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Put pressure on Hun Sen or civil war will erupt

MANILA, Aug 18: Ousted Cambodian co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh said Wednesday his country will return to civil war if Southeast Asian governments do not put pressure on his arch-rival Hun Sen, reports Reuter.

The prince was ousted last month by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen, whose forces are now closing in on Ranariddh's last major stronghold.

"If we do not put pressure on Hun Sen, civil war will erupt, Ranariddh told reporters after talks with Philippine President Ramos.

Any instability in Cambodia any fighting in Cambodia will directly affect countries like Thailand, Vietnam and Laos and affect ASEAN as a whole.

Ranariddh is on the fifth leg of a tour of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) seeking support. ASEAN — which groups the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia,

Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam, last month postponed Cambodia's entry because of the political turmoil in Phnom

"I must be allowed in a safe and sound manner ... to go back home in my capacity as elected prime minister," he said.

Ranariddh, son of King Norodom Sihanouk has been replaced as first prime minister by Foreign Minister Ungh Hout. Hun Sen has said that if Ra-

nariddh returned he must face trial for illegal negotiations with the outlawed Khmer Rouge and for smuggling weapons.
Ramos told Ranariddh that

the Philippines attention was now focused on next May's planned general elections in Cambodia and that his country would be willing to help ensure they were fair.

He called for the participation of all political forces in Cambodia in the polls and urged all Cambodian parties to

conclude, observe a ceasefire and end all acts of war and violence, a statement from his office said.

Ranariddh, who has previously refused to announce a unilateral ceasefire said it was crucial that Hun Sen not be allowed to organise the election

AFP adds: Ousted Cambodian first prime minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh claimed in Manila today that forces of his rival Hun Sen had been severely hit in fighting in northwestern Cambodia where royalist troops are making a

stand. Ranariddh, visiting the Philippines to rally international support, said he had spoken to the chief of his forces General Nhiek Bun Chhay by telephone before meeting Philippine President Fidel

I have just been briefed by General Bun Chhay, he told me that Hun Sen's forces lost a lot of people, in fighting at O'smach near the Thai-Cambodian border, Ranariddh said.

International =

He confirmed that Khmer Rouge guerillas have been integrated into the force loyal to him and no longer considered themselves as Khmer Rouge.

"All of Khmer Rouge, Pol Pot's forces they are now entirely and fully part of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces and they do not consider themselves Khmer Rouge anymore," Ranariddh told reporters.

Ahmad Yahya, an MP from the Royalist FUNCINPEC Party. announced Saturday the Royalist forces had formed an alliance with the Khmer Rouge guerillas. "We had no choice. Hun Sen

kept killing the people," he said. Hun Sen ousted Prince Ranariddh following a weekend of heavy fighting between their rival troops early last month in Phnom Penh.



Egyptian members of the Islamic Jihad group, stand behind bars during their military trial in Cairo, Sunday. They are among 84 Islamists arrested in January 1995 on charges of plotting to bomb Khan al-Khalili, the biggest historical bazaar in Cairo.

— AFP/UNB photo

US, UN urged to help salvage ME peace

CAIRO, Aug 18: The Afro-Asian People's Organisation (AAPSO) yesterday called on the United States and the United Nations to help salvage the Mideast peace process, reports Xinhua.

"In light of the principles of the international law and agreements signed between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the US should step in to save the peace process from dying." AAPSO said in a message sent to US President Bill Clinton.

It also called for lifting the sanctions imposed on the Palestinian people after the July 30 suicide bombing attacks in Jerusalem which killed 16 people, condemning the Israeli measures as "unjust and irresponsible.

The Cairo-based organisation yesterday sent a message to PNA President Yasser Arafat, voicing support for the Palestinians and denouncing the Israeli policy.

In a third message sent in this respect to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, AAPSO asked him to interfere immediately to alleviate the suffering sustained by Palestinians due to the Israeli policies.

