

## Arafat urges world & regional leaders to help resolve ME crisis

JERUSALEM, Aug 5: Facing a tough Israeli crackdown, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has turned to regional and world leaders to muster support for resolving the latest Mideast crisis, reports AP.

The crackdown, in response to twin suicide bombings in Jerusalem last week, amounts to "collective punishment" and is aimed at "humiliating the Palestinian people," Arafat said Monday.

After the bombings, which killed 15 people including the two bombers, Israel imposed tight travel restrictions on the West Bank and Gaza and suspended talks with the Palestinians.

Twenty-nine Palestinians were arrested Monday, raising the number detained by Israel since the attack to 145. The army said they were suspected of "terrorist activity."

Israel also demolished four Arab homes in east Jerusalem that had been built without permits.

Mahmoud Sabbah watched while his unfinished home, intended to house 25 relatives in the Shuafat refugee camp in east Jerusalem, was destroyed by Israeli bulldozers. "This is revenge," Sabbah said. Israel "decided to take revenge against Palestinians for the crazy suicide bombers."

Arafat met with Jordan's King Hussein and the Arab League called an emergency session in Cairo for Tuesday at the request of the Palestinians.

The Palestinians also asked the UN Security Council to intervene. Meanwhile, the European Union's Mideast envoy met separately with Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Hussein later called Ne-

tanyahu and offered to help mediate with the Palestinians. Netanyahu immediately agreed and invited Hussein to come to Jerusalem on Wednesday morning, Netanyahu spokesman Shai Bazak said.

In Amman, Hussein and Arafat called world and regional leaders in hopes of resolving the crisis, separately telephoning US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Netanyahu.

In the telephone conversations, the five leaders "stressed the necessity to consolidate ef-

orts to resume the peace process," according to a statement issued by Jordan's government. US envoy Dennis Ross is expected in the region Saturday night on a mission to get the two sides back to the negotiating table.

The mission likely will pave the way for a trip there by Albright, her first in more than six months on the job.

Albright is preparing a speech outlining her objectives at the National Press Club on Wednesday. A senior US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said she would not

announce a date for her trip but would go to the area "soon." Reuter adds: Palestinians leaders on Monday called on the United Nations Security Council to protest Israeli actions on the West Bank and Gaza, touched off by a twin suicide bombing last week.

Nasser Al-Kidwa, the Palestinian observer at the United Nations, said he had asked council President Sir John Weston of Britain for a statement telling Israel to lift what he called aggressive measures against the Palestinians.



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat (L) kisses King Hussein of Jordan on his forehead Monday in Amman. Arafat went straight into talks with Hussein in a bid to breathe life into the Palestinian-Israeli talks, which stumbled in the wake of a dual suicide bombing at a Jerusalem market which killed 13 people. — AFP/UNB photo

## One more killed in religious violence in Pak Punjab

LAHORE, Aug 5: Unidentified assailants gunned down a Sunni Muslim activist in Lahore in the latest wave of a religiously motivated killings in Pakistan's eastern Punjab province, reports AP.

Two gunmen on a motorcycle, flanked by a car carrying three other men, shot and killed Waqar Ahmed, a senior official at the Punjab Bank, as he stepped outside the bank's central Lahore branch, police said.

Ahmed, an activist with the extremist Sunni Muslim group, Guardians of the Friends of the Prophet, was the 10th person killed Monday in the violence between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims.

## Detention of Yadav Thousands of RJD supporters court arrest in Bihar

PATNA, Aug 5: Thousands of Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supporters today courted arrest in different parts of the state on the third day of the week-long "jail bharo" campaign launched to protest against the detention of former chief minister, Laloo Prasad Yadav, in connection with the fodder scam, reports PTI.

Officials reports reaching the state headquarters here said thousands of people courted arrest in response to the call given by the Rashtriya Janata Dal in different parts of the state, including Patna, Gaya, Jehanabad, Ara, Sasaram, Munger, Bhagalpur and Siwan.

The "jail bharo" campaign is an extension of the August one state-wide *Bandh* called by the ruling party in protest against Yadav's detention.

The state RJD president, Uda Narayan Chaudhury claimed that the campaign was "quite successful" so far.

## UK suspends contact with Bosnian envoy Karadzic's men behind turmoil against peacekeepers: Plavsic

BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Aug 5: The Bosnian Serb president on Monday accused Serb officials allied with former leader Radovan Karadzic of being behind a spree of attacks against international peacekeepers, reports AP.

