

## International

# ROK president calls top security advisors' meet

## DPRK troops enter Panmunjom violating armistice accord

SEOUL, Apr 6: More than 100 North Korean troops entered the Joint Security Area (JSA) of the demilitarised zone on Friday armed with a mortar, machine guns and recoilless rifles, the South's Defence Ministry said Saturday.

A ministry spokesman told AFP the 120 troops entered the area at the truce village of Panmunjom at around 6 pm (0900 GMT) in the evening.

Armed with a 61-mm mortar, two recoilless rifles and four machine guns they set up defensive positions and stayed for about two and a half hours, prompting allied forces to reinforce their three observation posts in the area, he said.

Earlier Saturday, UN command spokesman Jim Coles told AFP here that an incident involving North Koreans carrying arms in the Joint Security Area (JSA) had taken place Friday in violation of the military armistice agreement.

The agreement bans troops

on both sides carrying anything but side-arms.

Coles described the incident as apparently a training exercise and said it had happened before.

The ministry spokesman said that on February 20 and February 22 last year a group of 30-to-40 troops had entered the JSA armed with rifles.

Coles said that the UN command was going to attempt to contact with North Korean People's Army over the incident.

Meanwhile, South Korean President Kim Young Sam today called a meeting of his top security advisors after hundreds of armed North Korean troops entered the Joint Security Area (JSA) of the demilitarised zone.

The national Yonhap news agency said Kim had called the meeting for mid afternoon, but gave no further details.

The intrusion Friday night violated the terms of the 1953

armistice agreement which allows only the carrying of side-arms in the Panmunjom Joint Security Area.

Joint command spokesman Jim Coles told AFP here Saturday that the military was not unduly alarmed by the DMZ incident Friday night, which appeared to be reinforcement training by the North's troops.

Coles said the command would attempt to contact the North side through military armistice commission channels over the incident. South Korean and US troops here on Friday upgrade their vigilance's status from Watchcon 3 to Watchcon 2 after the North said it would no longer respect the rules governing the DMZ, but did not change their alert status.

Reuter adds from Tokyo, a senior North Korean official at the United Nations said Pyongyang's renunciation of the armistice agreement that

ended the Korean War is aimed at replacing it with a peace treaty, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported.

Kyodo said the officials told the news agency on Friday (New York Time) that Pyongyang "does not want war and he set aside speculation that the North Korean decision will expand military provocation by North Korea's People's Army."

On Thursday, North Korea announced it was giving up its duties under the armistice agreement "concerning the maintenance and control of the military demarcation line and demilitarised zone."

Meanwhile, North Korea, campaigning to end the armistice agreement that ended the Korean War, briefly deployed some weapons just north of the Korean border late on Friday, a United Nations command spokesman said today.

Angeles times and alleged that Clinton "gave a green light" to the secret arms shipments from Iran to Bosnia's Muslim faction.

But he said that despite its opposition to the UN arms embargo — which helped lock in a weapon advantage for Serbs over the Muslims — the administration complied with it.

"We didn't ship any arms to Bosnia or to Croatia. And we abide by those strictures," Davies told reporters.

He added that the independent intelligence oversight board "looked into how the United States had conducted itself, and they concluded that, in fact, no laws were broken."

Davies did not, however, speak to specific allegations in the story and did not suggest its overall thrust was wrong.

Earlier AFP adds: President Bill Clinton approved a secret plan to tunnel arms from Iran to Bosnia in 1994 despite a weapons embargo, the United States pledged to uphold, the Los Angeles Times reported Friday.

## Iranian arms shipments to Bosnia

## Dole urges Senate to probe into Clinton's approval

WASHINGTON, Apr 6: Senator Republican leader Bob Dole on Friday urged the Senate to probe news reports that president Bill Clinton approved covert Iranian arms shipments to Bosnia in 1994 despite a United Nations' arms embargo, reports Reuter.

Dole, his party's presumptive nominee to challenge Clinton in November, said the reports raised questions about whether administration officials were intentionally duplicitous in their dealings with the Congress.

They also raised doubts about whether "laws were broken and a covert operation was conducted," Dole said.

He called for a joint investigation by the Senate armed services, foreign relations, judiciary and intelligence committees and said it would be a "top priority" when the Senate returns to work on April 15 after an Easter recess.

At the State Department, deputy spokesman Glyn Davies did not deny the report, which was carried in Friday's Los

## Off the Record

## 10-yr-old mom!

BRASILIA: A 10-year-old Brazilian girl raped by a neighbour has given birth, the Estado de Sao Paulo newspaper reported on Friday, says Reuter.

The birth was carried out by caesarean operation because the girl's pelvis was not developed enough to allow for natural childbearing. Estado quoted doctor Jose Lázaro Pereira in the southwestern city of Rondonópolis, Mato Grosso state, as saying.

The paper said the girl was raped by a 47-year-old neighbour who has been charged by police.

It added that the 7.3 pounds (3.3 kg) baby girl would be given up for adoption as neither the young mother nor her family wanted to keep it.

## Because of bureaucracy

CAIRO: A tourist missed his flight home on Friday all because he bought souvenirs — and the customs official responsible for antiquities couldn't be found to check them out, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported, says AP.

The trouble began when the man, identified as Hu Hong, showed up at the airport with a granite statue and a second stone piece that customs officers believed to be originals.

Egyptian law bans the export of pharaonic antiquities.

But the customs officer assigned to check antiquities did not show up at the airport until seven hours after the man's flight left.

The tourist then was cleared to take his souvenirs out, indicating that they were, in fact, not originals, the agency said.

It said the next direct flight to the man's home city of Sydney, Australia, was in a week.

