

BRIEFLY



US President Bill Clinton addresses reporters Sunday on the tarmac of Andrews Air Force Base before leaving for Scranton, PA. Clinton hailed a landmark Israel-PLO agreement to expand Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank as a "good omen" for future peace in the Middle East following the earlier signing of a draft document by Israel and the PLO in Taba, Egypt.

**Balladur back in Assembly:** Former Prime Minister Edouard Balladur won back his seat in the French National Assembly in a by-election run off on Sunday following his defeat for the presidency earlier this year by fellow Gaullist Jacques Chirac. Reuter reports from Paris.

Two other members of the Balladur government, ex-Budget Minister Nicolas Sarkozy and former Transport Minister Bernard Bosson also regained their assembly seats, but former Interior Minister Bernard Debre was defeated in his bid to return to parliament.

**Famous Taiwanese painter dies:** Renowned Taiwanese brush painter Kuan Chi-Chung died Sunday in the South Korean city of Kwaju apparently of the effects of an asthma attack, news reports said. He was 64. AFP reports from Seoul.

Yonhap news agency in a dispatch from Kwaju said Kuan, who had been attending an arts festival in the city, had been hospitalised after falling ill Tuesday during a dinner with colleagues.

**Abducted cop killed in Karachi:** Pakistani police said on Monday a policeman was kidnapped and shot dead in overnight violence in Karachi, bringing the past day's death toll to 13. Reuter reports from Karachi.

Sub-inspector Ghulam Saqlain was abducted in the troubled Liaquatabad district on Sunday night. His body was later dumped in a stolen car left near a graveyard in district central.

**3 Pak smugglers held in Lanka:** Three Pakistanis were taken into custody at the Colombo Airport on Monday for allegedly smuggling heroin into the country, a customs official said. AP reports from Colombo.

Officials found two kilograms (4.4 pounds) of heroin in false bottoms in the shoes of Sameem Ahmed (53), Sheikh Intizamuddin (52) and Raja Shahbaz Hussein (36), after noticing the three men limping.

**Quake rocks N Sumatra:** An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.4 rocked northern Sumatra Monday but no damage or casualties were reported immediately, a meteorology official said. AP reports from Jakarta.

Another quake of 5.4 magnitude had shaken the southern tip of Indonesia's Sumatra island late Saturday, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said. There, too, no casualties or damage were reported.

**Fires claim 1,043 lives in China:** Fires in China claimed 1,043 lives in the first half of 1995, down 23 per cent on the same period last year, a newspaper reported yesterday. AFP reports from Beijing.

Direct economic losses from 18,000 fires across the country totalled 460 million Yuan (55 million dollars), the economic daily said. Of all the fires, 98 were described as "serious," resulting in the deaths of 165 people.

**Chopper crashes in N Russia:** An Mi-8 civilian helicopter with nine people on board crashed in the Russian Arctic and a search was underway for the vanished aircraft and passengers, a news agency reported Monday. AP says from Moscow.

The helicopter was on its way from Cape Chelyuskin about 1,600 miles (2,600 kilometers) northeast of Moscow to Sterligov on the nearby Taimyr peninsula, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported, before it disappeared.

**WW II bomb kills one in China:** A bomb buried by Japanese soldiers more than 50 years ago killed a Chinese peasant and injured two others when they tried to move it, the Beijing Youth Daily reported Monday. AP reports from Beijing.

The three farmers uncovered the 35-kilogram (77-pound) bomb on August 29 while digging a ditch for a road outside Donggian village in Heilongjiang province, about 1,100 kilometers (675 miles) northeast of Beijing.

**Ghali's nephew jailed in Egypt:** A court found a nephew of UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali guilty on Sunday of smuggling the hallucinogen LSD into Egypt and sentenced him to 10 years in jail. AP reports from Cairo.

Karim Raouf Ghali, 17, also was ordered to pay a fine of 61,000 dollars and customs duties of nearly 847,000 dollars for the smuggled tablets. The street value of the drugs was not immediately known.

12 killed in Srinagar gunbattle

SRINAGAR, India, Sept 25: Four Indian soldiers and eight Muslim separatist guerrillas were killed overnight in a fierce gunbattle near this Kashmir summer capital, police said today. reports AFP.

Fighting erupted late Sunday in the village of Chakla, 60 kilometres (37 miles) from Srinagar, when Muslim militants opened fire on a group of Indian army soldiers, police said.

