

# UNSC calls for immediate end to fighting in Cambodia

UNITED NATIONS, July 12: The UN Security Council on Friday called for an immediate end to fighting in Cambodia and insisted on the holding of "free and fair" elections next May, reports AFP.

Breaking a five-day silence on the ouster of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the Cambodian first prime minister who accuses co-ruler Hun Sen of a "coup d'etat", the Security Council refrained from taking sides in the conflict.

In the neutral statement adopted by consensus by the 15 members, "The Security Council calls upon the parties again to ensure the effective and smooth operation of constitutional institutions."

The Council said it was "gravely concerned at recent

developments in Cambodia, including violence, which have the effect of jeopardising continued progress of the Cambodian peace process, and calls for an immediate end to the fighting."

The Council declined to brand last weekend's events, which led to the royalist Prince Ranariddh's ouster by his ex-Communist rival, as a coup d'etat. The statement did not refer to Hun Sen by name.

The Security Council "Calls upon all parties to respect fully their commitments under the Paris agreements on Cambodia. It urges them to resolve their differences through peaceful means and political dialogue and in accordance with the spirit of national reconciliation."

the statement said. The Paris peace talks, backed by the Security Council's five permanent members, led to a breakthrough accord in October 1991, followed by a huge peacekeeping operation and UN-sponsored elections in 1993.

Friday's statement was negotiated among the five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — as well as Japan and South Korea, which are the Asian non-permanent members on the Council.

Indonesia and Australia, which were other signatories of the Paris accords, also took part in the negotiations on the text which faced reservations mainly from China, Japan and Russia,

according to diplomats. A reference to King Norodom Sihanouk, whom Prince Ranariddh wants to mediate in the conflict, was dropped.

"The Security Council reminds the Cambodian government of its public undertaking that free and fair legislative elections would be held in May 1998. It stresses the importance of this electoral process," the Council said.

Asked whether the Council had "dropped" Prince Ranariddh, who was at the United Nations on Thursday seeking the imposition of economic sanctions to reverse his ouster, one diplomat said: "That is not a matter for the Council. That is for the Cambodian people to decide."

## Indo-Pak talks should dwell on terrorist acts, says Advani

AMRITSAR, July 12: The leader of a powerful Hindu nationalist group considered inimical to Muslims said Saturday that India-Pakistan peace talks should dwell on terrorist acts in India that he believes are supported by Islamabad, reports AP.

The comments by Lal Krishna Advani, president of the rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party, came just days after a powerful bomb ripped through a passenger train in Punjab, killing 39 people.

The state chief minister has accused Pakistani secret service agents with carrying out the blast. Islamabad has denied the charges and no one has claimed responsibility for the bomb attack.

On Saturday, Advani drove into Amritsar, home to the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine of the Sikhs, who are a majority in Punjab state.

He is on a nationwide tour billed as a runup to general elections his party says is inevitable given the shaky nature of the governing socialist coalition in New Delhi.



Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen (C) waves to wellwishers Saturday moments after landing by helicopter in this village some 30 kilometres southwest of the capital. Hun Sen chided journalists, accusing them of exaggerating stories about last weekend's factional fighting while speaking in Phnom Penh at the opening of a new school and pagoda. —AFP/UNB photo

## Aga Khan marks 40th year as imam of Ismaili Muslims

LONDON, July 12: The Aga Khan marked his 40th year as imam of the Ismaili Muslims with gifts of a total of 50 million dollars to five institutions he founded around the world, his office said Friday, reports AFP.

The funds, in addition to annual programmes, included 10 million dollars each to the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London, The Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan's first private university, and The Aga Khan Trust for Culture, The Aga Khan Foundation and The Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development, all in Geneva-Switzerland. Meeting leaders of the Ismaili Community in London, The Aga Khan, religious leader and imam of 50 million followers worldwide, said it was now possible, perhaps for the first time in 40 years to look ahead of the lurking risk of imminent crisis.