AAPSO asked the UN to send

a fact-finding committee to investigate the July 30 blasts in west Jerusalem, determine those responsible and explore policies which would provide a

proper climate for peace. The bomb attacks took place in a crowded Jerusalem market just as the PNA and Israel prepared to resume peace talks stopped over Israel's construction in March of a housing pro-

ject for Jews in east Jerusalem. Reuter adds: Israeli, Palestinian and US security officials met the West Bank Palestinian enclave of Ramallah on Sunday as part of a framework set by US peace envoy Dennis Ross, Is-

raeli security sources said. The talks, which were closed to the media, ended just before midnight local time (2100 GMT). Palestinians officials were not immediately available for comment. But the Israeli sources said the Palestinians gave them results of checks made on explosives found in early July in a West Bank apartment suspected of being a bomb laboratory of the anti-Israeli Namas movement.

The Israelis expressed satisfaction at the information. which they said needed to be checked against data which they already had.

BREFITY

9 killed in road mishap in India: Nine persons were killed and four others seriously injured when the trekker in which they were travelling collided with a truck between Baragarh and Sohela, about 65 kms from

Sambalpur Sunday morning. PTI reports from Sambalpur. Five of the victims died on the spot, while the other four succumbed to injuries at Baragarh hospital, official sources said. The seriously injured persons were admitted to VSS Medical College Hospital, Burla.

WW-II bomb found in UK beach:

Thousands of people were evacuated from a beach in the country of Essey, east of London on one of the hottest weekends of the year after a World War II bomb was found in the sand, AFP says from London.

More than 300 metres (yards) of the beach at southend were sealed off while an army bomb disposal team examined the device. A police spokesman said the disposal team was deciding whether to carry out a controlled explosion on the bomb at the scene or take it away.

Blasts kill 3 in Philippines: Bombs went off in a crowded bus terminal and a passenger bus in a southern Philippine port city, killing three people and injuring at least 18 others, police said Monday, AP reports from Manila.

Police suspect terrorists were behind the blasts Sunday afternoon in Cagayan de Oro City and have deployed plainclothes policemen in malls, markets and other public areas to deter more bomb attacks. Police superintendent Emilio Alinas said the first bomb, loaded in a cooking oil can and placed in a basket, exploded near a throng of people watching a televised basketball game in a bus terminal.

1 more tourist's body found in US: Rescue workers found the body of another of the 11 tourists swept away by a flash flood in an Arizona canyon last week, the Coconino-county, Arizona, Sheriff's office said Sunday, AFP reports from Los Angeles.

Nine bodies have been found since Tuesday, when a sudden storm sent a flash flood rushing through the narrow antelope canyon in Arizona, search efforts were to resume early Monday. The sheriff's office would not say whether the body found Sunday was that of a man or a woman nor what nationality the victim was. Seven French tourists were among the hikers. Two were from the United States and one each from Britain and Sweden.

Blast ruins arms depot in Vietnam: An army weapons and ammunition depot was leveled by a powerful explosion in a remote mountainous region of northern

Vietnam, an official report said Monday, AP reports from Almost six tons of weapons, and ammunition were destroyed

in the explosion that rocked Vietnam's Thanh Hoq province, about 80 kilometres (50 miles) south of the capital, Hanoi. The explosion late last week was reported Monday in Vietnam's tightly controlled Communist Party newspaper, The People.

10 die of animal-borne disease in India: At least 10 people have died and 60 fallen ill in the western Indian state of Gujrat over the last two weeks due to an outbreak of an animal-borne disease, the Press Trust of India said Sunday, AFP reports from New Delhi.

Officials said leptospirosis — an umbrella term for infectious diseases transmitted by animals and characterised by jaundice, meningitis and kidney failure - had surfaced in the Gujrat districts of Vandsa, Bulsar and Chikli. An officialsaid the disease was caused by bacteria spared by rodents in the three tribal-dominated areas.