"Four soldiers were killed instantly," a police officer said. "At least eight militants, including an unspecified number of Afghan mercenaries, were killed in retaliation." He said army reinforcements had sealed off the entire area and launched a massive man-hunt for the remaining guerrillas. A resident of the neighbouring town of Barmulla told AFP by telephone that grenades and mortars had been used during the fighting.

Reagan's 'long goodbye'

NEW YORK, Sept 25: Ronald Reagan's slow decline into senility due to Alzheimer's disease is like a "long goodbye," his wife, Nancy, told Newsweek magazine in an interview published this week. reports AFP.

Responding in writing to questions from the magazine, Mrs Reagan described how her husband, who served as US President from 1980 to 1988, is coping with the incurable disease that is slowly robbing him of his memory.

She also talked about the impact of his illness on her family. "I think any illness brings a family closer together," she told Newsweek. "It brings things into focus and should reshuffle your priorities."

Savimbi will not wage war against Luanda

BRUSSELS, Sept 25: Angolan opposition leader Joao Savimbi said here today he would never again wage war against the Luanda government as he opened a meeting of donor countries assisting in the country's reconstruction, reports AFP.

"Neither I nor my organisation (National Union for the total Liberation of Angola) will ever again take the warpath" he told 300 participants at the two-day meeting sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme.

Sunday Savimbi met with Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos here to discuss power-sharing in the government of national unity provided for in the Lusaka accord that has brought peace to their country after a civil war of more than 20 years.

CPC's 5th plenum of Congress opens

BEIJING, Sept 25: The Chinese Communist Party opened the fifth plenum of its 14th congress Monday with the main aim of approving major economic guidelines for the country till the end of the century, Chinese sources said, reports AFP.

The closed-door meeting, attended by more than 200 members of the Central Committee, was taking place in the Jingxi Hotel, west of the capital, a journalist there reported.

During the session, which is expected to last several days, delegates will endorse the ninth five-year plan (1996-2000) calling for sustained economic growth, but held to below 10 per cent annually.

The session will also look at the disparities between the rich coastal provinces and the poorer interior ones.

Arafat defends self-rule expansion accord in WB

AMMAN, Sept 25: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Monday defended an accord reached with Israel to expand Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. But the pact harshly criticised by some Mideast states, reports AP.

"We should always seek the best, but we don't have to be perfect," Arafat told reporters after he briefed Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan on the accord in an hour-long meeting in Amman.

Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, welcomed the pact, which allows for Palestinian self-rule in 30 per cent of the West Bank after a step-by-step Israeli pullout.

But it was criticised by hard-line Palestinian groups, saying it gave Israel continued domination of Palestinian affairs.

Libya, Syria and Iran also blasted the agreement. Reuter adds from Damascus:

Syria condemned today the PLO-Israeli accord for expanding Palestinian self-rule and said it would lead to more tension in the West Bank, reports Reuter.

Official Syrian newspapers said the deal, initialled on Sunday after marathon talks between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in the Egyptian resort of Taba, damaged the peace process in the Middle East.

"The Taba accord opens the way anew for more terrorist and suppressive actions against our Arab Palestinians, because it keeps the settlements and the seeds of Israeli terrorism, which work with the support of Israeli troops," the Daily Tishreen said.

The accord, to expand the 16-month-old Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, envisages the pullout of Israeli forces from six cities

and more than 400 villages but keeps Israeli troops in parts of Hebron to maintain security of 400 Jewish settlers who live among 100,000 Arabs.

"As a result of this accord which has abandoned the rights, the situation in the Arab occupied lands is open to more explosions," it added.

Damascus opposed the idea of Arabs making separate peace deals with Israel but had to watch in dismay as PLO and Jordan made their peace with Israel in 1993 and 1994, respectively.

Syria's own peace talks with the Jewish state are stalled over withdrawal from the Golan Heights occupied by Israel in 1967. Syria demands full Israeli withdrawal from the heights. Israel wants Syria to agree to full normal ties with the Jewish state before revealing the scope of its withdrawal.



Bosnian government soldiers wave from a truck as they leave the town of Maglaj, central Bosnia, Sunday, towards the nearby frontline. The Bosnian government army started last week an offensive in this area, trying to take Serb-held Doboj, which is since the beginning of the war in Bosnian-Serb hands. — AFP/UNB photo

UN concerned at Bosnian govt's withdrawal from NY talks

ZAGREB, Sept 25: The United Nations expressed concern today at the Bosnian government's withdrawal from New York peace talks due tomorrow and urged it to reverse the decision, reports Reuter.

"We urge all parties to attend this meeting, which is of the utmost importance given the progress that has been made in the peace process," UN spokesman Chris Gunness told a news briefing.