Earlier Friday, The Aga Khan said his successor could be a woman for the first time in the history of the Ismaili Muslims, and refused to exclude the possibility of naming his oldest daughter Princess Zahra.

When asked in a BBC interview if he intended to choose his daughter to take his place, he replied: "You know traditionally and historically it's been a man. But the imam keeps that choice to himself."

Princess Zahra was born in Geneva on September 18, 1970. After studying in Switzerland, she graduated with a degree in third world development at the US University of Harvard.

## Urea scam Indian SC issues notice to Rao's son

NEW DELHI, July 12: The Supreme Court yesterday issued notice to PV Prabhakar Rao, son of former prime minister PV Narasimha Rao on a petition by the enforcement directorate challenging the anticipatory bail granted to him by the Andhra Pradesh High Court in connection with the Rs 130 crore urea scam, reports PTI.

A three judge bench comprising Justice M K Mukherjee, Justice P B Kururkar and Justice K T Thomas directed the notices to be returnable on August one.



South African President Nelson Mandela chats with Britain's Prince Charles during a dinner at the Wadham College Friday. President Mandela, who is on a four-day visit to the United Kingdom was in Oxford to receive the Freedom of the City. — AFP/UNB photo

## Expected signal from Pathfinder not received

PASADENA, California, July 12: A signal confirming that the Pathfinder lander received instructions was not received as expected, sending scientists scurrying to determine the source of the problem, reports AP.

"The patient is not talking to us, and not telling us about what's not right," deputy project manager Brian Muirhead said Friday at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "We've got a couple of theories we're working on."

The last time NASA established communication with Pathfinder's rover it was stuck on a rock named Yogi. Among other information, signals not received late Friday would have confirmed its movement away from the rock.

Among the possible problems is that the spacecraft's computers reset themselves after detecting an abnormality, Muirhead said. In that case, scientists will be able to re-establish communications through its low-gain antenna.

Muirhead also said Pathfinder's high-gain antenna, which transmits data at faster speeds, may be improperly pointed. He said that problem may be more difficult to diagnose.

## OJ won't work to pay off damages

LOS ANGELES, July 12: O J Simpson, found liable for the deaths of his ex-wife and her friend, says he will live on his pension and has no intention of working to pay off the \$33.5 million dollars damages awarded against him, says Reuter.

"I'm not going to go and work and give my money to Fred Goldman," the former football star said in an interview aired on Friday on CNN.

Goldman's son Ronald was slashed to death June 12, 1994, along with Nicole Brown Simpson. Simpson was acquitted at a criminal trial of their murders but was sued by the victims' families in civil court for their unlawful deaths.

In a civil trial that ended earlier this year, Simpson was ordered to pay a total of \$33.5 million in damages to the victims' families.

The court has already seized some of Simpson's material assets to help pay the damages and on Monday, Simpson's \$3 million dollars mansion is being auctioned off.

He said he would be looking for a new home in the Los Angeles area for himself and his two children — Sydney and Justin.

# BRIEFLY

**Floods claim 23 in Poland:** Six days of flooding have killed 23 people in Poland, inundated thousands of square km (miles) including major towns and may have caused enough damage to affect the pending election campaign, Reuter reports from Warsaw.

There was a merciful let-up of rain on Friday after five days of downpours but the drama was far from over. Graphic televised images of some 18,000 suffering evacuees forced to quit their homes eclipsed even a visit by US President Bill Clinton and the government hunted for scarce budget funds to help the victims rebuild.

**Clinton arrives in Denmark:** Bill Clinton arrived in Denmark on Friday on the first visit to a Scandinavian country by a serving US President, Reuter reports from Copenhagen.

Clinton arrived aboard air force one at 9:35 pm (1935 GMT) at Copenhagen Airport from the Romanian capital, Bucharest. He is to stay overnight at Danish Queen Margrethe's summer palace 30 kms (20 miles) north of the capital, and address the Danish people at an open air rally in central Copenhagen at 3:30 pm (1330 GMT) on Saturday before returning to Washington.

