were flooded at the weekend, it was reported yesterday, AFP says from Hong Kong.

Authorities in Xingning were quoted by the China-backed Ta Kung Pao daily as saying that chances were slim of rescuing the 15 miners, trapped since Saturday at a depth of between 400 and 500 metres (1,320 and 1,650 feet).

**Quake jolts Sumatra island:**

An earthquake measuring 4.7 on the open-ended Richter scale shook the cities of Bengkulu and Kepahyang on Indonesia's Sumatra island on Monday but there were no reports of damage or casualties, an official with the Geophysical and Meteorology Agency said Tuesday, Reuter reports from Jakarta.

"The epicentre of the quake was located in the Indian Ocean 90 km (56 miles) south of Bengkulu. I believe there is no damage or casualties in the two cities," the Jakarta-based official said.

**Blast hurts 5 in Jammu:** Five people were wounded yesterday when a bomb exploded in a hotel in Jammu, the winter capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, Reuter reports from New Delhi.

Police cordoned off the neighbourhood and were searching for more explosives, the news agency said. PTI said the five were inside the Govind Hotel when the bomb went off. The hotel was damaged in the blast, it said.

**15 PKK supporters killed in Turkey:** Fifteen supporters of the Kurdistan Workers, Party (PKK) have died in clashes with Turkish government forces in the east and southeastern part of the country, reliable sources said Tuesday, AFP reports from Ankara.

The military operations have been underway since Sunday in the province of Hakkari on the border with Iraq and Iran and Bingol in the east, a Kurdish source told AFP in telephone interview.

**China frees 8 foreign newsmen:** Chinese police released eight foreign journalists from more than five hours of detention Tuesday for covering a Greenpeace protest against nuclear testing in Beijing's Tiananmen Square, AFP reports from Beijing.

Six Greenpeace activists and two photographers linked to the international environmental group remained in detention, one journalist said by telephone after his release at about 2:00 pm (0600 gmt).

**Crime declines in Singapore:**

Overall crime decreased in Singapore in the first half of this year, continuing its downward trend for the seventh year running, police said on Monday, but noting increased number of cases of murder and rape, Xinhua reports from Singapore.

The police said that overall, the number of sizable offences declined by 491 cases, or 2 per cent, in the first six months of the year from 24,170 cases in the same period of last year to 23,679 cases.

## Violence leaves 30 dead in Burundi

BUJUMBURA, Aug 15: Assailants armed with a grenade and machetes killed 30 people in the central Burundian province of Karuzi on Monday, the state radio station reported today, says AFP.

It did not specify the ethnicity of attackers or victims.

Another two people were killed at Bugenyuzi in the same province by unidentified attackers on Sunday, the radio said.

The attackers are the latest in a series of massacres in this tiny central African nation, where fears are mounting of full-scale civil war on the scale of that in neighbouring Rwanda last year.

Burundian police reported earlier this month that Hutu militiamen had slaughtered 58 Tutsis — 25 of them children and 18 of them women — in a displaced persons camp in the northwestern Cibitoke province on August 6.

## 40 Tamil rebels escape from Indian jail

MADRAS, India, Aug 15: About 40 suspected Sri Lankan Tamil guerrillas escaped from a high security jail in southern India late on Monday night, police said, reports Reuter.

A spokesman said the suspected Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) militants broke out of the high security Vellore special jail, 100 kms (60 miles) from Madras, on Monday night, but he had no details of how they got away.

About 100 suspected LTTE militants were detained in the state after the murder of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 by a suicide bomber at Sriperumbudur, 40 kms (25 miles) from Madras.

The Indian government has accused LTTE, fighting for a homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east, of murdering Rajiv Gandhi.

## Fresh fighting erupts in Afghanistan

KABUL, Aug 15: Fresh fighting has erupted between forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and rival Uzbek militia in northern Afghanistan, Kabul officials said today, reports AFP.

There is fighting in Khuram-o-Sarbagh district in Samangan province, a Defence Ministry spokesman said, claiming some territorial "gains" against troops of Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostam.