6 die as boat capsizes in Colombia: A boat full of Colombian tourists capsized in waters off the Caribbean port of Cartagena, killing six people, authorities said, AP reports from Bogota.

The boat, on its way to Baru in the Rosario island off the coast, sank Sunday near Punta Gigante after taking on water when a stiff wind kicked up and made seas choppy. The Navy said six people were killed, 10 survived and three were missing. "There were 19 people on the boat and it only had permission to carry 14. The people (who drowned) couldn't swim," the Cartagena newspaper El Universal reported. The Colombian tourists, from Antioquia state, were on a religious retreat.

Serb police arrest 5 Muslims

Combined forces deployed to capture Karadzic

LONDON, Aug 18: A combined US. British and French commando force has been deployed in Bosnia to capture Radovan Karadzic, according to military sources cited by the Sunday Times, reports AP.

The London newspaper said a night exercise that NATO said it carried out Wednesday in mountains north of Pale, the former Bosnian Serb leader's stronghold, was widely seen as a dress rehearsal for his seizure. He is wanted as a war crimes suspect.

The paper said the unidentified sources described Wednesday's operation as an airmobile insertion exercise. It said western forces are braced for a Bosnian Serb backlash as the noose tightens around Karadzic and that Sarajevo is on high alert.

The paper said expectations of an attempt to snatch Karadzic have been heightened by NATO's crackdown on his special police force. NATO said last week the Serb special police would have to submit to supervision by peacekeeping troops and would no longer be allowed

to guard suspected war criminals such as Karadzic.

On July 10, British commandos acting as part of the NATO-led Stabilization Force killed one Serb war crimes suspect, Simo Drljaca, and arrested another, Milan Kovacevic. in Prijedor in northwest Bosnia. After the raids, Serbs engaged in a campaign of lowlevel bombings and harassment against international troops and foreign officials that left two Americans injured. AFP adds: Serb police ar-

rested five Muslims on Sunday in a Serb-rulled part of Olovo district about 60 kilometres (40 miles) northeast of Sarajevo. local Muslim police said. "Five men were arrested be-

tween 03:00 pm and 04:00 pm by Serb policemen. They had gone with their wives and children to visit relatives in the village of Iseric Brdo," the source said by telephone from Olovo.

The village is in an area crossed by the boundary separating the Serb half of Bosnia from the Croat-Muslim federa-

Plan to fingerprint immigrants runs into controversy in US

Lynn Hudson writes from New York

A proposal to have applicants for US citizenship fingerprinted by law enforcers and then checked by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has run into controversy.

Critics claim that the procedure would cost immigrants more and would make the waiting period for citizenship much

Concerned that criminals are slipping through the immigrant screening system, the US Congress hopes to soon make it mandatory for all persons applying for green card and citizenship papers to be fingerprinted by the police or the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) rather than by local processing offices that have been performing that

If the measure is approved in Congress, immigrants who seek a green card, citizenship or asylum after October 1 will have to get their fingerprints made by a law enforcement agency or the INS before they are checked out by the FBI.

The current interim system that went into effect in March allowed more than 2,400 INScertified providers across the country to take immigrant fingerprints and send them to the

The proposal has become a

point of controversy between immigration advocates and government monitors. One of the points of contention is that the INS might charge \$30 or more to take fingerprints in its offices, whereas fees at the local providers are as low as eight The measure's opponents

also predicted that it would extend waiting times for citizenship, which now takes about 11 months in this city.

The New York INS office processed more than 221,000 naturalisation applications in the fiscal year that ended last September. "This will definitely increase the backlog", said the American Immigration Lawyers Association member Judith Golub. "The INS doesn't have the capacity to take fingerprints right now." But government monitors

are enthusiastic over the prospect of a measure they say would be a welcome attack on a thriving black market. "There are all kinds of scams where clean fingerprints are sold at the fingerprint offices that are approved by INS," said Rosemary Jenks, a senior fellow at the Centre for Immigration Studies.