**Rebels kill 8 in Algeria:** Eight people were massacred by suspected armed Islamists in Hattatba, some 100 kilometres (60 miles) west of Algiers, the Daily El Watan reported yesterday, AFP reports from Algiers.

The eight victims, killed overnight Wednesday, were members of two families, the paper said, without giving details. "This carnage unfortunately confirms the theory that there is a new surge of terrorism in the isolated regions of Mount Chenoua, in Fedjana and in the forests which stretch from Sidi Rached to Magtaa Kheira," it said.

**7 hurt in Belfast attacks:** Seven people — two teenagers and five members of a joint police and British Army patrol — were injured in attacks in the Northern Ireland capital Belfast overnight, police said yesterday, Reuter reports from Belfast.

The teenagers, one aged 14 and the other 18, were hurt in shootings early on Saturday as Protestants marked the "glorious 12th of July" with bonfires, fireworks and music. The festivities, accompanied by parades by the staunchly Protestant Orange Order, commemorate a 1690 victory over Catholic forces at the battle of the Boyne and are a considerable irritant to Northern Ireland's Catholic minority.

**Turkey urged to mend ties with Iraq:** An Iraqi newspaper yesterday called upon the new Turkish government to take measures to improve its relations with Iraq, Xinhua reports from Baghdad.

The appeal was made in an article by Al-Thawra, mouthpiece of the ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, to the new Turkish government of Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz, who came to power after last month's resignation of his Islamist predecessor Necmettin Erbakan.

**China, DPRK toast friendly ties:** China and North Korea toasted their longtime alliance with parties marking the 36th anniversary of a treaty between the Socialist neighbours, official reports said Saturday, AP reports from Beijing.

Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, China has been North Korea's principal ally, providing shipments of weapons, food and fuel to its increasingly impoverished and isolated neighbour.

## Destruction of statue Violence continues in Bombay

BOMBAY, July 12: Mobs hurled rocks at cars Saturday and stopped trains a day after police shot dead 10 people to quell protests by low-caste people angered by desecration of their leader's statue, reports AP.

Police fear violence will erupt during the funeral of the victims later in the day. A strike called by opposition parties against the Hindu nationalist coalition began in Bombay, India's commercial capital. Shops remained closed.

Fearing violence, police shut down the Eastern Expressway linking downtown with the northern regions of the city, including the airport. The highway runs through the busy Ghatkopar neighbourhood, an area dominated by low-caste people, where the violence began Friday.

Mobs roamed the empty streets, stopping cars and ordering people to head home. Protesters in the Chembur and Worli neighbourhoods also blocked local trains by placing large wooden logs on the train tracks, police said.

Long-distance trains were affected, but passengers of people heading to the airport were stranded on the roads, police said.

The violence began Friday after residents of a shantytown woke up to find a statue of Babasaheb Ambedkar, a low-caste leader revered as a messiah, covered with a garland of shoes.

India has thousands of castes that signify a person's traditional occupation, status and even hometown. Ambedkar is the hero of the low-castes, or Dalits. He had converted to Buddhism to escape India's rigid caste-system dominated by the Brahmins.

Protesters and opposition leaders in Bombay described the firing as unprovoked, but police said crowds were trying to set two parked gas tanker ablaze.

Fire engines extinguished the blaze before the tankers exploded, police said.

## US, allies launch campaign to save Dayton accords in Bosnia

COPENHAGEN, Denmark, July 12: The United States and its allies have launched a concerted effort to save the Dayton peace accords in Bosnia, President Clinton said Friday. The NATO raid that seized a Serb war crimes suspect and killed another was only one part of the effort, he said, reports AP.

Clinton told reporters on Air Force One that a greater effort would be made to implement all provisions of the agreement that halted the ethnic war in Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1995.