Biljana Plavsic said in an interview with The Associated Press that Bosnian Serb police chief, Dragan Kijac, and Momcilo Krajisnik, the Serb member of Bosnia's three-men collective presidency, were responsible for a low-level campaign of bombings and other harassment against international troops and foreign officials that left two Americans injured.

"I can openly say: Kijac is behind this," Plavsic said. "And Krajisnik can stop and start those actions. He should be aware that he is playing with fire."

Both Krajisnik and Kijac are close allies of former Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic, the war crimes suspect who is believed to be hiding in his mountain stronghold of Pale, just east of Sarajevo.

Karadzic still dominates the Bosnian Serb Republic, about half of Bosnia, although he is barred from formal power because he is wanted by the UN war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

Plavsic, chosen Bosnian Serb president in last September's elections, has been locked in a bitter clash with Karadzic and his allies. She accuses them of amassing enormous wealth through illegal trade and corruption while a majority of the Bosnian Serbs are living in poverty and hunger.

The president was as nationalistic as Karadzic during the war, but held much less power. However, she has received Western support in the clash with Karadzic, since she seems more likely to cooperate

with the international community and with Muslims and Croats in the other half of Bosnia.

Plavsic is likely to meet with US envoy Richard Holbrooke on his special mission to

Bosnia later this week.

She said that her life is in danger because of her clash with Karadzic and his allies. Her office in this western Bosnian town is heavily guarded by a police squadron loyal to her. Two guards with machine-guns stand guard outside her door.

## Cambodian soldiers toss grenades into nightclub, 22 wounded

PHNOM PENH, Aug 5: Three drunk Cambodian soldiers bent on settling a personal score tossed two hand grenades into a popular Phnom Penh nightclub, wounding at least 22 people, police said Tuesday, reports AP.

The Monday night attack was not politically motivated, but the result of a personal dispute between the soldiers and several men at the club, said a military policeman who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The explosions tore through the Bophatip 2, a former cinema converted into a sprawling disco. The officer refused to give further details.

## Five die as watertank collapses in India

NEW DELHI Aug 5: Five people were killed and two injured when a giant watertank collapsed at an automobile plant near the Indian capital, newspapers said today, reports AFP.

The Times of India said two others were feared trapped under debris following the Sunday afternoon tragedy at a factory run by South Korean firm Daewoo Motor Co. and its Indian partner DCM.

The NATO-led Stabilisation Force in Bosnia arrested one Serb war crimes suspect and killed another resisting arrest on July 10 in the northern Bosnian town of Prijedor. Since then, there have been a series of hand grenade and arson attacks against the force and members of other international organizations.

Plavsic said that despite his formal withdrawal from office in June 1996, Karadzic still calls the shots.

"No one can dispute that Karadzic remained the main leader of the state," Plavsic said, exerting his power through proxies such as Krajisnik, and the ruling Serb Democratic Party whose meeting he regularly chairs.

Meanwhile, Britain suspended contact with Bosnia's Charge d'Affaires on Monday to punish the country's leaders for failing to agree key provisions of joint statehood.

Carlos Westendorp, the international peace coordinator in Bosnia, recommended the step after the country's Serb and Muslim-Croat representatives failed to agree on joint ambassadors, citizenship rules, a common passport and the opening of airports by the August 1 deadline.

"During my visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina last week, I warned Presidents Krajisnik, Izetbegovic and Zubak of the importance the international community attaches to meeting the various deadlines," foreign minister Robin Cooke said in a statement Monday.

## BRIEFLY

**167 children hospitalised in C Java:** Some 167 primary school children have been hospitalised in Central Java after eating a poisonous porridge, provided as part of a state food supplementary programme, a report said Tuesday, AFP reports from Jakarta.

The head of the health office in the Central Java town of Banyuwana, Mambodiyanto, said the students were recovering but needed a few more days of rest, according to the Jakarta Post daily. Witnesses said the children of the Pamijen Elementary School started vomiting shortly after eating the porridge, prepared by the wife of the village secretary and two other women, the Post reported.

**18 boatpeople held in Vietnam:** Hong Kong police have arrested 18 suspected illegal immigrants from Vietnam after a dragnet by land, sea and air prompted by claims that hundreds had jumped off a ship in the territory, police said yesterday, Reuter reports from Hong Kong.

