

Nepali parliament okays bill to set up HR commission

KATHMANDU, Oct 12: The Nepali Parliament ended its session on Friday after approving legislation to set up a human rights commission, officials said, reports Reuter.

"It is an important step to redress cases of human rights violation and raise general awareness on human rights," said Mahesh Acharya, a deputy in the ruling Centre-Right Coalition who moved the legislation.

Parliament officials said both houses of parliament passed the rights bill and then King Birendra formally closed the session on schedule.

Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba, who heads a three-party Centre-Right Coalition government, ran into criticism from the communist opposition for failing to combat corruption.

Plot to blow up FBI complex: 5 arrested

WASHINGTON, Oct 12: The FBI has arrested five members of a West Virginia militia group on charges they plotted to blow up a FBI's national fingerprint records complex in the state, law enforcement sources said Friday, reports AP.

The five members of the West Virginia Mountaineer Militia were in FBI custody in Clarksburg. The bureau planned an afternoon news conference at a nearby field office, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In Huntington, West Virginia, a local television report said Edward Moore was charged in federal court with conspiracy to manufacture explosive materials. FBI agents refused to say whether Moore had a connection with the alleged plot.

BRIEFLY

Dissident charged with conspiring against Beijing

China has charged student dissident Wang Dan with conspiring to subvert the government and setting up a network to help other dissidents, a human rights group said, AFP reports from Beijing.

The Beijing No. 1 Intermediate Court handed Wang Dan's indictment to his family on Friday, the New York-based Human Rights in China said in a faxed statement. Signed by the Beijing procuracy, it charges Wang Dan—who has already been detained without charge for 17 months with four offences the most serious being conspiracy to subvert the government by criticising the Chinese government in articles published in newspapers and magazines.

Wife of Japanese PM criticises Washington Post

The wife of Japan's Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto criticised the Washington Post Friday, saying she objected to an article published after she was interviewed by the newspaper earlier this week, AFP reports from Kurashiki.

Speaking on the campaign trail in her husband's home prefecture of Okayama in western Japan, Kumiko Hashimoto accused the newspaper of falsely portraying her husband's motivation for running in the local electoral district alone.

10 feared dead in Estonia road mishap

At least 10 schoolchildren were feared dead Friday after a bus carrying the children home from a sports competition collided with a truck in eastern Estonia, officials said, AP reports from Tallinn.

The bus was hit in the side by a timber-loaded Kamaz truck driving at high speed on country road near the town of Jogevo, local government head Ravio Vagi told the Baltic News Service (BNS). The bus driver and at least 10 children aged 10 to 16 were feared dead in the accident, according to Vagi.

Blast kills 6 in Algeria

A home-made bomb planted by suspected Islamic militants exploded Friday at a busy marketplace in the Algerian coastal town of Kolea killing six people, including three children and wounding 72, the security services said, AFP reports from Algiers.

Seven of those hurt in the attack in the town 30 kilometres (18 miles) from Algiers were said to be in a serious condition, security services said. But doctors said about a dozen casualties were on the critical list and had to have limbs amputated, several children were also among the wounded.

Brazilian singer Russo dies

Singer Renato Russo, who helped turn the rock band Legiao Urbana into one of Brazil's most popular groups, died Friday of a lung infection, his record company said. He was 36, AP reports from Rio De Janeiro.

EMI-Odeon issued a statement praising Russo's "boundless talent and the beauty of his works and interpretations, which we had the privilege of recording for eternity." With 4.5 million records sold, Legiao Urbana—Urban Legion—was the most successful of a generation of local bands that sprouted in the high-plains capital of Brasilia in the 1980s.

US denies any rift with ROK UN council to condemn DPRK's sub incursion

SEOUL, South Korea, Oct 12: The UN Security Council has unanimously agreed on a resolution to condemn North Korea for a recent submarine infiltration of rival South Korea, Washington's top Asia diplomat said Saturday, reports AP.

"We call upon North Korea to change its course and change its attitude," Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord told a news conference wrapping up his three-day visit here on the ramifications of the intrusion.

The discovery of the communist sub on the South's east coast triggered shock and strengthened fears that despite its worsening economic difficulties, the North was still seeking dangerous military confrontation on the divided Korean Peninsula.

South Korean troops launched a massive manhunt for 26 North Korean agents believed to have come ashore from the sub found stranded September 18. So far, 22 have been killed or found dead.

South Korea believes the submarine was on a spy mission.

UNSC threatens to impose trade, travel ban on UNITA

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 12: The UN Security Council on Friday threatened to impose trade and travel sanctions against UNITA from next month in a bid to step up pressure on the former Angolan rebels to comply with peace accords, reports AFP.

In a resolution adopted unanimously, the 15-member Council said it was ready to consider imposing trade sanctions and travel restrictions against the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola unless the UN chief reported by November 20 that UNITA was complying.

The Council called for "substantial and genuine progress" by UNITA on 12 specific military and political steps.

UNITA is blamed for the delays in implementing the 1994 Lusaka peace accords, providing for a joint military and na-

tional unity government which put an end to two decades of civil war in Angola.

The Council said that the continuing delays on key military and political issues are no longer acceptable.

It called on UNITA notably to complete the military integration programme, to allow the extension of government control throughout the country, and to return its deputies to Parliament.

AP adds: The Security Council agreed unanimously Friday to continue the UN peacekeeping operation in Angola but threatened to consider sanctions against rebels if they keep stalling on commitments to end the 18-year civil war.

The mandate for the 7,000-member mission, the UN's largest peacekeeping operation, was extended until December 11.

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