Chatting in the rear of the jetliner on his way here from Romania, the president said bringing war criminals to trial for ethnic cleansing "obviously at the moment is the most compelling" of the agreement's provisions.

But there were others that also needed to be given greater emphasis, he said. The most immediate among them are economic rehabilitation and the holding municipal elections in September, Clinton added.

Elated over the reception he received in Romania and on Thursday in Poland, the president grew serious discussing Bosnia, where the United States had taken the leading role in ending the war and trying to reconstruct a unified nation consisting of Serbs, Croats and Muslims.

He said allied leaders with whom he met at the NATO summit in Madrid earlier in the week concurred with the plan. "We basically believe we have to make an effort to save the Dayton process," Clinton said. "We made a commitment in each of these places."

Some 31,000 NATO troops, about 8,000 of them American, are in Bosnia to help implement the accords. Clinton is committed to withdrawing the Americans by July 1998, and the allies are likely to follow and pull out their troops, too.

## UNSC backs African bid to end crisis in Sierra Leone

UNITED NATIONS, July 12: The Security Council on Friday backed a bid by African nations to end the crisis in Sierra Leone, reports AP.

The Security Council is concerned about the grave crisis in Sierra Leone which endangers the peace, security and stability of the whole region," the council president, Ambassador Peter Oswald of Sweden, said in a statement.

It gave its full support to efforts by 16-member Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS, to restore the government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah.

The government was forced out in a May 25 coup led by Maj Johnny Paul Koroma, who claimed he was trying to prevent the country from sliding back into civil war.

ECOWAS, headed by Nigeria, has asked that no country recognise Koroma's government and has called for a combination of dialogue, sanctions and force to restore the elected leader.

Shortly after the coup, the president fled to Liberia, but he was unable to return to power but failed, leaving more than 50 people dead.

Foreign ministers from Nigeria, Guinea, Ivory Coast and Ghana met with Security Council members Thursday and Friday to seek their backing.

Tom Ikimi, the Nigerian foreign minister, said he and his colleagues were pleased with the council's statement.

"We depart from New York fully satisfied that the international community and the Security Council is in full support of the actions we are taking, he said.

Earlier, he told the council that the coup "Portends grave consequences for peace and stability in Sierra Leone and for the political process and constitutionality and governance in that country."

He expressed particular concern that it could destabilise Liberia ahead of July 19 elections.

## Rebels kill 10 troops in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia, July 12: Leftist guerrillas attacked troops deployed at a frequently sabotaged oil pipeline in eastern Colombia on Friday, killing 10 soldiers and wounding 11 others, reports AP.

Rebels had dynamited the Cano Limon-Covenas line on Thursday — the 38th attack on the pipeline this year. On Friday morning, they attacked soldiers who had been sent to repair the line, said William Gilardo, spokesman for the state-owned Ecopetrol oil company.

The attack occurred near Arauquita, 255 miles (410 kilometres) northeast of Bogota, the army said. It blamed the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the nation's largest rebel group.

On Sunday, rebels shot down a helicopter carrying soldiers sent to safeguard the pipeline, killing 21 soldiers and one civilian.

Spokesman for the two delegations and the United Nations refused comment, citing a UN-imposed news blackout. Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister, Inal Batu said on Cyprus television station ANTI that the document presented to the two leaders can be discussed and altered by them.

# Off the Record

**All the President's Fish**  
MOSCOW: When President Boris Yeltsin decided to go fishing on his summer break local officials decided to even the odds by slipping 10,000 or so extra fish into the lake, reports AP.

The Moscow Times reported Friday that fishing authorities in northern Karelia crammed picturesque Ushozero Lake with extra fish so the president could have some fun.

"We were told by the city administration to make sure (Yeltsin) has a good time, and that's what we are doing," the Times quoted an official with the Karelian Fisheries Commission as saying.

