

BRIEFLY

Israel denies radioactive leak: Israel denied Friday that there has been any radioactive leakage from its nuclear reactor in the Negev desert and assured Jordan of its vigilance in preventing environmental risks.

Russia to buy bombers from Ukraine: Moscow will get 25 strategic bombers from Ukraine in exchange for Russian military transport and combat aircraft.

Uprising in Brazilian jail: Rebellious inmates at a central Brazilian prison put liquid gas canisters around 20 hostages and threatened to explode them unless officials provided guns and getaway cars.

Israeli troops clash with Hezbollah: Shiite Muslim guerrillas battled Israeli troops and their militia allies with mortars and machine guns in south Lebanon on Friday.

2 drug lords held in Colombia: Two prominent drug traffickers one of them linked to a string of chain saw murders, were arrested in Colombia on Friday.

5 killed in Belgium gunfight: Five people were killed when heavily armed gangsters rampaged along the Belgium-France border.

Lankan newswoman dies: The Sri Lanka correspondent for the Indian Express newspaper, Rita Sebastian, died in Colombo after a brief illness.

Tigers order exodus from north Jaffna: Tamil Tiger guerrillas have ordered an exodus from areas under their control in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna Peninsula.

Avalanche kills 56 in Tibet highway

BEIJING, Mar 30: A huge avalanche has killed 56 people on a treacherous highway in Tibet. Chinese-backed Hong Kong newspapers said today, reports Reuter.

Attempt on Mubarak: Trial of 3 suspects begins in Ethiopia discreetly

ADDIS ABABA, Mar 30: The trial of three suspects in the attempted killing of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has begun in secret in the Ethiopian capital.

4 CIS members sign integration accord in Kremlin

MOSCOW, Mar 30: The presidents of Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan signed a treaty in the Kremlin Friday to boost economic and social integration between the four former Soviet republics.

Cong (I) leader arrested from brothel

NEW DELHI, Mar 30: A local leader of India's ruling Congress (I) Party was arrested here in a police raid on a brothel functioning under the cover of a disco.

US urges India to probe slaying of HR activist in Kashmir

WASHINGTON, Mar 30: The US government has urged India to investigate the abduction and slaying of an eminent human rights activist in strife-torn Kashmir and swiftly punish his killers.

US diplomats have criticised violence by both sides in the six-year Kashmir conflict.

US officials have said they need very firm evidence to justify sanctions.

In a separate matter, Burns disputed an Indian newspaper report that the United States

murderers will be quickly apprehended and punished, he added.

Burns said US officials did not have any direct knowledge about Andrabi's death or the Indian military's suspected involvement.

Burns said he was unaware of any such exchange.

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ROK PM orders investigation Students confront police over death of protester

SEOUL, Mar 30: Inflamed by the death of a fellow protester, hundreds of militant students confronted riot police overnight, protesting what they called a brutal crackdown on anti-government demonstrators.

Police deployed thousands of riot police to guard against violence.

Lee's spokesman said the Interior Ministry reported to the premier that Roh Soo-Sok, a law student at Yonsei University, collapsed and died on Friday during a street demonstration to denounce President Kim Young-Sam.

Prime Minister Lee today instructed Justice Minister Ahn Woo-Man and prosecutors to closely examine the cause of the death.

The students later formed a barricade locking their arms

around the hospital's intensive care unit, where Roh's body was kept. They were blocking doctors from conducting an autopsy and demanding the government guarantee a fair investigation into the death.

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A press photographer takes pictures on Friday of the Pujili cemetery partially destroyed by a late Thursday earthquake which reportedly destroyed some 200 homes in the town south of Quito, Ecuador.

US to provide \$ 198m for Bosnia

Bosnian cops clash with Serbs near Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Mar 30: Bosnia Federation police clashed with Bosnian Serbs near Sarajevo on Friday after units of the mainly Muslim police force encountered a gang of Serbs they said were on a looting spree.

Sarajevo police chief Enes Bezdob said his men were shot at with automatic weapons and had grenades lobbed at them after they arrested two Serb civilians who were stealing windows from houses just within Bosnian government territory.

An angry standoff ensued as crowds of Serbs demanding

the release of their kindfolk gathered to confront United Nations police units and Italian NATO soldiers who arrived to try to calm the situation.

A Bosnian journalist working for an international news agency became caught in the crowd and was set upon. Witnesses said he was badly beaten by enraged Serbs who tried to drag him away before colleagues alerted NATO soldiers to save him.

But the Italians later took the journalist from federation territory and handed him over to Serb police, witnesses and colleagues said.

were at a loss to explain the action of the Italians.