"The United Nations calls on the parties to commit themselves fully to peaceful dialogue which in our view is the only way to bring this tragic conflict to an end." The mainly-Muslim government said it would not attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of Bosnia,

Croatia and Yugoslavia — representing the Bosnian Serbs — until the Serbs renounced any right to secede in future from Bosnia.

The United States has sent two senior envoys to Sarajevo to try to persuade the Bosnians to attend the talks.

Bosnia's Muslim-led government, emboldened by battlefield gains, has denounced separatist Serb plans as a mounting to unacceptable partition.

AFP adds: Croatia will deport Bosnian Croats and Muslims who took refuge here during the three-year war in northern Bosnia, government officials said in Zagreb today.

The decision could affect

haul of the 200,000 refugees here, and likely reflects an effort on the part of the Croatian and Bosnian governments to repopulate formerly Serb-held land taken this month.

Many of the affected refugees come for land recently retaken by an offensive by Bosnian army and Croatian troops supporting Bosnian Croats, said Ana Markuz, a spokesman for the Croatian office for refugees.

Most of the refugees are from Jajce, Donji Vakuf, Grahovo and Bosanska Krupa, which were retaken in the past two months, others fled towns such as Bihac, Travnik, Gornji Vakuf and Maglaj, which never fell to Bosnian Serbs.

Greenpeace to review operations soon

SYDNEY, Australia, Sept 25: Before France exploded its first nuclear test in the South Pacific this month, Greenpeace had already lost two of its three ships, a helicopter and millions of dollars worth of equipment to French authorities, reports AP.

Now one person has been dismissed and another resigned in the wake of tactical blunders that led to the loss of the Rainbow Warrior II and MV Greenpeace.

Greenpeace will review the operation in the next few weeks, their anti-nuclear spokesman, Ben Pearson, said Monday. Key personnel on the anti-French effort and other senior staff will attend.

The proceeding are likely to take a critical look at the leaders of the anti-French campaign for losing two Greenpeace ships, the helicopter, inflatable "zodiac" speedboats, and satellite TV transmission equipment essential for publicising its

environmental crusades. Pearson had no precise estimate of the cost of Greenpeace's losses if the ships and equipment are not returned, but agreed that it would certainly be millions of dollars.

As France reportedly prepares to test a 150-kiloton warhead within days at Fangataufa Atoll in the South Pacific, Greenpeace has sidelined two key anti-nuclear campaigners.

Greenpeace on Friday forced out Ulrich Jurgens, the director of its campaign against French nuclear testing, for publicly blaming Stephanie Mills, a veteran anti-nuclear activist, for the "disaster" of losing the MV Greenpeace.

Convinced that France planned to set of the first blast on September 1, Greenpeace sent their flagship, the Rainbow Warrior II, into the 12-nautical-mile exclusion zone around Mururoa Atoll.

Off the Record

She deserves honour

WASHINGTON, For most of her 87 years, Oseola McCarty has lived a quiet life in America's deep south washing clothes and saving her pennies, but on Saturday night her date was President Bill Clinton, reports Reuter.

Mrs McCarty made the spotlight by donating her life savings of 150,000 dollar to the University of Southern Mississippi for black scholarships. It was the money she earned from washing clothes in her Mississippi home town of Hattiesburg, where the university is located.

Clinton read in the newspaper about Mrs McCarty's gift and told his staff he would like her to be his guest at Saturday night's congressional black caucus dinner.

Fearful of flying, Mrs McCarty took a 24-hour train journey with her cousin from Mississippi to Washington to see the President.

They were expected to get royal treatment, meeting Clinton in the Oval Office where the President was to give Mrs McCarty the presidential citizens medal, granted to Americans who perform exemplary deeds of service.

After that, they were to ride with Clinton in the motorcade to the dinner.

Leave for filial piety

SEOUL: Starting next year, South Korea's civil servants will be given holidays on their parents' birthdays, the Ministry of Government Administration said Monday, Reports AP.

The new regulation will allow officials to better practice filial piety, it said in a report submitted to the National Assembly.

Filial piety is an important aspect of Confucianism. Being unfilial is considered shameful and ancestor worship is widely practiced.

Doctor cum molester

PHNOM PENH: A British doctor accused of raping five teenaged Cambodian boys in a case which has caused much controversy among this capital's expatriate community will go to trial in October 3, his defence counsel said Sunday, reports AFP.

Gavin Scott, who has been held in Phnom Penh's notorious T-3 prison since his arrest in June, faces up to five years in prison if convicted.