Congress is pressing for the change because of backgroundcheck problems critics say have not been corrected. An INS audit in 1996 found that nearly 180,000 of some one million people granted US citizenship did not complete FBI criminal

INS spokesman Eric Andrus said the agency has asked for \$33 million to start a fingerprint programme at agency offices in New York and elsewhere. He said INS would be able to handle all fingerprint work by next June. - India Abroad News Service

Tajik troops launch offensive against rebels

DUSHANBE, Tajikstan, Aug 18: Government forces launched an offensive Monday against the forces of a renegade military commander and fierce fighting raged around a strategic bridge, reports AP.

their forces had taken control of the bridge over the Vakhsh River, 150 kilometres (95 miles) south of Dushanbe after clashes with a rebel brigade headed by Col. Makhmud Khudoberdiyev. The government said its

Government officials said

forces were trying to prevent the opposition troops from withdrawing to the south, where other rebel units are based. There were no reports on casualties and it was not possible

to check the claims. The government of President Emomali Rakhmonov has been fighting Khudoberdiyev's forces for the past week in what au-

thorities have characterised as

a clash among rival govern-

ment warlords. Government officials in Dushanbe said Rakhmonov was still hoping to reach a peaceful settlement with Khudoberdiyev.

Junta sentences Suu Kyi's 3 relatives to 10 yrs in jail

BANGKOK, Aug 18: Myanmar's military government has sentenced three members of Aung San Suu Kyi's family to ten years in prison, bringing the total number of her relatives in jail to four, a government press release said Monday, reports AP.

The government sentenced Cho Aung Than, Myint Swe and Nge Ma Ma Than to seven years for breaching the Unlawful Associations Act and three years under the Emergency Provisions Act — a sweeping law that allows the government to jail people for any activity it deems against its interests.

Cho Aung Than and Nge Ma Ma Than are cousins of Suu Kyi, and Myint Swe is married to Nge Ma Ma Than.

In a press briefing in June, Myanmar's intelligence chief, Gen. Khin Nyunt, accused the three of accepting money from two foreign activists, Philip Robertson and John Osolnick, and handing it over to Suu Kyi.

Robertson allegedly gave them 80,000 dollars and Osolnick about 4,000 dollars. Suu Kyi has denied receiving the money. Also sentenced to life in

prison for treason plus ten years on the same charges as the others was Myo Aung Thant, a member of the Federation Trade Union of Myanmar, an underground labour group. Khin Nyunt said he was plotting bomb attacks in Yan-

- AFP/UNB photo

Cho Aung Than served as Suu Kyi's personal secretary, taking the position after the ar rest of Aye Win, another cousin of Suu Kyi, in May 1996.

Aye Win, who is the son of one of Myanmar's independence martyrs, Ba Win, has never been charged with a crime. Nonetheless, he has been held in Insein Prison ever since.

Observers in Yangon said the arrests of the four relatives were an attempt by the military government to increase pressure on Suu Kyi by targeting members of her family.

Aye Win never spoke about politics with visiting journalists, but merely handled Suu Kyi's appointments. He said he had been reluctant to take the job, but did so as a family obli-

Neither Myint Swe nor Nge Ma Ma Than were frequent visitors to Suu Kyi's compound, and observers in Yangon found their arrests surprising.

Because of the government's wide network of spies and informers, Suu Kyi trusts few outsiders to work closely with her on a daily basis. Family members frequently come into the compound to bring her meals an care for her. Another of Suu Kyi's

cousins, Sein Win, lives in exile and heads the National Coalition Government of the Union of Myanmar, the country's government in exile.

