

ROK troops kill 3, capture 3 more DPRK infiltrators

SEOUL, Sept 19: South Korean troops shot dead three North Koreans and captured three others on Thursday, a day after their submarine was grounded on the country's northeast coast, television stations said, reports AFP.

A military spokesman here said the report, carried by all major TV stations, was still being verified.

On Wednesday 11 of those aboard the submarine committed suicide to avoid capture and a 12th was caught alive.

Meanwhile, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto expressed concern today over the grounding of a North Korean submarine on the South Korean coast, saying there was "no guarantee" it was an isolated event.

"There is no guarantee that it is something that would simply pass away," Hashimoto told reporters.

AP adds: Three more North Koreans from a stricken and abandoned submarine were killed Thursday in a shootout with South Korean soldiers, the Defence Ministry said.

It brought to 14 the number of communist intruders killed since the submarine was found

stranded off Kangnung on the east coast, 140 kilometres (90 miles) northeast of Seoul, early Wednesday.

Revising its earlier report, the ministry said a man captured during the shootout turned out to be an innocent South Korean civilian, not a North Korean intruder.

Ministry officials said four communist commandos opened fire after they were spotted by troops searching a deep mountain valley. Searchers immediately returned fire, shooting three dead, but one fled.

They were among 20 crewmen and commandos who were believed to have come ashore after their submarine ran aground on a reef terrace (yards) off the rocky coast.

One intruder was captured near a remote village Wednesday. Eleven others were found dead in a small clearing on a thickly wooded mountain miles away from the submarine. All had been shot in the head.

Another Reuters report says, South Korean President Kim Young-Sam said today the infiltration by armed North Koreans was an act of "military provocation," the domestic Yonhap news agency reported.

Indian president dismisses Gujarat state govt

NEW DELHI, Sept 19: Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma dismissed the government in Gujarat state today after Hindu legislators pushed through a confidence vote marred by violence, federal officials said, reports Reuters.

Sharma sacked the government of the western state on the recommendation of Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's Cabinet, which held an emergency meeting this morning, they said.

The moves came a day after the Right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Gujarat won a controversial vote of confidence in the state legislature.

Gujarat Chief Minister Sureshbhai Mehta won with 92 votes to nil in the assembly, which currently has 179 members.

Mehta won the trust vote after the acting Assembly Speaker, who is a BJP member, suspended all opposition legislators and lawmakers from a

rebel group of the Hindu nationalist party. Fighting broke out on the floor of the assembly after marshals tried to force the suspended legislators to leave, news agencies said.

Witnesses said lawmakers hurled pin cushions and microphones at each other. Several lawmakers and journalists were injured in the scuffles, newspapers said.

After the trust vote, the Congress Party of former prime minister P V Narasimha Rao asked the state governor to dismiss the BJP government, accusing it of using police and smuggling in party supporters as plainclothesmen to provoke violence.

The BJP is the ruling party in Gujarat but the main opposition party in the federal parliament in New Delhi.

The Congress is a major supporter of Deve Gowda's 13-party centre-left coalition which assumed power in New Delhi in June. It is also the main opposition group in Gujarat state.

The imposition of federal rule would follow two weeks of political turmoil in the state which was triggered when the assembly's Deputy Speaker recognised a rebel BJP group, threatening the state government's majority.

The assembly's Speaker died earlier this week. The Deputy Speaker, who is a member of Congress, was in hospital on Wednesday and was temporarily replaced by a BJP member.

The BJP emerged as the largest single party in the federal parliament after general elections in April and May, but fell short of a majority.

Hindu nationalists paralysed the federal parliament for two consecutive days earlier this month alleging a conspiracy by Congress to topple its government by forcing a split in the BJP.

AFP adds: The Indian government today imposed federal rule in the western state of Gujarat after a rowdy vote of confidence in the provincial as-

sembly injured scores of deputies.

The United Front government early today decided to sack the state's provincial Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) administration, officials said.

The decision was taken at an emergency cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda.

Another AP report says: A day after its legislature erupted in a bloody fist fight, the government of the western state of Gujarat was dismissed Thursday by the federal government.

Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's Cabinet disbanded the Gujarat government following a melee during a confidence motion in which at least two legislators were bludgeoned, and at least a dozen reporters were injured.

Police and security guards, who were called in to expel the opposition members.

Off the Record



A Greek orthodox priest accompanies Princess Diana to the church where she attended the funeral ceremony of her friend Loanni Kalyviotis in Limni village on Evia Island Wednesday. — AFP/UNB photo

In an odd way she's a kind of everywoman

NEW YORK: First it was aliens, then apes. Now Sigourney Weaver's obsessed with sex, reports AP.

For her latest role, she plays the woman Lulu in a surreal comedy "Sex and Longing," on stage at Lincoln Centre. It opens October 10.

"Lulu has to have sex every 15 minutes," Weaver, 47, said in the October issue of Harper's Bazaar. She's a little more upfront about it than most of us, but in an odd way she's a kind of everywoman.

"I'm sure we could all get sick of sex at some point, but there's that sense of total connection that Lulu is looking for," she said.

Weaver's best-known film roles include Lt. Ripley in the "Alien" movies and Dian Fossey in "Gorillas in the Mist."

As part of black magic ritual

RIO DE JANEIRO: Two men and a teen-ager murdered and raped an 8-year-old girl and then brought her blood to a fourth person as part of a black magic ritual in northeastern Pernambuco state, police said Wednesday, reports AP.

Four people confessed to Sunday's crime in the town of Garanhuns, 1,200 miles (1,900 kilometres) northeast of Rio de Janeiro. Pernambuco state policeman Jefferson Barbosa said.

According to the confessions, three of the suspects were following the orders of a black magic priest when they took Juclene Belarmino de Araujo to a wooded area near her house, where they strangled and raped her, Barbosa said. They then took the girl's blood to the priest, who drank it as part of the ritual.

Police found the girl's body Monday, and the four suspects were arrested a day later.

Fabio Cavalcanti, 36, was suspected of being the man who ordered the killing. The other people arrested were 31-year-old Regivaldo dos Santos, 27-year-old Gilberto Justo da Silva, and a 17-year-old identified only as J, because of his age.

Upon learning that police had detained four suspects in the crime, about 1,000 residents of Garanhuns stormed the police station to try to lynch the men, Barbosa said.

The suspects then were moved to another local police station, which also was stormed. They eventually were taken to a prison in the state capital Recife.

Lyrics handwritten by Lennon fetches \$ 103,500

Lyrics handwritten by John Lennon fetched a record 66,400 pounds (103,500 dollar) in a London Auction of Rock Memorabilia on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

The money was paid by an unnamed private collector for a piece of paper containing the words, written by the former Beatle in ballpoint and pencil, to the first 1 and half verses of the 1967 song "Benefit for the Benefit of Mr Kite" the price of the song, which featured on the Beatle's "sergeant pepper" album, was almost two to three times the range foreseen by auctioneers Sotheby's.

The previous record for a Lennon song was 35,400 pounds, paid for "I am the walrus" in 1993.

But Lennon still has some way to go to catch up with Paul McCartney, whose lyrics to "Getting better" holds the overall record for the "Fab four" — 161,000 pounds (251,000 dollar).

The auction catered for a range of rock music tastes, with two mementoes of Jimi Hendrix — a guitar strap and an Afghan jacket — both fetching just over 11,000 pounds (17,000 dollar)

PLO-Israeli leaders fail to reach accord on Hebron

BEIT HANOUN, Gaza Strip, Sept 19: Palestinian and Israeli leaders failed to reach agreement over the long-delayed Israeli troop redeployment from the West Bank town of Hebron and handed the issue over to a committee, reports Reuters.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai met for nearly four hours on Wednesday at Beit Hanoun in the Palestinian Gaza Strip self-rule enclave.

The talks took place shortly after Arafat met US envoy Dennis Ross, who is visiting the region in an attempt to keep the Middle East peace process alive.

"We discussed in a business-like way, seriously, several issues," Mordechai told reporters after the meeting with Arafat.

"We decided that the steering committee will convene soon to discuss in a detailed way, and then it has in its hands a framework of the agreement we will meet again and discuss additional issues that are on the

agenda."

Mordechai said he "presented different possibilities" to Arafat regarding the Hebron deal which could be a basis for the committee's work.

"When the committee reaches a conclusion we will convene, approve them, and proceed with other issues," he said.

Asked if the Palestinians had agreed to renegotiate the Hebron deal reached with Israel's previous government ousted in a general election last May, Arafat dodged the question.

"The steering committee will carry on with all these details," he said.

Asked the same question again, he said: "What I have mentioned is clear and obvious."

Palestinian negotiator Hasan Asfour, who attended the meeting, told Reuters the Palestinians had not agreed to reopen negotiations on the Hebron agreement.



Soldiers from the US First Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas, form a line to board a US military C5-A transport plane for Kuwait Wednesday to join other US forces already in the Persian Gulf. About 350 soldiers left on flights Wednesday. — AFP/UNB photo

Musical concert tragedy in India: 17 electrocuted

CALCUTTA, Sept 19: At least 17 revellers who had perched themselves on a tree to watch a musical concert free were killed when the branches gave in and men fell on a live electric wire, police said Thursday, reports AP.

Deputy Inspector General of Police S Ahmed said the accident occurred late Wednesday night when the concert was at its peak.

"There were about a dozen people on the tree, but some others joined and then the branches broke," Ahmed said. "They fell on a live electric wire and died of electrical shock."