United Nations police spokesman Alex Ivankov said the

federation explanation for events might not give the whole picture and questioned why some federation, policemen were armed with automatic weapons.

We're not yet clear what really happened, said Ivankov.

AFP adds from Washington: Congress voted Friday to provide 198 million dollars for Bosnia reconstruction efforts.

President Bill Clinton announced.

Off the Record

New treatments for male infertility?

BOSTON: Researchers at a US hospital said on Thursday they have discovered an enzyme that helps control sperm development and may lead to a contraceptive for men or new treatments for male infertility.

If we can artificially block the function of this enzyme then we might be able to have male contraceptive, Dennis Brown, co-author of the report appearing in the April issue of Nature Medicine, told Reuters.

And if this enzyme is defective, it might be the cause of some male infertility, he said.

Brown and his colleagues at the Massachusetts General Hospital discovered how an enzyme called a "proton pump" keeps the proper level of acid needed to produce healthy sperm.

After sperm are produced in the testis, they undergo further development in a long duct before leaving the body through a tube.

Both the duct and tube must be slightly acidic to prevent sperm from propelling themselves out of the body too soon.

Upon leaving the body, fluid from the prostate gland neutralises the acid, allowing sperm to propel themselves.

If sperm move prematurely, they become weak and are less likely to be able to fertilise the female egg.

Brown and his colleagues had earlier found a similar "proton pump" enzyme in kidneys which removes toxic acid from the bloodstream and pushes it into urine.

Similar enzymes occur throughout the body, but the researchers found they were concentrated in the kidneys and certain areas of the male reproductive system.

He said the Clinton administration hoped that Russian President Boris Yeltsin will focus on peaceful means to end the conflict in Chechnya as quickly as possible when he reveals a peace plan Sunday.

The conflict was not discussed during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit with his Russian counterpart, Yevgeny Primakov and Yeltsin.

It was however, addressed at a lower level according to a senior US official.

The official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said Russian repression of Chechens has been stepped up especially over the last couple of days.

WASHINGTON, Mar 30: The State Department Friday said it was "appalled" at the Russian Army's increased repression of civilians in Chechnya, reports AFP.

We continue to be appalled at the indiscriminate and excessive use of military force by the Russian military, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

We strongly urge the Russian government to put an end to these attacks immediately, he said.

The United States is also "greatly concerned" about recent reports that Russian soldiers had blocked humanitarian organisations and journalists from entering bombed-out villages, Burns added.

FOCUS

Law and Our Rights

The Case of Bangladesh: Bringing to Trial the Perpetrators of the 1971 Genocide

HERE are men who seem to have a way of escaping from history once they have committed crimes like genocide, war crimes etc. All over the pages of world history, there are numerous examples where the perpetrators of such heinous crimes have gone unpunished.

In Bangladesh too, when the people found themselves as the object of berserk Pakistan Army's genocidal policies, and three million of Bangalis were annihilated, after liberation, the perpetrators of the genocide were not punished.

The aim of the Pakistani Army was to destroy in whole the Bengali nation as a national, ethnic and racial group. On a broader level, they intended to do away with the whole concept of Bengali nationhood.

The magnitude of the genocide committed by the Pakistani Army and its local collaborators, particularly paramilitary forces set up by the Islamic fundamentalist political parties were variously described as "the ugliest genocide in history" and "incomparable in modern day history".

Without raising the controversy regarding the comparability of genocide or its uniqueness, many people in Bangladesh believe that not since the extermination of six million Jews by Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1945 the world witnessed a genocide as horrifying in its intent and as wide in its scope.

The UN Human Rights Commission, in its 1981 report on the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, stated that the genocide committed in Bangladesh in 1971 was the worst in history.

It is widely accepted that a total of 3 million Bangalis were killed by Pakistani soldiers and their local allies. Even if a lower range of 1.5 million deaths are taken, killings took place at a rate of between 6,000 to 12,000 per day, through the 267 days of carnage.

The government also meticulously carried out the policy of total destruction of the infrastructure and economy of Bangladesh. 10 million people were driven out of the country to India and another 20 million people were displaced. 15 million houses were set on fire. 567 bridges were damaged. Another feature of the genocide was the wholesale rape of women and young girls by Pakistani soldiers.

It is difficult to find the precise numbers of victims, but it is believed that 300,000 women were raped by the Pakistani soldiers and by their collaborators. The ICJ report claimed that "the officers turned a blind eye to this savagery, and when challenged denied that it occurred. In many cases the officers themselves kept young girls locked up to serve their pleasure. To keep off the world's probing eye, all the foreign correspondents were bundled out of the country by the Pakistani government which was why the genocide was not reported extensively in the international news media. The first news reporting of the genocide took five days.

(Taken partly from a research work by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed)