

International

Arab League resolution on Israel

KSA, Egypt, Syria brush aside opposition by 3 members

CAIRO, Apr 1: The powerful alliance of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria brushed aside the concerns of less influential Arab League members to force through a resolution calling for a freeze in ties with Israel, reports AFP.

of the resolution — tabled to punish Israel for building a new Jewish settlement in disputed east Jerusalem — said the diplomat asking to remain anonymous.

"This resolution is based on a decision taken by the Arab summit, unanimously approved by Arab leaders," added Musa.

For several months, Syria had been frantically preparing the ground for an Arab push towards a freezing of ties with the Jewish state.

The king has prorogued the 11th session of the parliament as of Monday evening, the state-run radio announced today.

Indian political leaders begin jockeying for power

NEW DELHI, Apr 1: Indian political leaders began jockeying for power on Tuesday ahead of a parliamentary confidence vote in Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's government, triggered by the sudden loss of a key ally, reports Reuters.

Most senior Congress leaders have stopped short of publicly throwing their weight behind party president Sitaram Kesri's decision to topple the government, sparking speculation over an imminent rift within the party.

Both Congress, which suffered a humiliating defeat in elections last May, and the United Front, which was hastily cobbled together after the polls, appear reluctant to face fresh polls.

Bid to avert clash Birendra closes winter session of Nepali parliament

KATHMANDU, Apr 1: King Birendra closed parliament's winter session after only four weeks in an apparent bid to avert clashes between the main opposition Nepali Congress and the new tri-partite coalition government, a parliamentary source said today, reports AFP.



Scene of the derailed passenger train, in Spain on Monday evening. At least 26 people were killed and more than 50 others injured when a passenger train derailed in the Huarte Arakil district of northern Spain, Spanish radio said citing the rescue services.

Zairean rebels force refugees to move away from Kisangani

LULA, Zaire, Apr 1: Banished from the outskirts of rebel-held Kisangani, nearly 20,000 Rwandan refugees set out Monday for a new encampment where they can gather strength for the long journey home, reports AP.

Under the dense forest canopy as exhausted people started to move to their new camp 12 miles (20 kilometres) further south.



US President Bill Clinton (R) and his wife Hillary wave to Easter Egg hunters from the balcony of the White House Monday. Clinton, who is recuperating from knee surgery kicked off the annual event in which children aged 3-6 years-of-age participate in an Easter Egg Roll and Hunt.

BRIEFLY

Storm leaves 1 dead in US: A spring storm lashed the US east coast on Monday, pummeling residents from Maine to Maryland with snow, rain, hail and howling wind and leaving one dead and thousands without power, Reuters reports from Boston.

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Blast in Kashmiri police station: 7 injured

SRINAGAR, India, Apr 1: Seven Indian policemen were injured, two of them critically, when a booby-trap attached to a dead separatist militant exploded in a Kashmiri police station, police said, reports AFP.

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China, Vietnam to discuss dispute over oil exploration

BEIJING, Apr 1: China and Vietnam plan to hold expert-level talks to resolve a dispute over oil exploration in waters claimed by both sides, China's Foreign Ministry said Tuesday, reports AP.

"We are planning expert-level talks with Vietnam to resolve these problems," he said.

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World's 1st global personal satellite phone service launched

SINGAPORE, April 1: The world's first global personal satellite phone service, enabling users to communicate from the most remote places, was launched today in Southeast Asia, reports AFP.

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4,500 Kuwaitis to get compensation for Iraqi invasion

KUWAIT CITY, Apr 1: More than 4,500 people in Kuwait with compensation claims stemming from the Iraqi invasion will receive their first payments today, the authority dealing with the claims said Monday, reports AFP.

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Off the Record

Because Diana didn't like it LONDON: Urged on by Princess Diana, a passer-by grabbed a photograph of her, put him in an arm lock and took his camera, according to a news report Monday, reports AP.

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Diplomatic war flares over parking between UN & New York City

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 1: Angry diplomats threatened to move UN operations out of New York if the city goes ahead with plans to implement a crackdown on diplomat parking which the United Nations says violates international law, reports AP.

The programme, aimed at collecting hundreds of thousands of dollars in parking violations, takes effect Tuesday. Under the plan, violators could lose their license plates and driving privileges if they do not pay fines within a year.

Hubert Legal. "New York isn't the only place to put the UN as a headquarters. There is Geneva and Vienna, he added. "There is nothing to stand in the way of this organisation transferring more important portions of what it does to Geneva or Vienna."

The UN legal office said that portion of the law, which could effect a diplomat's driving privileges, violate international rules which allow diplomats to be immune from prosecution under the laws of the countries where they serve.

Russian diplomats alone owe at least 722,000 dirrs in outstanding parking fines, the city has said. On Monday, the Ivory Coast said its mission was hit last week with a 13,661 dirrs fine after one of its vehicles was towed from a legal parking place in Manhattan on March 20.

Other speakers repeated longstanding complaints that the police often ticket diplomats who are parked in legal spaces. They also complained that the city has not yet provided the promised parking spots.

Moller acknowledged that there may be some discrimination against diplomats in the issuing of tickets. He said that if such practices appeared to be widespread, the State Department would disavow the city programme.

The boat exploded after it was hit by a dvora gun boat, a local official said adding that there were five rebels aboard the twin-engine craft.