

International

Iraq accuses US, UK of trying to sabotage its deal with UN

BAGHDAD, Mar 1: Iraq accused Britain and the United States Saturday of trying to sabotage its deal to defuse the arms inspection crisis as the commander of US forces in the Gulf said his troops will stay on standby for a military strike, reports AFP.

General Anthony Zinni said his troops ready to take on Iraq if Baghdad does not apply its accord on arms inspections with the United Nations, brokered by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in Baghdad last weekend.

experts from the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) to inspect presidential sites. Iraq had previously declared the sites of limits to UNSCOM inspectors on sovereignty grounds, leading Washington to threaten military action unless Baghdad backed down and granted UNSCOM unfettered access to all sites.

In a sign of easing tensions in the region, the United Nations decided to allow its Baghdad-based staff to bring back dependents pulled out during the crisis.

Nigeria, Cameroon will appear before ICJ today

THE HAGUE, March 1: Nigeria and Cameroon will appear before the International Court of Justice on Monday in an attempt to resolve a dispute over which country owns an oil-rich peninsula in the Gulf of Guinea, reports AFP.

Cameroon filed a suit with the International Court of Justice (ICJ), a UN body based in The Hague, in 1994 to try to establish its ownership of the Bakassi peninsula, a claim that Nigeria hotly contests.

Delegations from the two African countries, led by Cameroon's Justice Minister Laurent Esso and his Nigerian counterpart Abdullahi Ibrahim, will put their case to the court in hearings between March 2-11.

The dispute over the 1,000 square kilometres (400-square mile) peninsula, which is rich in oil and fish, has prompted several bloody clashes since the two countries stationed troops there in 1994.



Cuban President Fidel Castro receives Spanish Socialist leader Joaquin Almunia Saturday for a dinner at the Revolution Palace in Havana, on the fifth day of the Socialist Party leader's trip to Cuba. Almunia is invited by the Cuban Communist Party. In the centre is Cuban protocol member Angel Reigosa De La Cruz.

BJP hopes to forge clear majority in parliament

NEW DELHI, Mar 1: Hindu nationalists today vowed to form India's next government as an exit poll following marathon national elections put them within arm's length of seizing power, reports AFP.

The party was poised to form a government after its election campaign on a pledge of political stability. "We are hoping to cross 270 seats along with our allies," Naidu told AFP. This is our reading.

voters cast their ballot during the elections amid scattered violence which claimed some 60 lives. Ballot boxes were sealed after each phase of balloting and taken from rural areas and remote villages to neighboring towns where they were kept under heavy security.

Pressure mounting on Priyanka to enter politics

NEW DELHI, Mar 1: Priyanka Gandhi, the next generation of India's Gandhi-Nehru political dynasty, is under increasing pressure to enter politics, reports AFP.

blood. The Congress leadership and rank-and-file will be overjoyed if she finally takes up a party position. They have been waiting for this for years.

1991 when Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated. Priyanka, who bears a striking resemblance to the young Indira, was seen comforting her Italian-born mother during the funeral. As India wept Priyanka maintained a steely, Indira-like exterior.

Off the Record

Anti-fur campaign

HONG KONG: Two naked women in an anti-fur protest were led away by Hong Kong police minutes after they emerged to cross a busy street in the central business district on Saturday, reports Reuters.

Six instead of nine

MEXICO CITY: A woman who caused a sensation earlier this year when her doctor said she was pregnant with nine babies gave birth on Saturday to six, hospital officials in Mexico City said, reports Reuters.



Bangladesh Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Aatur Rahman Khan Kaiser seen congratulating President-elect Dr Kim Dae Jung by shaking hands recently.

Malaysian police seek help from army to fight immigrants

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 1: A regional official wants 45,000 army reservists to help police keep illegal immigrants from entering the country, a newspaper said Sunday, reports AP.

Arab League hails ICJ ruling

Egypt and the Arab League hailed Saturday the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for ruling that the Court has jurisdiction to decide where two Libyan suspects in the 1998 Lockerbie bombing stand trial, AFP reports from Cairo.

Chiapas announces plan for peace

More than four years after an Indian rebelled shook the southern state of Chiapas, the state governor announced a plan he said would bring peace and economic reconstruction to the area, AP reports from Tuxtla Gutierrez, Mexico.

2 Serb cops, 5 others killed

Two Serbian policemen and five Kosovo Albanians were killed in clashes on Saturday after a police patrol came under attack in Kosovo province, Serbian police said in a statement, Reuters reports from Belgrade.

30 killed in Algeria

Thirty people — including 19 armed Islamist extremists — have been killed in Algeria, the country's security forces said Saturday, AFP reports from Algiers.

Homeless using Internet in US to support survival

SAN FRANCISCO, Mar 1: Thousands of homeless people here and throughout the United States are using the Internet to fight their way back into society's mainstream, reports AFP.

Prince William doesn't want to be king

LONDON, Mar 1: Fifteen-year-old Prince William has told his father Prince Charles he does not want to be king, a British Sunday newspaper reported, reports Reuters.

Five killed in Kashmir violence

SRINAGAR, Mar 1: At least five persons, including three members of the ruling National Conference (NC), were killed and 20 others wounded across Kashmir valley in violent incidents shortly after polling ended in a Srinagar Lok Sabha constituency Saturday.

Singapore-Pattin falls in Baramulla constituency

Singapore-Pattin falls in Baramulla constituency, going to the polls on March seven along with Anantanag and Doda.

Two migrants housed were set on fire

Two migrants housed were set on fire by miscreants at Kanikadal area of interior Srinagar this evening while a polling booth was damaged when militants bombed it after polling ended at Saita Katal Rainwari in downtown Srinagar.

40 arrested in Myanmar Junta breaks up alleged plot to bomb govt bldgs

YANGON, Mar 1: Myanmar's military regimes has arrested 40 people it accuses of planning to bomb government buildings and embassies and assassinate the country's leaders, reports AP.

Bridge across Yamuna opens

NEW DELHI, Mar 1: Asian countries like India, China, Japan and Korea should develop an "Asian vision" for all round development of the region, Vice President Krishan Kani said Saturday, reports PTI.



A Kashmir separatist holds on to his rocks as he is overwhelmed by an exploding tear gas canister during clashes in Srinagar, India, Saturday during the fourth phase of Indian general elections. Clashes erupted after separatists had called for a boycott of the elections in this predominantly Muslim region of northern India.



A pearl-white, long-tail revealing wrap wedding gown is worn by this model for Lorenzo Riva during Fall/Winter '98/99 fashion collection presented in Milan Saturday.