"We are ready to go to trial," said Samuel Oum, Scott's defender, who said he expected the proceedings to last at least a day.

Foreign lawyers are prohibited from defending criminal clients in Cambodia and because of a chronic shortage of lawyers, paralegals trained in criminal law procedure known as "defenders" are used.

Scotts case has been enmeshed in controversy as some foreigners have claimed he has been prevented from building a defence by being denied bail.

Water cannons used to douse anti-US protest in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: Police used water cannons to break up a protest near the US Embassy here today against a resumption of sales of US military hardware to India's arch rival Pakistan, witnesses said, reports AFP.

About 300 people chanting anti-American and anti-Pakistani slogans were doused with water cannons after they broke through steel barricades and tried to storm the US Embassy, they said.

"USA down, down," the demonstrators shouted. The protest was organised by the National Students Union of India (NSUI), which claimed US defence sales to Pakistan would upset the military balance in South Asia.

"Such mindless US acts shall further aggravate ten-

sions and suspicions and worsen the already existing situation in the region," the NSUI said.

The Indian government has also condemned the US Senate's vote last week to allow restricted supply of military hardware to Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee described the US Senate's decision as "unfortunate" and said it could lead to an "unintended and undesirable arms race."

The Senate voted to allow Pakistan to receive 370 million dollars worth of military equipment in a one-time waiver of a 1985 amendment freezing military aid to Islamabad if it did not put a verifiable cap on its nuclear programme.

The resolution was sponsored by Senator Hank Brown.

Six Tigers killed

COLOMBO, Sept 25: Sri Lankan troops have ambushed and killed six Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the north-eastern Mullaitivu district, military spokesman Major Thilak Dunuwille said today, reports Reuter.

The ambush party from the Mullaitivu army base lost one soldier and had two wounded in the firefight on Sunday with the rebels, who are fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east, he said.

The spokesman also said the death toll in Saturday's attack rose to four when another civilian died from her injuries in hospital.

No alternative to political solution to war in Bosnia

BERLIN, Sept 25: There is no alternative to a political solution of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The means of intervention are simply incommensurate with the nature of the internal conflict, reports IPS.

There have been various explanations of why large-scale intervention in Bosnia has been so problematic.

This includes what the western members of the contact group — the United States, Germany, France, and England — know what they cannot say: that the Croatian and Bosnian Serbs will fight for ever to avoid being forced to live in "enemy" countries. The whole process got off

on the wrong track with the premature recognition of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, against the strong words of then UN Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar, and with the Serbian minorities that President Josif Broz Tito, a Croat, built into these republics to create a "balance".

But there are other reasons, and they apply to the whole world.

We are witnessing a large-scale transition from inter-country state to inter-national conflict. With, say, 2,000 nations in the world, 200 countries (185 UN members) and only 20 nation-states, there

are 1,980 conflicts left in 180 countries, very many of them in countries like Russia and India.

Since nations are defined by what is sacred to them, places or events of the past, usually expressed in a shared religion and language, and maintaining or restoring land areas and continuity in time is the national goal.

Therefore: Conflicts will be within, rather than between, countries except when the nations straddle more than one country.

Conflict will often erupt over who owns the state as a source of power and privilege

or, if the case is hopeless for secession.

As national belongingness is a key to identity, deep emotions will be involved — especially when the sacred points, or the national language or religion are threatened.

There is hardly a case where inter-national conflict is not at the same time class conflict against economic exploitation and/or political repression, which adds to the intensity of the conflict.

All these have profound military implications, and goes a long way toward explaining why there is so much hesitation to intervene

in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Nations tend to live around each other, or at least in a mixture. The warfare between them is person-to-person, with handguns, land mines, machetes, hammers, micro-war.

The emotional intensity is extreme for the reasons mentioned — a nation-state is the goal.

There is also another development in warfare: from primitive wars with little violence to decide conflicts, to traditional wars to display prowess and courage, to gain honour and dignity, to modern wars (clausewitz) — as the way of obtaining political goals "with all necessary

Algerian forces kill 41 militants

PARIS, Sept 25: Algerian security forces have killed 41 armed Muslim militants over the past six days, the official Algerian news agency APS said on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Five of the militants were shot dead in three incidents in the capital Algiers and the rest in operations in 15 towns and villages across the country, said the APS quoting an official statement.

In Chararba district of Algiers security forces stormed a guerrilla hideout and killed two men.

Two others were killed in the capital's Anassers suburb after they were spotted by security forces.