"There are probably an extra 10,000 fish that were specially stocked for the president," the official told the newspaper on condition of anonymity.

Yeltsin was not known to be a keen angler, the Times said. But he landed 20 fish Monday and caught another 30 on Tuesday, surprising local fishermen, according to his wife Naina and local newspaper reports.

Yeltsin began his vacation Sunday in the government resort of Shuiskaya Chupa in the lake region that borders Finland. The visit sent local officials scrambling to please the president.

## Accordion invasion

WASHINGTON: Scores of accordions aficionados burst onto a Capitol porch with a jolly medley of patriotic songs that celebrated their humble instrument, reports AP.

"It was so exciting, I've never played with so many people around and at such a historic site," said Anna Mora, 13.

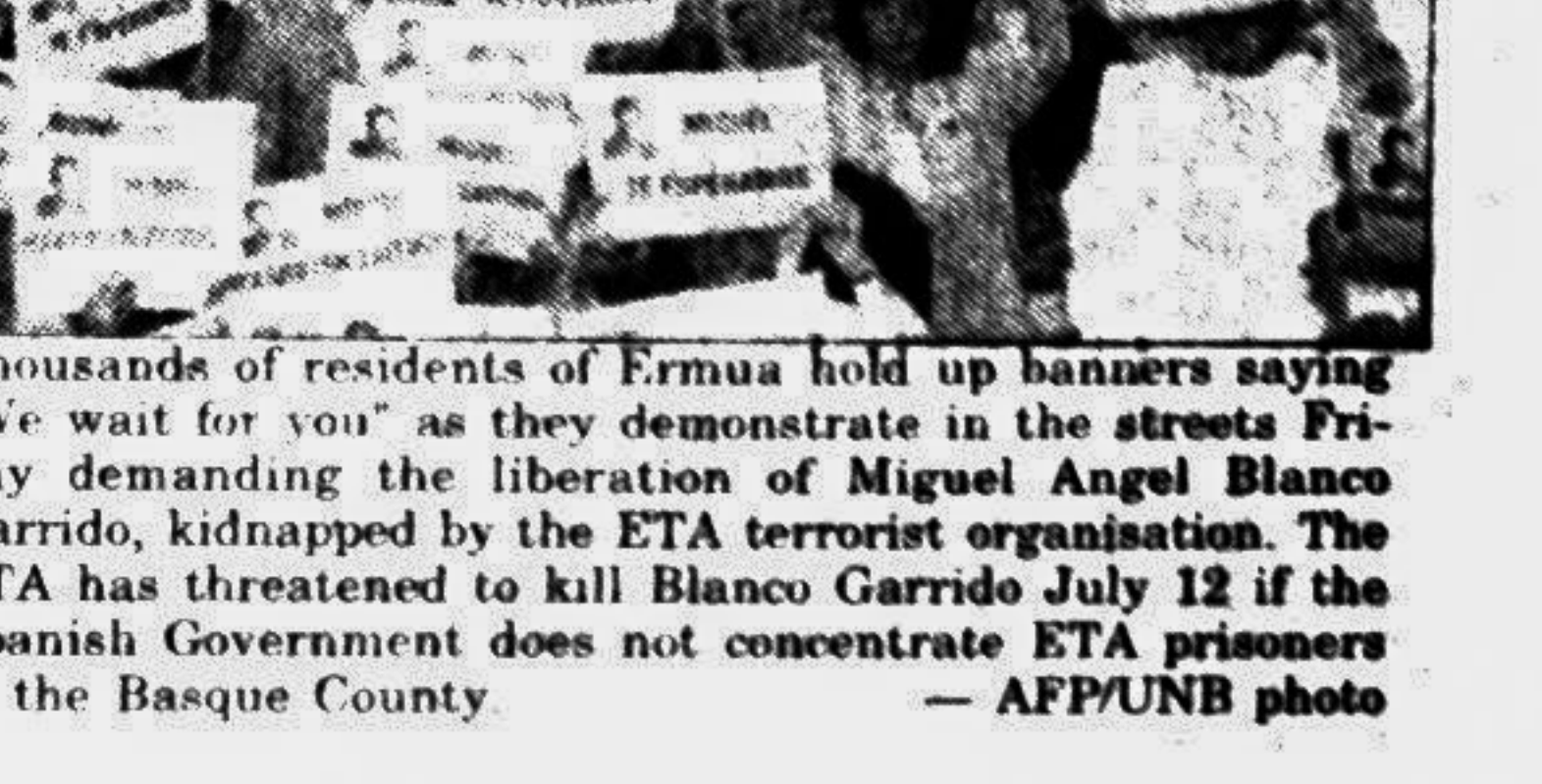
Friday's brief performance was part of a five-day, convention planned by the 17,000-member American Accordions Association. The group had invited members of Congress representing the participants' states to attend Friday's brief performance. None came.

