

## International

## Nepal to seek 3rd party mediation to resettle Bhutanese refugee issue

KATHMANDU, Aug 1: Nepal will seek Dutch mediation to resolve the problem of resettling 90,000 Bhutanese refugees who have lived in United Nations-run camps in Nepal since 1991, officials said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Nepal as said it is ready to involve a third party to break the stalemate between the two Himalayan kingdoms and would ask Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation, Johannes, for help in talks on the issue during his visit to Nepal next week, they said.

"Refugees are the major mission of the Dutch minister," a spokesman for Nepal's Foreign Ministry told Reuters.

"We will explain our general position to the Netherlands," said Foreign Secretary Kedar Bhakta Shrestha.

## BRIEFLY

### Chandrika to visit South Korea:

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga will make a four-day state visit to South Korea this month at the invitation of President Kim Young Sam, a presidential spokesman said. AFP reports from Seoul.

The August 11-14 trip will be the first by a Sri Lankan head of state in 12 years, and is "expected to provide an opportunity to substantially develop bilateral relations and serve as a basis for further South Korean economic advancement into southwest Asia," the spokesman said. Kumaratunga and Kim are expected to discuss global and regional security concerns, the North Korean situation as well as bilateral issues, he said.

### 2 Hezbollah men killed in Lebanon:

The Israeli army said yesterday its forces killed two Hezbollah guerrillas in Israel's South Lebanon occupation zone, Reuter reports from Jerusalem.

An army spokesman said Israel and its Lebanese militia allies came under fire on Tuesday night in the eastern sector of the zone and returned the fire. The spokesman said at first that one Hezbollah guerrilla was killed. Later he said the body of a second guerrilla was found.

### Lankan Liberal Party leader dead:

The leader of Sri Lanka's Liberal Party Chanaka Amarasingha died in a road accident yesterday at the southern town of Paitigala, 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of the capital Colombo, police said. AFP reports from Colombo.

Amarasingha who was in his late 40s formed the right-wing Liberal Party here in 1988 to fight local council elections. However, the party failed to secure a seat in parliament despite Amarasingha being regarded as an articulate speaker.

### ROK to repatriate bodies of 2 DPRK men:

The bodies of two North Korean soldiers washed into the South by last week's floods will be repatriated to the North at an early date as a humanitarian gesture, the South's Defence Ministry said Thursday. AFP reports from Seoul.

The two bodies in full military uniform were found Monday and Wednesday when flood waters in two streams receded after torrential rain slashed areas of the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ). One wore the insignia of a lieutenant. The rains left some 87 dead or missing, many of them front-line troops buried in mudslides on the southern side of the frontier.

### 43 killed in China coach plunge:

Forty-three people were killed and 12 others seriously injured when a coach plunged into a deep ravine. The coach was on its way to Xichang city from Muli in Sichuan province when it fell into a 300 metre (990-foot) deep ravine on July 17 the China-funded Ta Kung Pao said in a report. AFP says from Hong Kong.

It was not known why the accident was belatedly reported, nor what caused it.

### Mongolia concludes accord with US:

Mongolian president Saimaagyn Ochirbat has said his country concluded a security cooperation treaty with the United States in June. The Nihon Keizai Shimbun reported Thursday. AFP says from Tokyo.

The president said in an interview with the newspaper that the deal as part of Mongolia's policy to have closer relations with Washington in various areas, including economic, political and cultural exchange matters.

### Anti-govt pamphleteer held in US:

An 18-year-old self-styled anarchist who allegedly wrote and distributed a homemade, anti-government pamphlet has been charged with advocating the overthrow of the US government, AP reports from Jonesboro.

Jason Paul Moreland remained in jail Wednesday in lieu of dollars 50,000 bond. Moreland turned himself in Sunday. Authorities obtained a warrant for his arrest Saturday after the pipe bombing at Centennial Olympic Park, although police say they don't think he played any role in the crime, which killed one person and injured 111.

### Earthquake rocks China:

An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter Scale followed by a large aftershock jolted a mountainous region of central Tibet on Wednesday, officials said. Reuter reports from Beijing.

The earthquake rocked remote and populated Xaitongmoin county in Xigaze prefecture at 4.00 pm (0800 GMT) and lasted for 45.6 seconds, an official of the seismological Bureau in Xigaze said.

### PLA marks 69th birth anniversary:

People's Liberation Army (PLA) marked its 69th birth anniversary in Beijing yesterday with a call for increased combat capabilities, especially in high tech wars. AFP reports from Beijing.

Defence Minister Chi Haotian told the army's top ranks that China would build a powerful army ready to defend the motherland at all costs, according to reports from the official media. "We will build up a powerful army by relying on the advancement on science and technology improving weaponry and equipment and strengthening research in military science," he said according to the China Daily.

## US to maintain its troops in Kuwait

KUWAIT, Aug 1: US Defence Secretary William Perry said Wednesday that Iraq and Iran continued to "threaten" the Gulf and that the United States would maintain its troops in Kuwait, the official Kuwaiti news agency reported, says AFP.

Perry also indicated that US troops in Kuwait would not be relocated to protect them from terrorist attack, as will be done in Saudi Arabia, KUNA reported.

The defence secretary made the comments during a brief visit to the Emirate before heading for London, KUNA reported.

The United States, which led a multinational coalition that liberated Kuwait from Iraqi occupation in 1991, has maintained equipment and weapons in the Gulf Emirate to equip a 4,000-member bri-

gade.

At least three people were killed in the riots, more than

90 injured and 22 buildings burned in the worst day of anti-government violence in decades. Police beat protesters with clubs and rifle butts and detained more than 200 people.

The protest erupted after authorities trying to remove Megawati Sukarnoputri as head of the Indonesian Democratic Party raided a sit-in by her supporters at its headquarters.

The party, known as the PDI, is one of three allowed under Suharto. It is tiny, tightly regulated and powerless.

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Leftist subversives may be blamed for the violence, but plenty of ordinary Indonesians who endure corruption, re-

pression and a vast gulf between rich and poor are seething with frustration under President Suharto.

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