## Royals' rage against 'love'

AUCKLAND: A 19-year-old Tongan woman has been stripped of her Miss South Pacific beauty title after being shot at and beaten up for allegedly having an affair with a member of the Tongan Royal family, the New Zealand Herald reported here Saturday, says AP.

Last week the Miss South Pacific Beauty Pageant Committee announced, without explanation, that Ma'ata Mo'ungalo had lost her title and it had been given to American Samoan Michelle Russell.

The Herald said Mo'ungalo was now in hiding in New Zealand since being escorted by police to Tonga's airport to fly out.

Her father, Eteuni Mo'ungalo, is King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV's personal secretary.

The Herald said he asked for police protection for his daughter after she was beaten up by a member of the Tongan aristocracy and then shot at several days later but not hit.

A member of the Miss South Pacific Beauty Pageant Committee, who asked not to be named, told the Herald that there was "concrete evidence" Ma'ata Mo'ungalo had been having an affair with a nephew of the king.

## Despite Ukraine's demands to quit Russian fleet to stay in Sevastopol

SEVASTOPOL, Ukraine, Apr 6: The commander of the long-debated Black Sea Fleet said Friday that the Russian fleet would retain its base in Sevastopol, despite Ukrainian demands that the Russian fleet give up the Crimean port city, reports AP.

The Russian fleet will be made up of two navy forces, which will be based in Sevastopol and Novorossiysk," Adm Viktor Kravchenko told journalists at the base. "The Russian fleet will continue to be in Sevastopol."

Kravchenko did not indicate whether this signified an official, final decision between the two countries on the city, which has been a major sticking point in negotiations on the coveted fleet.

The Ukrainian defense ministry said Friday it had not heard of an official decision on

the matter.

Sevastopol is located on Crimea, a Ukrainian peninsula with a majority Russian population.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, both Russia and Ukraine claimed jurisdiction over the fleet, and have been arguing over it ever since.

The Russian and Ukrainian navies have begun dividing some equipment, but have not been able to reach agreement on Sevastopol.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said he postponed a long-awaited trip to Ukraine this week because Russian and Ukrainian defense officials failed last week to resolve where the fleet would be based.

Novorossiysk, the second base Kravchenko named, is on Russian territory on the Black Sea's eastern coast.

## Bhutan for solving refugee issue with Nepal

KATHMANDU, Apr 6: Bhutanese Foreign Minister Lyonpho Dawa Tshering has expressed confidence that with cooperation from the Nepalese side a major breakthrough on the Bhutanese refugee issue is possible, the Kathmandu Post reported today, says PTI.

It is our government's policy to solve the problem and I am sure with the cooperation from esteemed counterpart we will be able to make a breakthrough in the talks, Tshering told reporters on his arrival here for the foreign ministerial talks on the refugee problem.

With mutual understanding and accommodation and political will, there is no problem we can't resolve, he said.



Semira Anjum, from Bangladesh, applauds for another student on Wednesday during an "English as a Second Language" course at the Newcomers School in Queens. The school teaches a variety of courses to students who are new to the US.

— AFP/UNB photo

## BRIEFLY

## Clinton, Gore attend Brown's funeral

President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore will be at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware on Saturday when the remains of commerce secretary Ron Brown and other Americans killed in a plane crash in Croatia are returned, the White House announced on Friday. Reuter reports from Oklahoma.

Spokeswoman Ginny Terzano told reporters' travelling with the president to mark the first anniversary of the truck bomb blast in Oklahoma city that both Clinton and Gore would make remarks at a late afternoon ceremony at Dover when the remains of the 33 American victims of the crash arrive. She said the White House was making every effort to get family members of the crash victims to the ceremony.

## China to try Taiwan businessman

Chinese authorities are to try a Taiwanese businessman on a charge that he spied while Chinese troops held military exercises, a newspaper in Hong Kong said Saturday. AP reports from Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong standard said Chou Tien-hsiang was detained by China's state security agency last month in southeastern Fujian province, where he has investments. The newspaper said Chou will be tried on a charge that he gathered state secrets while Chinese troops held war games in Fujian last month. Spying is punishable by death in China in "especially serious" cases.

## Briton, Indian get life term in Lanka

A Sri Lankan court has sentenced a Briton and an Indian to life imprisonment for smuggling heroin and hashish into the country, court officials said Saturday. AP reports from Colombo.

Glen Michel, 29, of Stanford, England, and Nagamuttu Thangavel, 38, from the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, were sentenced on Friday by high court judge P. Wijeratne in Negombo, a Colombo suburb. Police say the two were not working together, although both had arrived from Madras on the same flight on December 11, 1994.

## Li cancels Netherlands visit

Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng cancelled an official visit to the Netherlands in mid April because The Hague reportedly has plans to sell submarines to rival Taiwan, the Ming Pao daily said yesterday. AFP reports from Hong Kong.

Sources in Beijing were quoted by the independent Chinese-language newspaper Ming Pao as saying that Li's visit to the Netherlands, on April 19, was cancelled because China was "very unhappy" over The Hague's "ambiguous attitude" over Beijing's concerns on the sale of submarines to Taiwan.

## Israeli jet makes forced landing

An El Al Israeli passenger jet made an emergency landing Friday at Queen Alia International Airport, two days ahead of the opening of commercial flights between Jordan and Israel, AP reports from Amman.

The Boeing 747, on a scheduled flight from Paris to Tel Aviv, landed at the Amman airport at 7:15 am (0515 GMT) due to bad weather and heavy fog. It stayed on the ground for three hours, then resumed its flight to Israel when conditions there had improved, an airport source said.

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