The accident occurred in Basirhat, 40 kilometres (25 miles) north of Calcutta.

Reuter adds: S Ahmed, a senior police officer in West Bengal State, told that at least 18 people were injured in the accident on Wednesday evening in Basirhat town, about 60 km (35 miles) northeast of the state capital Calcutta.

Censure debate resumes in Thai Parliament

BANGKOK, Sept 19: A no-confidence debate aimed at toppling Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-archa resumed Thursday amid charges that he is not a native Thai and should be arrested for illegally seeking high office, reports AP.

Banharn, 64, is fighting for his political life in the three-day censure debate. The opposition has accused him of corruption and mismanaging the country's economy, and urged that Parliament be dissolved and fresh elections held.

That share prices fell early Thursday, but dealers said that direction was unclear and would follow the censure debate. Shortly after the market opened, the Stock Exchange of Thailand index was 4.97 points lower at 1,033.06.

The opposition unleashed one of its strongest allegations late Wednesday, stating that Banharn, a member of Parliament since 1981, had violated Thai laws by seeking national office when he was not a native-born Thai.

UNGA turns down Taiwan's bid for membership

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 19: Despite support from US conservatives and a "no strings" contribution of 160,000 dollars, the UN General Assembly has for a fourth straight year turned back a bid by Taiwan to join the United Nations, reports AP.

The General Assembly refused Wednesday to accept a proposal by 16 Latin American, African and Caribbean countries to establish a committee to study Taiwan's admission to the world organisation.

Supporters wanted the proposal added to the agenda for consideration when world leaders gather here next week for the 51st General Assembly session.

Fresh clashes erupt in Kurdish areas Turkey endorses KDP leader's de facto control of N Iraq

ANKARA, Sept 19: Turkey has endorsed a Kurdish leader's de facto control of northern Iraq following his faction's ouster of rivals with the help of the Iraqi government, reports AP.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller met with Kurdistan Democratic Party leader Massoud Barzani for two hours here Wednesday and said afterward that her government was willing to work with Barzani.

"We still advocate Iraqi territorial integrity, but during the current power vacuum (in northern Iraq), there will be a local government," Ciller said.

Turkey is fearful that chaos in northern Iraq could help its own Kurdish rebels and keeps a close watch on the region. Fighting between Turkish troops and Kurdish rebels has killed 21,000 people in Turkey

since 1984.

In Iraq's Kurdish region this month, the KDP ousted its rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan from major cities. The region has been under limited protection of US and allied powers since the Gulf War to ensure that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein does not oppress the ethnic minority.

However, the KDP secured Saddam's support in its fight against the PUK and Iraqi forces helped oust the PUK from one city and provided at least tacit support in the campaign which began August 31. The fighting largely ended September 10 despite reports Wednesday of renewed clashes.

Barzani has said the KDP's temporary military alliance with Saddam is over now that he's in control of northern Iraq, but the PUK has dismissed

those claims.

Barzani's endorsement from Turkey, a key US ally and NATO member, came despite US cruise missile attacks September 3 and 4 on Iraq to punish it for its incursion against Barzani's rivals in the Kurdish "safe haven."

Barzani met later with US Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau, but they did not speak to reporters afterward. American officials have said they would like Barzani and other Kurdish groups to end their feuding and share power.

Meanwhile, fresh clashes involving the Kurds also were reported Wednesday along the Iraq-Iran border.

Iran claimed four Iraqi Kurds, including three children, were killed when a large refugee camp was shelled from the Iraqi side of the border.



Local residents observe the wreckage of a passenger train and a freight train after they collided in Japeri, 70km outside of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday. At least 18 people were killed and dozens injured in the crash. — AFP/UNB photo

BRIEFLY

Atlantis docks with Mir: The US Space Shuttle Atlantis docked with the orbiting Russian Mir Space Station as part of its mission to bring back record-setting US astronaut Shannon Lucid, AFP reports from Washington.

The rendezvous occurred as moments ahead of schedule at 11:14 pm Washington time Wednesday (0314 GMT Thursday). Atlantis approached Mir by setting off small rockets to position itself 10 metres (30 feet) from the space station. Then Atlantis commander William Readdy received the green light from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Russian Space Agency.

Zyuganov seeks calm in Belarus: Russian Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov urged Belarusian lawmakers on Wednesday to "show patience" in their struggle with President Alexander Lukashenko, AP reports from Minsk, Belarus.

"Show patience in this difficult situation. It is necessary to find a peaceful solution, and do not involve the people in this standoff," said Zyuganov, in Belarus on invitation of the former Soviet republic's parliament. Lawmaker and Lukashenko are battling over a referendum he wants on constitutional amendments that would greatly expand the president's already sweeping powers. He demanded that parliament set the referendum on November 7.