Police said they captured the 18 boatpeople on Lantau Island. Those detained told police they had been dropped off by a freighter on Sunday night off Lantau, the territory's largest island, and had claimed that 600 illegal immigrants were on board. However, a police spokeswoman said police had called off the large-scale search late on Monday and were now probing whether the detainees had hoaxed them.

**2 die as train hits car in Italy:** Two people were killed and one was seriously injured Monday evening when a train hit their car on a level crossing at Castrocielo, 70 kilometres (45 miles) south of Rome, police said, AFP reports from Rome.

First reports suggested that the barriers had been raised too soon after an express train bound for Rome had gone through. Two cars had started crossing the lines as another train from Cassino to Rome was approaching at full speed. The first car managed to get across but the one behind was hit and pushed for 200 metres before the train had time to brake.

**Teenager gets 14-yr jail in S'pore:** A Singapore court has sentenced a 16-year-old youth to 14 years in jail and 24 strokes of the cane for trafficking in cannabis, the Straits Times newspaper reported yesterday, Reuter says from Singapore.

It said the court jailed a 37-year-old woman who is eight months pregnant for 14 years on the same charges. The two were accused of trafficking a total of some 920 grammes of cannabis mixture and the newspaper said the youth, Alan Loo Pei Xiang, was given another year for consuming ecstasy. It said Loo planned to appeal against the sentences.

**Gunmen kill 6 in Mexico:** Four armed men burst into an exclusive restaurant in this town on the US border and sprayed six diners with more than 150 bullets, state police said Monday, AFP reports from Ciudad Juarez.

Unconfirmed reports said among the victims of the attack late Sunday were two informants for the US Drug Enforcement Administration and a US citizen. The head guard at the local prison Fernando Lague was listed among the six victims confirmed dead in the attack, police said.

**China appoints 11 new envoys:** Chinese President Jiang Zemin has appointed 11 new ambassadors for nations ranging from Singapore to the Seychelles, the official Xinhua news agency said yesterday, AFP reports from Beijing.

Of the 11, only one was female — Chen Baoliu, who was appointed to Singapore from her previous post as Chinese ambassador to Myanmar. The other 10 were Liang Dong to Myanmar, Fu Xuezhong to Thailand, Yao Kangli to Turkey, Zhang Hongxi to Tanzania, Chen Huailong to Equatorial Guinea, Wang Xingshi to Seychelles, Li Guobang to Croatia, Wu Junfeng to Slovenia, Wang Xinyuan to Samoa and Wen Xigui to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

## Did India plan to invade Lanka in '89?

Sugeeswara Senadhira writes from Colombo

Well known Sri Lankan expatriate academic Ralph Buultjens said that the Indian government considered a plan to invade Sri Lanka in 1989 but dropped the idea after a series of adroit diplomatic actions.

Prof. Buultjens, who lives in Colombo and New York and is familiar with the politics of the subcontinent, claimed that then Sri Lankan High Commissioner to India Stanley Kalpage was tipped off about the plan by a highly placed Indian politician.

Dr. Kalpage was then able to alert Colombo and by a series of adroit actions prevent it. "If this is so, both India and Sri Lanka owe him much for defusing a situation that would have been disaster for both," Prof. Buultjens said while reviewing Dr. Kalpage's book, "Mission to India — from confrontation to cooperation." His review has been published in local newspapers.

Dr. Kalpage served in New Delhi as the High Commissioner representing the government of President Ranasinghe Premadasa in 1989-91, a period during which bilateral relations reached its lowest ebb. Premadasa earned the wrath of New Delhi after he gave unilateral quit notice to the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) stationed in the north and east.

Prof. Buultjens mentioned the Indian plans for "some kind of Indian armed landing or attack on Sri Lanka around 1989" and the role played by Dr. Kalpage to prevent it. He said these details have been left out by Dr. Kalpage in his book.

"Perhaps diplomatic prudence requires discretion," he said. "Dr. Kalpage also does not say anything about a widely spoken topic in Delhi at that time — the very careful and penetrating watch maintained

on the Sri Lanka High Commission by Indian security," Prof. Buultjens pointed out. "Only exemplary High Commissioners can escape the consequences of surveillance. Dr. Kalpage passed this test, but how many others did?"

Dr. Kalpage's book mentions his dealings with three Indian Prime Ministers — Rajiv Gandhi, VP Singh and Chandra Shekar. Dr. Kalpage finds Rajiv Gandhi congenial, respects VP Singh and has some distaste for Chandra Shekar. "But this does not colour his appreciation of their actions and intentions," Prof. Buultjens pointed out.

