

International

US accused of imposing will thru' UN on others

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 26: Iran accused the United States and other big powers of imposing their will through the United Nations at the expense of the majority of the world's countries, reports AP.

Amman confirms sharp turn against Saddam King Hussein urges Iraqis to unite to restore democracy

STRASBOURG, France, 26: King Hussein of Jordan, confirming his sharp turn against President Saddam Hussein, made an impassioned plea on Monday for the people of Iraq to unite to restore democracy in their country, reports Reuter.

Lanka relaxes censorship on foreign media

COLOMBO, Sept 26: Sri Lanka relaxed censorship today on foreign media reports of military developments, saying it was up to them to police themselves, but kept in place the four-day old strictures on domestic media.

Cong's youth wing protests US arms supply to Pakistan

NEW DELHI, Sept 26: Police fired water cannon today to disperse about 2,000 demonstrators from the youth wing of Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's Congress Party protesting against a US arms package for Pakistan, reports Reuter.

BRIEFLY

Hungarian students stage sit-in: Hungarian students began an around-the-clock sit-in on Monday in front of the parliament building to protest against the rising cost for college studies, Xinhua reports from Budapest.

2 Israelis killed in Lebanon: Two Israeli soldiers were killed and two others were wounded when Iranian-backed guerrillas blasted their outpost in occupied south Lebanon with a rocket barrage, security sources said, AP reports from Lebanon.

Strong quake shakes Hokkaido: A fairly strong earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale shook the northern Japan island of Hokkaido Tuesday, the Meteorological Agency said, AFP reports from Tokyo.

Blast kills 3 cops in Algeria: A bomb which blew up on Monday inside a police station in northeastern Algeria killed three policemen and a civilian, residents and sources close to the police said, Reuter reports from Paris.

Floods claim 117 in Thailand: Thailand's worst monsoon flooding in 12 years has caused 117 deaths and 80 million dollars in damages and has destroyed 784,000 hectares (1.9 million acres) of rice paddies, government ministries said yesterday, AFP reports from Bangkok.

Clinton for keeping N-labs open: President Bill Clinton said Monday the government's three nuclear weapons research laboratories should remain open to assure that warheads are safe and in order without having to carry out testing, AFP reports from Washington.

12 killed in SA violence: Gunmen killed 12 people who had been attending a church service in South Africa's violence-racked KwaZulu-Natal province, police said yesterday, Reuter reports from Durban.

Manila-MNLF talks postponed: Peace negotiations between the Philippine government and autonomy-seeking Muslim rebels scheduled for late October in Jakarta have been postponed, a member of the Joint Ceasefire Committee said yesterday, AFP reports from Zamboanga.

New Thai army chief named: General Pramorn Phalasin has been named Thailand's new Army Commander in Chief, replacing General Wimol Wongwanich who retires at the end of the month, state-run Radio Thailand announced yesterday, Reuter reports from Bangkok.

Russia draws up new plans to use force in Chechnya: MOSCOW, Sept 26: Russia has drawn up new plans to use force in Chechnya if the rebels refuse to disarm there, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Monday, reports AP.

General Viroj Sangsrit is appointed armed forces supreme commander, in place of General Watanachai Wootisiri who also retires on September 30, the radio said.



Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic (R), US mediators Roberts Owen (L) and Christopher Hill (C) talk to the media after their meeting in Sarajevo on Monday where Silajdzic informed the US diplomats that he will attend the meeting of foreign ministers in New York.

Sikhs claim responsibility for series of blasts in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Sept 26: The Khalistan Liberation Force, a militant group fighting for a separate Sikh nation in northern India, claimed responsibility for a series of bomb blasts in Delhi, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said today, reports Reuter.



A Labrador with a passport around his neck is chained to the gates of 10 Downing Street whilst his owner delivers a petition demanding a reform in the quarantine laws on Monday in London. The angry animal lovers were demanding passports so their dogs, cats and other family animals can take them on holidays and visits abroad.

Kobe survivors committing suicide

TOKYO, Sept 26: Survivors of the Kobe earthquake in January are committing suicide in frustration at the stricken-city's treatment by the Japanese bureaucracy, a lawyer representing inhabitants said today, reports AP.

Russian army to contest State Duma polls

MOSCOW, Sept 26: Russia's armed forces will field their own candidates for parliament because current lawmakers have let the army down, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Monday, reports AP.

NATO begins air exercise in France

PARIS, Sept 26: Aircraft from seven allied countries on Monday began the first NATO exercise in France since Paris withdrew from the Atlantic alliance's integrated military command 30 years ago, reports Reuter.

Off the Record

All she did to take a trip with friend

BEIJING: A 13-year-old girl has been accused of smothering her 79-year-old grandmother to steal 24 dirrs to take a trip with a friend, the official Beijing Youth Daily reported Monday, reports AP.

Twins again

BEIJING: A giant panda has given birth to twins bringing to four the number of cubs born to the rare and notoriously unproductive animals in China's biggest reserve since last month the official Xinhua news agency said, reports Reuter.

Trial remarriage

LONDON: The Duke and Duchess of York are considering living together again in a "trial remarriage", the News of the World weekly reported yesterday, reports AP.

Speculation on DPRK's power succession

SEOUL, Sept 26: North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong Nam has cancelled a UN speech, a report said Tuesday, arousing speculation that it may be related to the country's expected power succession, reports AP.

Russia draws up new plans to use force in Chechnya

MOSCOW, Sept 26: Russia has drawn up new plans to use force in Chechnya if the rebels refuse to disarm there, Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said Monday, reports AP.

Arafat faces tough task selling complex accord to people

GAZA CITY, Sept 26: Under attack Monday from hard-liners, Yasser Arafat defended a new peace agreement with Israel that gives him control over one-third of the West Bank and some of the trappings of statehood, reports AP.

Ex-Italian PM faces trial as Mafia member

PALERMO, Sicily, Sept 26: Italy's former prime minister Giulio Andreotti went on trial in the Sicilian capital Palermo today on charges that he was a member of the Mafia, reports Reuter.