Soldiers of the Croatian Army (HV) 101 Brigade sing and shout slogans as they are greeted by residents and relatives in Susedgrad, a western suburb of the Croatian capital, returning Monday from participation in Operation Storm and the recapture of the rebel Serb-occupied Krajina region. — AFP/UNB photo

## VHP drops prayer programme near Shahi Idgah Mosque in Mathura

NEW DELHI, Aug 15: Hindu activists have dropped a threat to hold prayers this week near a mosque in the north Indian city of Mathura, easing fears of a clash with security forces, news reports said today, says Reuter.

The leader of Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) or the World Hindu Council, was quoted by Indian media as saying his activists had agreed to shift special prayers to another temple after talks with government officials.

The VHP had earlier vowed to defy a government ban and offer prayers to Lord Krishna on Friday, his birthday, at the Krishna Janmasthan Temple near the Moghul-era Shahi Idgah Mosque.

The Federal Uttar Pradesh

state governments had banned Hindu worshippers from within three km (two miles) of the sacred site to prevent communal clashes.

They were worried that there could be a repeat of the December, 1992, destruction of the 16th century Babri Mosque in Ayodhya city by Hindu zealots.

Mathura, like Ayodhya, is located in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

More than 3,000 people were killed in Hindu-Muslim riots nationwide after the Babri Mosque was razed.

VHP president Vishnu Hari Dalmia said the prayers would now be held at the Laxmi Narayan Temple, also in Mathura but located outside the banned zone.

The activists' decision not to march to the Krishna

Janmasthan Temple spared India's main opposition party, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), potential embarrassment.

The BJP was widely accused of whipping up support for the destruction of the Babri Mosque in Ayodhya.

But the party recently threw its support behind Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati, a Hindu outcaste, as part of a nationwide effort to broaden its base ahead of general elections due in early 1996.

The BJP's ties with Mayawati, who has pledged not to allow communal violence, could have suffered if members of its activist base had defied the state government and marched to the temple.



Irish President Mary Robinson (C) shares a laugh with former US President Jimmy Carter (R) and Billy Hutchinson, one of the leaders of the Loyalist Progressive Unionist Party, in Dublin on Monday. The two men were on separate visits to the Irish President and were introduced to each other as their visits overlapped. — AFP/UNB photo

# World leaders to attend 'super summit' to mark UN Day

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 15: Over 100 heads of state and 41 prime ministers — including US President Bill Clinton and Russia's Boris Yeltsin — will attend the UN "super summit" in October to mark the UN's 50th anniversary, reports AFP.

The extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly which will serve as the culmination of 50th anniversary celebrations, will bring together representatives from all 185 member states.

A total of 104 chiefs of state, four vice presidents, and 41 prime ministers have confirmed their participation, the UN press office said.

But two months before the session is to take place —

October 22 to 24 the unprecedented meeting is turning out to be protocol headache for UN officials.

There are breakfasts, lunches and dinners as well as diplomatic receptions on the programme. There is also a concert by the New York Philharmonic.

To cap the summit, the leaders are supposed to adopt a "50th anniversary declaration," to mark the birth of the world body on October 24, 1945.

Each of the leaders is to speak for five minutes during the six morning and evening sessions scheduled over the three days.

Clinton, as head of the host nation, will open the

first morning session on October 22 and Yeltsin and Cuban President Fidel Castro are also to speak that day.

French President Jacques Chirac as well as his South African counterpart Nelson Mandela, China's Jiang Zemin, and British Prime Minister John Major have also confirmed their participation, according to an initial UN list.

Among those who will not be making the scene are the "bad boys" of the United Nations: Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Libyan Leader Moamer Gaddafi, and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

Their three nations are under international sanc-

tions.

The anniversary celebration will take place during the regular General Assembly session which officially kicks off September 19.

Some diplomats here are concerned the anniversary celebration might overshadow the regular General Assembly debate session which is to begin September 25.

Many of the leaders expected in New York for the October session might not be able to make the September session.

A series of events were held in June in San Francisco to mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the UN Charter.

## US vows to defend Jordan from Iraqi attack

WASHINGTON, Aug 15: Defence Secretary William Perry promised that US forces would defend Jordan if its recent decision to grant two Iraqi defectors asylum prompted an attack by Iraq, the Washington Times reported today, says Reuter.

