

Opposition forces keep up pressure on Mobutu to resign

Strike paralyses Zairean capital

KINSHASA, Zaire, Apr 15: Opposition forces brought Zaire's capital to a desolate standstill Monday with a strike meant to pressure President Mobutu Sese Seko to resign, reports AP.

ing that authorities had been instructed to enforce the law "scrupulously" and with "full force," including a ban on public protests.

Leghari dismisses Benazir's claim of implicating her in murder case

ISLAMABAD, Apr 15: President Farooq Ahmed Leghari yesterday dismissed a claim by former premier Benazir Bhutto that she has been implicated in a murder case on his orders, a presidential spokesman said, reports AFP.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak confers with his Palestinian counterpart Yasser Arafat Monday in Cairo. Arafat on the eve of talks with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, asked Mubarak to help salvage the faltering peace process. — AFP/UNB photo

Annan to extend UN mission in Angola

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 15: Secretary-General Kofi Annan is recommending that the Security Council extend the UN peacekeeping force in Angola until the end of June and before turning it into an observer mission, reports AP.

EU-Mediterranean nations meet Arafat to meet Levy in Malta

VALLETTA, Malta, Apr 15: A meeting of foreign ministers from the 15 European Union and 12 Mediterranean nations is providing a chance for Israel and the Palestinians to give the stalled Mideast peace process new momentum, reports AP.

Iran builds its 1st fighter plane: Blast hurts 33 in Ethiopian market: Turkey frees 13 Hadeep leaders: 2 of 16 US jets arrived in Taiwan: 27 hurt as ferries collide in HK: 16th HK film awards presented: Trial of Nazi SS officer begins: Lankans celebrate New Year: 2 ROK women sue Japanese govt: 30 more killed in Algeria:

Defence against cancer

SAN DIEGO, Apr 15: A dinner of pasta and tomato sauce served with green tea and lemon can be a defence against cancer, new research suggests, reports Reuters.

Major, Blair trade insults over education policy

LONDON, Apr 15: Conservative Prime Minister John Major and Labour rival Tony Blair have traded insults over education policy as the British election campaign entered its fourth week, reports AFP.

Chinese, Russian ministers hail progress in ties

BEIJING, Apr 15: Chinese and Russian defence ministers have hailed increasing trust and friendship in ties between the two neighbours who were once bitter socialist rivals, China's Xinhua news agency reported, says Reuters.

Opposition parties agree to stay united in Serbia

BELGRADE, Apr 15: Serbia's opposition leaders, whose relations have soured in recent weeks, on Monday announced that they would bury their differences and present a united front to challenge Serbia's autocratic president and his party in elections, reports AP.



UN Secretary General Kofi Annan (L) and Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro shake hands as they meet for talks at Rome's Quirinale Palace Monday. — AFP/UNB photo

Off the Record

Coffee may help fight cancer, heart disease. SAN FRANCISCO: A freshly-brewed cup of coffee may do more than just wake you up in the morning — its smell might be helping your body fight cancer and heart disease, a California researcher said on Monday, reports Reuters.

'UN makes little progress in Afghan ceasefire'

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 15: After six months of combative effort to persuade Afghanistan's warring sides to agree to a ceasefire, UN peace envoy Northcroft acknowledged that little progress had been made, reports AFP.

Former Soviet Union secretly developed space-based weapon system

LONDON, Apr 15: While the former Soviet Union was publicly denouncing the US 'Star Wars' initiative in the 1980s, it was secretly developing its own space-based weapon systems including a space battle station, according to Jane's Intelligence Review, reports AP.

Space-based weapon system

On October 10, 1984, a Terra-3 laser at low power tracked the 13th US Challenger space shuttle mission, causing unspecified malfunctions on the shuttle and distress to the crew, he said. The incident led to a formal US diplomatic protest.

Space-based weapon system

It is not clear if this Soviet perception of the shuttle was due to a mistaken and paranoid assessment of actual US intentions for the space shuttle, or whether this view was a conscious ruse on the part of the Soviet Defence Ministry to win support for its own space strike systems, mirroring the imagined US space strike systems," he said.