But Mayor Marion Barry proclaimed July 7-14 to be Accordion Week in the capital and US President Bill Clinton sent "warm greetings to everyone."

Hundreds of accordions are attending the convention, including musicians from France, Germany and New Zealand.

But a group of Chinese accordions who were supposed to take part in Friday's performance could not make it. The association president, Fathe Definer, said the performers, from the Music Conservatory of Sichuan, were not issued US visas in time.

Definer said the purpose of the get-together, which has been held annually for more than 40 years, is to give participants the chance to exchange ideas, grow and enjoy different music forms.



Thousands of residents of Ermua hold up banners saying "We wait for you" as they demonstrate in the streets Friday demanding the liberation of Miguel Angel Blanco Garrido, kidnapped by the ETA terrorist organisation. The ETA has threatened to kill Blanco Garrido July 12 if the Spanish Government does not concentrate ETA prisoners in the Basque Country. — AFP/UNB photo

# Int'l pressure may result in Greek, Turkish Cypriot accord: UN

UNITED NATIONS, July 12: UN diplomats hope international pressure will push forward negotiations between Greek and Turkish Cypriots to settle the division of Cyprus even though the latest UN proposals differ little from those turned down once before, reports AP.

Greek Cypriot President Glafkos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş wrap up their five-day talks Sunday at Troutbeck, a resort 180 kilometers (90 miles) north of New York City.

They are expected to return to New York City on Monday for separate meetings with Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen and possibly Richard Holbrooke, the US special representative on the Cyprus issue.

On Thursday, the two Cypriot leaders agreed to meet again Aug. 11-16 in Geneva, Switzerland to continue the search for a formula to settle the division which began when Turkish troops invaded the island in 1974.

Sources close to the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity, said UN negotiator Diego Cordovez presented a list of suggestions based largely on proposals put forward by former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali in 1992.

Clerides campaigned on a platform rejecting the Boutros-Ghali proposals in the 1992

election, in which he defeated President George Vassiliou by only 2,000 votes. Vassiliou had said the proposals could form the basis for discussions.

The sources said the latest proposal calls for the two sides to accept the principle that sovereignty emanates from each of the two, politically equal ethnic communities, as did the Boutros-Ghali plan.

Under the UN proposal, the Greek and Turkish communities would, in turn, agree to form a federation with a single sovereignty, nationality and flag. The proposal would also include a pledge by each community not to secede and join any other state — Greece or Turkey.

But the Greek Cypriots fear that separate sovereignty opens the door for the Turks to break away and seek union with Turkey.

The UN proposal also calls for drafting "judicial documents" until a new constitution is completed. It would reportedly require the two leaders to continue talks until they reach

a settlement. Spokesman for the two delegations and the United Nations refused comment, citing a UN-imposed news blackout. Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister, Inal Batu said on Cyprus television station ANTI that the document presented to the two leaders can be discussed and altered by them.