Volcano erupts in Caribbean island: The Soufriere Hills volcano blasted red-hot gravel into the air Wednesday, setting several structures ablaze in an evacuated zone and coating the abandoned capital in ash, AP reports from Plymouth, Montserrat.

It was the largest eruption since the volcano on this Caribbean island rumbled to life last year. There were no injuries, though several dozen people were evacuated from an expanded danger zone as a precaution. The eruption began late Tuesday and lasted 48 minutes, the Montserrat Volcano Observatory reported.

Fighting leaves 2 killed in Manila: Two communist guerrillas were slain and two soldiers wounded in a clash at a village south of the Philippines capital, the military said yesterday, AFP reports from Manila.

The firefight occurred on Tuesday near the town of Nagcarlan, according to a military report. Eight other New People's Army rebels escaped, it said. The government is holding preliminary peace talks in the Netherlands with the political leadership of the 27-year-old movement, which the military said has dwindled drastically to a fourth of its peak size in early 1987, when it had 25,000 fighters.

Gunmen free 2 hostages in Liberia: Liberation gunmen freed two hostage commanders of a rival faction on Wednesday, a day after they were kidnapped during a UN-sponsored ceasefire monitoring mission, Reuter reports from Monrovia.

George Boley, head of the Liberia Peace Council — an ethnic Krahn militia group — led a mission to tell his own men to release general John Tarnue and General Francis Dolo of the National Patriotic Front of Liberia. The abduction of the two generals on Tuesday posed a new threat to Liberia's latest peace deal.

SARAJEVO, Sept 19: Now that Bosnians have elected the same men who propelled them into war, how can anyone expect peace? This comment was made by AP writer.

The foreign diplomats who organised Saturday's vote were jubilant that it went off without violence in a country bloodied by conflict. But the results of the vote for Bosnia's three-man presidency raise sobering questions:

— How can the top office function when it is shared by a Muslim who fought for Bosnian unity, a Serb ultranationalist who fought against it, and a Croat who acts largely on what is right for Bosnia's Croat minority?

— Were America and its allies wise to revive the collective presidency and other political institutions that are remarkably similar to those that failed before the war?

— Is the international community — which stood on the

Managing peace in Bosnia will be tough

sidelines as Bosnia burned — now ready to knock heads together for years to keep a permanent peace?

Although the Dayton peace agreement envisions a democratic, multiethnic Bosnia, the newly elected presidents carry a great deal of nationalist baggage.

Muslim leader Alija Izetbegovic advocated ethnic diversity when he was elected president in Bosnia's first democratic elections in 1990. He remains committed to a unified Bosnia, but now favours Muslim domination as a question of survival for his people.

Because he narrowly won the most votes overall, Izetbegovic will head the new collective presidency, and be the man the world deals with about Bosnia.

But he is supposed to govern together with the Serb member

of the presidency, Momcilo Krajisnik — an ultranationalist who rose as a lieutenant to Radovan Kradic, the former Bosnian Serb leader who has been charged with war crimes.

"Mr No" to international negotiators and "The Eyebrow" to his people, the bushy-browed Krajisnik remains a fervent supporter of Bosnian Serb secession, over which the country went to war.

Most Bosnian Serbs voted for Krajisnik not so he would harmonise with Izetbegovic and the Muslims, or the Croats. They chose him for his secessionist platform.

"The Eyebrow will certainly do a great job defending our interests and our state," said Bosnian Serb Bogdan Vukadin. "Let Alija rule his own back-

yard, and we will rule ours."

That leaves Croat member Kresimir Zubak as the wild card. But he, too, seems sure to make a priority of Croat interests — and those interests are dictated by neighbouring Croatia.

Under pressure from Washington, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman now says he backs the Muslim-Croat federation that makes up half of Bosnia.

But if Tudjman once again embraces the idea of Bosnian Croat secession, Zubak likely will follow. With two members of the presidency advocating a split-up of Bosnia, Izetbegovic would be odd man out.

The same tug of war — between separatists against unionists — paralysed Bosnia's last elected presidency in 1990.

Similar splits along ethnic lines also crippled the collective leadership of the old Yugoslavia. Consensus became impossible and war inevitable.

Even concerns about Bosnia's cohesion aside, the post-war government is clumsy, and could bog down in gridlock.

Any one of the three presidents can ask for a veto if he's outvoted 2-1. Under Dayton, the legislature of the Bosnian Serb substate can nullify decisions that the Serb member of the presidency opposes, and the federation legislature can nullify those opposed by the Croat or Muslim members.

But there are significant differences between now and 1990. The international community is paying attention, and has a vested interest in making Bosnia's peace work.



Top models Karen Mulder (L) and Naomi Campbell pose for photographers at the Galeries Lafayette department store in Paris Wednesday for the launching of their Barbie dolls. — AFP/UNB photo