Pressure mounts on Thai PM despite cabinet reshuffle

was mounting today on Thai threatened not to support the Prime Minister Chaowalit Yongchaiyudh despite a government reshuffle last week intended to give him some respite and to prolong his governmen-

t's tenure, reports AFP. His reshuffle triggered dissension in his own New Aspiration Party (NAP) by upsetting leading party members who said they were shifted or dropped without consultation. Chaowalit has also come

under pressure to take a clear stand on a draft constitution, which some members of his six party coalition oppose a parliamentary debate on the draft is scheduled to begin early next month. Local press reports said meanwhile that two outsiders

brought in the government as deputy premiers to raise the credibility of the Cabinet's economic management had been persuaded to join by top military officials after declining Chaowalit's initial approaches. Disgruntled NAP MPs apparently did not raise the issue

of the two outsiders former finance minister Virabhongse Ramangkura and telecommunications tycoon Thaks Shinawatra, but concentrated their criticism on shifts affecting NAP members. Meeting Sunday at the home

of Deputy Prime Minister Sukhavich Rangsitpol, who lost the education portfolio in the

BANGKOK, Aug 18: Pressure reshuffle some 30 NAP MPs budget bill unless the premier ordered another reshuffle.

Passage of the budget was vital as planned cuts of 59 billion baht (1.85 billion dollars) will be required under a 16 billion dollars assistance package

Int'l conference on malaria begins in India

'HYDERABAD, India, Aug 18: Scientists from around the world gathered in southern India Monday to demand more attention be paid to combatting malaria, a disease that kills 3 million people every year, re-

"Malaria remains one of the world's most neglected diseases," Kathy Hannaford, a spokeswoman for the conference's organisers, said in a statement.

Malaria kills as many people in a year as AIDS has killed in the last 15 years, according to the Malaria Foundation. formed by scientists in 1992 to coordinate research and raise awareness. The foundation estimates a global total of 952 million dlrs is spent on AIDS research, while 60 million is spent on the search for a malaria vaccine and improved prevention methods.

Off the Record

McDonald's hamburger topped with condom!

HOOVER, Alabama: a man who claims he found a rolled up condom when he bit into a Big Mac is suing a McDonald's restaurant, saying the discovery made him violently ill, reports

Jeff Bolling is seeking unspecified punitive damages or "exemplary fines" from the McDonald's and its parent company, CLP Corp. The company and the franchise's management deny any wrongdoing. In the lawsuit, Bolling claims he became violently ill and

suffered extreme emotional distress after finding the condom in the sandwich on October 6, 1995, after going through a drivethrough window. he said he tried to bite through what he thought was a pickle several times, took off the bun and saw a Police said the condom was not packaged, but in a rolled-up

Condition as it would appear when new. CLP attorney Martin Bloom declined to comment on how the condom got into the hamburger but said the restaurant "had absolutely nothing to do with it."

Tests showed the burger was not contaminated, Bloom said. He said that somebody — outside the restaurant — took the condom out of the package and put it on top of the burger. Bolling says he's so worried about exposure to the AIDS virus

also turned him off to Big Macs. 007 in trouble

that he gets tested every six months. He said the incident has

LONDON: Sean Connery escaped unhurt after a brick thrown from a bridge hit the roof of his range Rover and shattered the windshield, The Mail on Sunday reported, reports AP.

The 66-year-old actor was returning to his central London

home Saturday afternoon after filming scenes from his movie

"The Avengers" at Shepperton Studios in Surrey, southwest of the capital, when the vandals struck. "Sean was shaken up," an unidentified associate was quoted

as saying. "We are still trying to establish exactly what happened. He is not felling very well at the moment - he also has stomach problem. Connery was confined to bed and could not take calls, the

Victor Blagov, Deputy flight Control Director, sits next to a scale-model of the Russian

"Mir" space station as he covers his face in tiredness in the Mission Control Centre in

Moscow in this picture taken Friday night. It was just reported in Russian TV news that

the docking of a Progress cargo spacecraft with the orbital space station Mir scheduled for

18.00 Moscow time (1500 GMT) on Sunday was postponed due to some new technical

problems.