Prof. Buultjens said the surprising details and little known developments mentioned in the book are useful to understand the Indian political leaders and bureaucrats. One theme which emerges from these is that Indian leaders are not very well informed about Sri Lanka and

depend heavily on their officials and the media for their impressions.

"Another is the essential, often defensive, patriotism of these notables — a discovery Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne made when Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi sharply rebuked him for imputing certain actions to the Indian Peace Keeping Force," Prof. Buultjens pointed out.

Among many other "truths" is Dr. Kalpage's recognition of the way in which Indian regionalism affects foreign policy for people in the north the Sri Lanka situation in peripheral, for those in the south it is vital. To the extent that south influences north, Sri Lanka rises and falls on the barometer of importance, Prof. Buultjens said in his conclusions from Dr. Kalpage's "Mission to India."

— India Abroad News Service

## 74 massacred in Algerian violence

ALGIERS, Aug 5: A total of 74 Algerian villagers were killed in a new series of massacres in the Blida and Ain-Defla regions on Sunday and overnight, reports AFP.

Local residents of the Blida region, 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Algiers, said that 26 villagers at Amroussa, near Blida, had been massacred by knife or gunfire overnight Sunday.

The village was overrun by a group of suspected Islamic militants, the inhabitants said.

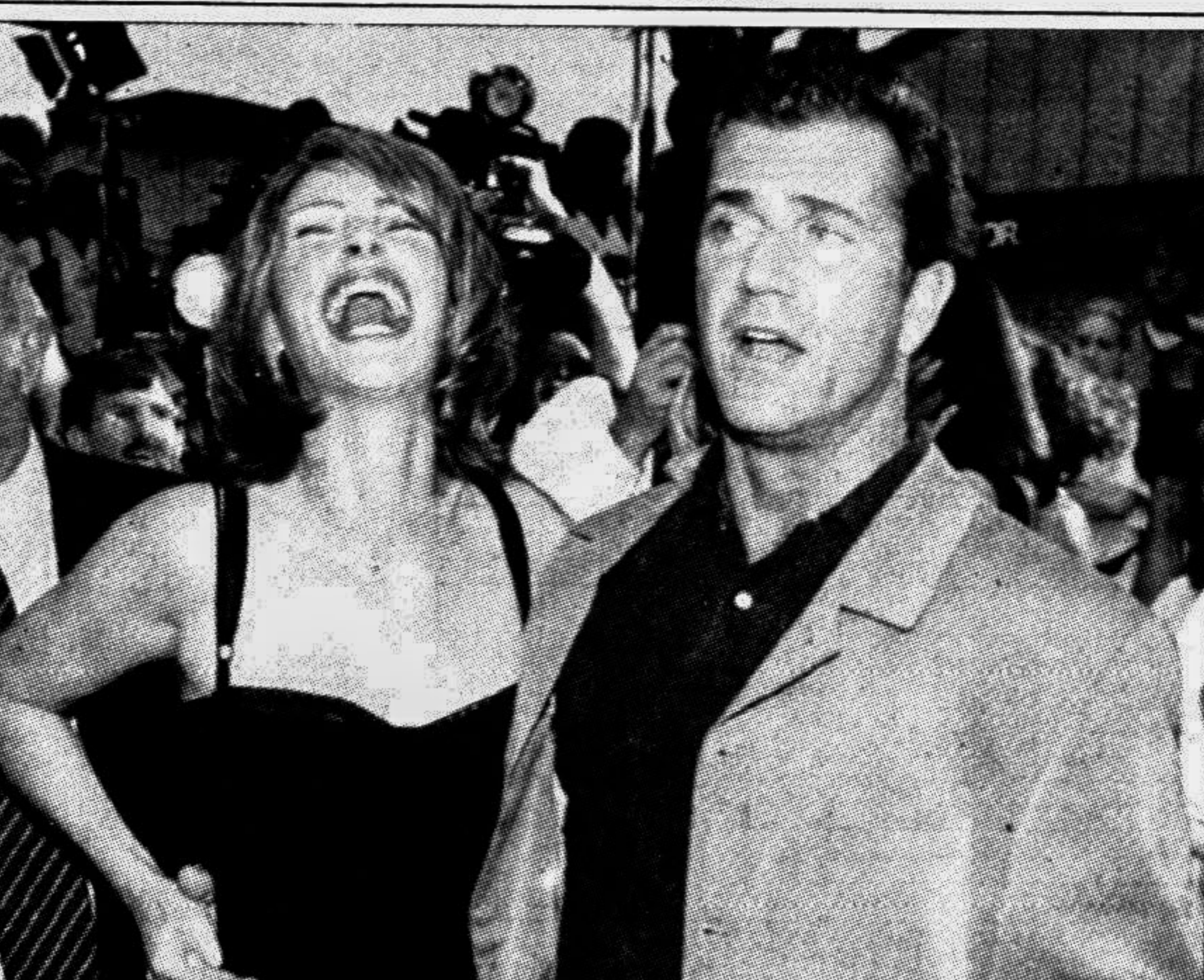
The victims included eight children and seven women whose bodies were burnt by their killers, according to local reports.