Perry, speaking with the paper's reporters and editors, cited unusual Iraqi military movements and said Washington was ready to respond to any attack on Jordan with US Tomahawk missiles.

"We have a sizable number of Tomahawks within range of Iraq. So all in all, we have a powerful military force which we could bring to bear on that situation immediately if we needed to," the paper quoted him as saying.

State Department deputy spokesman David Johnson (on) Monday said the United States is maintaining a "vigilant attitude toward what is happening on the ground with respect to potential threats by Iraq against its neighbours" but has not seen evidence of unusual activities since the defection.

He would not confirm reports that US officials have been in contact with Lt Gen Hussein Kamel Hassan, a son-in-law of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, who led his brother, another high-ranking Iraqi official and their wives, both daughters of Saddam, out of Iraq.

Perry said the defections were "a very clear indication of how shaky, how unstable the regime in Iraq is."

## ROK urges DPRK to end Cold War enmity

SEOUL, Aug 15: South Korean President Kim Young-Sam today urged North Korea to jointly work out a way to end their Cold War enmity, reports Reuter.

"I am urging that, while continuing to adhere to the present armistice agreement, the South and North should consider and pursue appropriate joint measures to build a peace structure on the peninsula," Kim said in a speech marking the end of the world war II.

Kim said Korea, which was liberated from Japan's harsh 35-year colonial rule at the end of the war, will be truly liberated only when all the people from the South and the North build a unified state blessed with freedom and prosperity.

On liberation from Japan at the end of the war, the al-

lied forces divided the Korean peninsula into the communist North and capitalist South, which then fought a bitter three-year war between 1950-53. The Korean conflict ended with the armistice pact.

"I think it would be quite appropriate if this 50th anniversary year of liberation marked the historic opening of a new chapter in South-North relations," Kim said.

North Korea has said the Korean war armistice must be replaced by a peace agreement between North Korea and the United States.

Reuter further added, South Korea today freed a prisoner described as the world's longest serving political detainee to mark the end of World War II 50 years ago which liberated the country from Japan's colonial rule.

## Off the Record

### Human milk may help fight cancer!

WASHINGTON: Human milk might help fight cancer, according to Swedish laboratory tests to be published yesterday, reports AFP.

Researchers have found an ingredient called Monomeric A-Lactalbumin, or MAL, that caused cancer cells to die in test tubes. The results are to be made public in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences Tuesday.

At Lund University in Lund, Sweden, and at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, researchers said they were studying the effects of milk on bacteria associated with lung cancer when they made the discovery of its affect on the cancer itself.

"We were surprised to discover that the milk killed the lung cancer cells," the authors of the report said.

In one experiment, MAL killed 98 per cent of human lung cancer cells, while leaving normal cells unscathed. The researchers said the milk component triggers apoptosis, a process where by cancerous cells kill themselves.

### Tarzan had at least something to wear, but....

NIAGARA FALLS, New York: Peeking out occasionally from behind a bush, a naked man hid for hours on a tiny island near the brink of the Niagara Falls before rescuers brought him ashore, reports AP.

The unidentified man with shoulder-length brown hair was spotted Wednesday afternoon on Bird Island, a small rock outcropping on US territory about 75 yards (metres) from the American Falls.

He was evacuated about four hours later, after US and Canadian officials agreed to lower the Niagara River's level temporarily near the rescue site, New York park police spokesman Lt. William Patti said.

### This time their opponent is literally strong

BHUBANESWAR: Politicians particularly those in the opposition, are known to launch agitations at the drop of a hat, but an agitation is presently on in Bolangir against an improbable opponent — an elephant, reports PTI.

People in villages in the Bolangir block are up in arms against the wild tusker which has been attacking villages, damaging crop and endangering human lives. The elephant which visits the area twice every year while on its way to Kulanandi from the dense Phulbani forests and back, appears to be spending more time in Bolangir this time.

"It's a serious situation and the tusker has already injured a villager," the local Janata Dal MLA and former minister, Ananga Udaya Singhdeo, said.