Maskhadov to ask for independence, war reparations from Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Aug 18: Chechen President Aslam Maskhadov arrived in Moscow early today for talks with President Boris Yeltsin to demand independence and war reparations for his tiny north Caucasus republic, reports AFP.

Before leaving the Chechen capital Grozny, Maskhadov said that he intended to negotiate "on an equal footing" and that he would seek independence for the breakaway repub-

"I am not going to Moscow with the intention of begging, but to suggest putting our relations on a civilised level and to demand what Russia owes Chechnya after leaving it in ruins," he told Interfax. In particular, he said, he

wanted "a full inter-state

agreement foreshadowing mu-

tual recognition, the opening of

embassies and non-interference

in each other's affairs." Moscow is firmly opposed to Chechnya's bid for sovereignty. During preparatory talks on Sunday with Chechen First Deputy Premier Movladi Udugov, Security Council Secretary Ivan Rybkin.

survive in war-shattered Kabul KABUL, Aug 18: Dozens of takes them into the war-ruined barefoot street children are gathered in a classroom. learning reading, writing and

survive in war-shattered Kabul, reports AP. The teaching aids are stark and to the point: Drawings of shrapnel spitting out at a victim: a photograph of a young boy, both his legs lost to a land

arithmetic as well as how to

Aschiana, a Swiss-based group whose name stands for Afghan Street Children and New Approach, knows that these students must be drilled on the dangers of land mines in order to make it through a typical day.

Decades of war have ruined Afghanistan's economy. The children living on Kabul's streets - roughly 28,000 of them by a UN survey - live by scavenging for anything of

in the market. Their hunt often

They scrounge for spent shells and mortars they can sell staff are men. as scrap metal, and for paper and wood that also fetch a price

neighbourhoods of Kabul lit-tered with land mines and unexploded ordnance.

Aschiana opened its school and vocational training centre in 1995, using a converted twostory home. By December 1996, it had enrolled 650 street children. The school is the only one with permission from Kabul's current rulers, the Islamic Taliban army, to enroll girls - and then only those less than 8

All other girls schools were closed when the Taliban seized Kabul last September. In line with its strict brand of Islamic law, men were forced to grow beards and pray; music and photography was banned; and women were banished from the work force and schools.

"The girls are accepted but they are kept completely separated," said Mohammad Warda,

Aschiana's assistant director. The Aschiana teachers and Aschiana gives the children two meals a day, a bath every

morning. At noon the Aschiana

scholars become street children again, collecting scrap for two hours until iunch and a final

newspaper said.

Street children learning how to

"Some of them are the only source of income for their families," Wardak said. "They are from the poorest people. They are wood collectors, paper collectors, even beggars. Five-year-old Najira, a typi-

cal student, gets up every morn-ing at 5 am to trudge outside her home to collect paper. By 8 am she arrives at Aschiana, where she meets her friends, has a bath and some breakfast, and starts class.

"I like to draw and I can count numbers," Najira said in barely a whisper. Her voice gained strength as she talked about her family, the war that has ravaged Kabul, the rockets that killed her brother which scared her and made her hide in

a corner. Her head scarf tightly wrapped around her tiny head and her hands firmly on her hips, the little girl struck a pose somewhere between compliance

and defiance as she explained

that she wanted to be either a teacher or a doctor. For now, she has other work.

"Sometimes I get tired and when I do, I just sit down and then I get up and start picking up paper again," she said. Five-year-old Idrees collects

wood. A slight boy in dirty beige

tunic and pajamas, Idrees says his biggest fear is land mines. "I try to go far away from them," he said One of his classmates was

absent. He had stepped on a land mine the day before. Eleven-year-old Ghiyassudin told the story of his

"He went to the hill to collect thorns and paper. His mother said don't go, but he went anyway and he stepped on a land mine and his foot was cut off," he said, his eyes riveted to the ceiling as he spoke.

Aschiana. which is partially funded by the European Union. brings in UN instructors who show the children how to spot and avoid land mines.