

International

OIC calls for int'l efforts towards rehabilitation of ex-Yugoslavia

ISLAMABAD, Mar 13: A two-day meeting organized by an OIC's aid agency on Bosnia ended yesterday with the adoption of a declaration calling for international efforts towards the rehabilitation of the former Yugoslav republic, reports Xinhua.

multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural country, said the declaration. It urged OIC member states as well as the international community to actively contribute towards the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It emphasized the importance of developing public and private sector partnership with Bosnia-Herzegovina in economic, commercial, financial, technical, cultural and other areas so as to strengthen bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation, the declaration added.

NATO warned Tuesday of growing tension between Muslims and Croats, the two communities making up Bosnia's federation which controls half of the country.



Palestinian women protest against the violence and the Israeli blockade on the Palestinian territories during a demonstration held in front of the International Red Cross offices in Gaza City on Tuesday. The Israeli army has closed the crossing points between the Palestinian territories and Israel following the recent spate of suicide bombings in Israel. — AFP/UNB photo

42 killed as ferry sinks in China

BEIJING, Mar 13: A Yangtze River ferry that was racing against two other ships sank in Sichuan province killing at least 42 people, sources said today, reports AFP.



Avdo Hebib, Interior Minister of the Muslim-Croat federation waves, on Tuesday, as he is surrounded by federation police, following the official handover of the former Serb-held Sarajevo suburb of Ildiza. Serb arsonists have in recent days torched dozens of buildings in Ildiza while organised gangs of thugs have moved through the district looting and intimidating those who wanted to stay. — AFP/UNB photo

BRIEFLY

Hamas bomb-making factory found: Palestinian police said Tuesday they had found a secret Hamas bomb-making factory in the autonomous Gaza Strip, AFP reports from Gaza City.

7 held in Indonesian mine riot: Seven people have been arrested on charges of mass-terminating attacks on a US-owned copper mine in Irian Jaya that injured 15 workers and damaged company property, the official Antara news agency said Wednesday, AP reports from Jakarta.

Menem in favour of death penalty: Shocked by the brutal murder of a teenager last week, President Carlos Menem said Tuesday, he was in favour of introducing the death penalty, AP reports from Buenos Aires.

Storm claims 2 in Cambodia: An electrical storm battered Cambodia's second largest city, Battambang, earlier this week, killing at least two people, a newspaper reported yesterday, Reuters says from Phnom Penh.

Berlin's crime rate rises in '95: Berlin's crime rate rose in 1995 after a drop in 1994, and an alarming 78.4 per cent of criminal suspects were aged from eight to 21, according to statistics released by city authorities, Xinhua reports from Berlin.

Ex-E German spy denied US visa: A former top East German spy has been denied a US visa because he served a government agency that "actively abetted and fostered terrorism," the State Department said Tuesday, AP reports from Washington.

Strong quake shakes Beijing: A strong earthquake hit a remote area in the Altai mountains in northwestern Xinjiang early Wednesday, China's Central Seismology Bureau said, AP reports from Beijing.

French Polynesian authorities to return five Greenpeace ships Papeete, Tahiti, Mar 13: French Polynesian authorities this week will return five Greenpeace ships seized last fall in high-seas protests of France's nuclear testing programme.

'Suicide bomb squads aimed at derailing ME peace process' JERUSALEM, Mar 13: They are few in number. They craft bombs from fertilizer, nails and dynamite scraped from old land mines. They distribute threatening leaflets written in flowery Arabic, reports AP.

Another wanted MQM activist shot dead in Karachi KARACHI, Mar 13: Pakistani paramilitary rangers shot dead another wanted activist of the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) in Karachi today, police said, reports Reuters.

Afghan jets bomb Taliban positions, 16 killed KABUL, Mar 13: Afghan government jets bombed opposition Taliban militia positions south of Kabul on Tuesday to repel a rebel offensive on the eve of the arrival of a United Nations peace envoy, government sources said, reports Reuters.

Rao accused of cover-up in \$18 m bribery scandal NEW DELHI, Mar 13: India's opposition parties on Tuesday accused Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao of a cover-up in an 18 million dollar bribery scandal in which he has been named, reports Reuters.

Army arrest 12 Muslim militants in West Bank JERUSALEM, Mar 13: The Israeli army said today it had arrested 12 suspected Muslim militants in the West Bank overnight as part of a crackdown launched after a wave of suicide bombings by the Islamic group Hamas, reports Reuters.

US carrier Independence stationed east of Taiwan

JAKARTA, Mar 13: The US carrier Independence has been stationed east of Taiwan as a precaution, the commander of the US Seventh Fleet, vice-admiral Archie Clemins, said today, reports Reuters.

armed missile not far from Kaohsiung today after firing three missiles last Friday. The tests are meant as warning to Taipei against trying for independence.

strong concern and interest." He told parliament as China fired a new missile a target zone off the Taiwanese port of Kaohsiung a day after launching war games in the area.

Rao accused of cover-up in \$18 m bribery scandal

he had been probed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in the affair, Rao said: "The question should be posed to the CBI."

rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). "The prime minister's reply is highly unsatisfactory," he added.

The affair stemmed from jottings in the diaries of an alleged money launderer which contained the names of politicians and bureaucrats said to have received money from him. The CBI seized the diaries in May 1991.

Iraq denies detaining Kuwaiti POWs

BAGHDAD, Mar 13: Iraq said Tuesday it has released all Kuwaiti prisoners of war as well as other foreigners held in its jails, reports AFP.

invasion and to other foreign detainees in its jails. Kuwait claims that 604 — comprising 549 Kuwaitis plus nationals from 10 other countries — have been detained by the Baghdad authorities since the Iraqi occupation.

'Int'l Terrorism Summit won't stop bomb attack'

BEIRUT, Mar 13: The Palestinian radical group Islamic Jihad warned Tuesday that the International Terrorism Summit in Egypt would not stop suicide bomb attacks in Israel, reports AFP.

The summit was called after a wave of suicide bombings in Israel in which a total of 61 people died. World leaders are to discuss forging a united front against terrorism and salvaging the battered peace process.

Army arrest 12 Muslim militants in West Bank

It said it made the arrests in a sweep through several villages under Israeli security control near the self-ruled Palestinian town of Ramallah and Israeli-occupied Hebron.

About 280 suspected militants have been arrested since March 3, the army said. Palestinian security forces said they have arrested more than 600 Hamas supporters or activists in the last two weeks. Hamas suicide bombers have killed 58 people in Israel since February 25.

Off the Record

Di denies to be Carling's darling

LONDON: Princess Diana, according to tabloid reports Wednesday, is denying she had a sexual liaison with England rugby captain Will Carling and has asked him to say they weren't lovers, reports AP.

Too honest to be a thief

KUALA LUMPUR: There will be no questions, though police said the answer is someone preferring a clean conscience to cash, reports AP.

Because it talks about sex

NAIROBI: Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi has banned distribution of a family planning book published by the Girl Guides Association of America because it talks about sex, a newspaper said Monday, reports Reuters.