Three young women were kidnapped.

In the same region, eight passengers of a coach were killed Sunday at Hammam-Melouane when their vehicle was machine-gunned at a road-block set up by an armed Islamic group.

In the Ain-Defla region 120 kilometres southeast of Algiers, 40 people including women and children were killed overnight Sunday at the villages of Meazoura et Oued-el-Had, local sources said.

The current spate of bloodshed appears to be the worst since 1992.



US actress Julia Roberts (L) laughs as actor Mel Gibson poses for photographers at the premiere of their new film "Conspiracy Theory" Monday in Los Angeles, California. Roberts and Gibson star in the romantic-thriller about a cab driver's theory about a government conspiracy that is proven to be true. — AFP/UNB photo

## UN blasts Angolan rebels as peace accord nears collapse

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 5: As the Angolan peace process nears collapse, the United Nations accused former UNITA rebels of having taken "no significant steps" to comply with UN orders to honour the 1994 peace agreement, reports AP.

Last month, the Security Council threatened to impose economic sanctions on former rebels of UNITA if they did not take specific steps by Aug 15. They include full and accurate disclosure of UNITA's military strength and the transformation of its radio station into a "non-partisan" broadcaster.

In a statement released here and in Luanda on Monday, Angola, UN special representative Alioune Blondin Beye said mediators from the United States, Russia and Portugal, who oversee the peace process, had concluded "that UNITA has not made any significant steps" to implement council orders.

"They consider that it is imperative that UNITA provide credible information on the true state of all its armed elements," Beye said.

He said the mediators "strongly urge UNITA to act with transparency and take the necessary steps as demanded by the Security Council."

It will not be acceptable if the information requested by the council is made available right before August 15," he added.

Tensions began increasing in Angola after Laurent Kabila seized power in neighbouring Congo, formerly known as Zaire. Clashes broke out between government troops and UNITA in the diamond-rich north.

A 1991 peace agreement paved the way for elections the following year. But UNITA rejected its defeat at the ballot box and returned to the bush.

## Non-invasive test for heart disease proved to be effective

WASHINGTON, Aug 5: A new, non-invasive test for heart disease that uses ultrasonic microbubbles to monitor cardiac blood flow has been effective in its first clinical trial on humans, researchers reported on Monday, reports Reuter.

The test involves the injection of tiny bubbles made up of insoluble, high molecular weight gases into a vein, researchers from the University of Virginia wrote in the current edition of the journal *Circulation*.

The bubbles flow with the blood into the heart, and give off a signal that can indicate how fast the blood is flowing, the scientists said in a statement.

"If there is no flow, then we know there is blockage in the coronary artery," said Dr. Sanjib Kaul, lead author of the study. "Most people who die from heart attacks have clogged arteries."

Current tests to monitor blood flow cost between 1,000 dollar and 2,000 dollar and

take at least one day to complete, the scientists said, the new test, known as Myocardial Contrast Echocardiography or MCE, costs about 300 dollar to 400 dollar and takes only 15 to 20 minutes.

Kaul said one possible application for MCE would be in emergency rooms, where some 5 million people annually come in complaining of chest pains.

Electrocardiography is effective in diagnosing only about one-third of those patients having heart attacks, he said. The other two-thirds are often admitted for further tests, a process that he said costs US health care systems 10 billion dollar a year.

"Having an accurate diagnostic tool for heart attacks in the emergency room could save millions of dollars in determining which patients have normal blood flow to the heart muscle and more importantly, help doctors provide immediate treatment to patients with acute heart attacks," Kaul said.

## Iraq's oil-for-food plan Kurds not receiving aid

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 5: A Kurdish leader complained on Monday that Kurds were not receiving the humanitarian supplies provided under an Iraqi oil-for-food plan, UN officials and diplomats said, reports Reuter.

Jalal Talabani, Secretary-General of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), saw Security Council envoys. UN officials in the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, which supervises the plan, and Under-Secretary-General Kieran Prendergast, head of the Political Affairs Department.

Under the oil-for-food programme, funds are earmarked for the Kurdish north of the country and are to be distributed by the United Nations rather than Iraq.

The plan allows Iraq to sell up to 2 billion dollars worth of oil every six months to provide goods for its people, suffering under stringent UN sanctions imposed seven years ago when Baghdad's troops invaded Kuwait.

One diplomat said Talabani "complained that Kurds were not getting what they were meant to get in the north under the terms of the plan."

In addition, UN officials said, he discussed recent negotiations among rival Kurdish groups and the state of human rights in the north.

Iraq last September helped the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), led by Massoud Barzani, oust the PUK from the city of Arbil. The move prompted the United States to fire missiles against Iraqi air defences in the south.

## Sinn Fein leader has his reasons for seeking peace settlement

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Aug 5: When Gerry Adams talks about taking the gun out of Irish politics, he carries a daily reminder of its cost: an aching neck and back from a would-be assassin's five bullets, reports AP.

"I was within a millimetre of being paralysed. I need to be extremely vigilant," the leader of the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party said Monday in a wide-ranging interview in advance of new efforts to court British enemies and American friends.

Adams, 48, a reputed Irish Republican Army commander in the 1970s, hopes the new open-ended IRA truce begun two weeks ago gives him the chance to achieve a peace settlement opposite pro-British Protestant politicians — among them associates of the men who tried to kill him in 1984.

"I want to make peace with the (Protestant) unionists. I want to make peace with the British," he said in a derelict former mill in west Belfast, a main base for Sinn Fein.

"I don't want to be fighting, arguing, crabbing with my neighbours or with the people who come from Britain. I want us to shake hands and be friends. And if we can't be friends, I want us to at least have a system which allows for us to peacefully coexist together."

Those negotiations are to start September 15 with most Protestant representatives vowing to shun Adams. But first on Wednesday he meets Mo Mowlam, the new British Cabinet minister responsible for governing Northern Ireland. Mowlam said she "might

manage" a public handshake with Adams, something her predecessor, Sir Patrick Mayhew, avoided for nine months until coming under US pressure.

"I don't plan to be rude. I plan to be as straightforward with Adams as I am with everybody else," she said.

Adams then tours the eastern United States in early September to build funds and international leverage against Protestant leaders, most of whom see the negotiations as stacked against them.

They want Northern Ireland to remain united with Britain, while Adams says the link must be broken. They demand that the IRA start handing over weapons, something Adams said was designed to "publicly shame" the IRA.

President Clinton broke with longstanding US policy by granting Adams a visa in January 1994, eight months before the IRA called an open-ended cease-fire that collapsed in February 1996. Seven more trips have followed, making Adams the best-known Irishman in America.

"What I love about the USA is that it is a very open society. The Irish are everywhere. Because I have a profile of sorts, the Irish come to me everywhere we are."

But he can't loosen up with too many microphones around. "The global village means that my words are measured. If I say something in New York or Washington, it'll be on the 6 o'clock news here in Belfast."

Since Clinton lifted a fundraising ban in 1995, Sinn Fein

has raised more than 2 million dollars, much of it for its Washington office and international work from its Dublin headquarters.

Though Sinn Fein's superior organisation and funding is obvious in Northern Ireland — where the party has boosted its base of support from 10 per cent to more than 16 per cent in recent elections — Adams denies its advanced economic fortunes are the key. "It's human resources. Our people don't take salaries and are really committed."

But he is making money on his autobiography, "Before the Dawn," which remains an Irish best-seller despite having a big vague hole where his reported IRA past should go.

The Ulster Defense Association, the main pro-British paramilitary group, clearly saw

Adams as a dangerous opponent. A UDA team tried to kill Adams as he left downtown Belfast in 1984, riddling his car with 18 bullets.

Adams said one bullet went through the back of his neck, four others in his left shoulder, arm and back.

"When I looked at the photograph of the car it totally amazed me," he said, poking the air to indicate a cluster of bullet holes. "It was just lucky. And yes it is still sore ... I can also tell when it's going to be frosty!"

The pro-British paramilitary camp is officially sticking to an October 1994 cease-fire, allowing its representatives to be involved in the negotiations. But they have repeatedly violated the truce, and dissidents are vowing to maintain attacks on Catholics.