

## Pak FM Gohar Ayub says India likely to conduct another N-test in July

ISLAMABAD, Jun 17: India is likely to conduct another nuclear test in July, Pakistan's foreign minister Gohar Ayub Khan said in an interview published here Tuesday, reports AFP.

The new test will be conducted at India's Chhabra missile range in Orissa state in the first half of the next month, Khan told the Islamabad daily The News.

India declared a moratorium after five nuclear detonations at a site in Rajasthan on May 11 and May 13. Pakistan retaliated with six atomic tests on May 28 and May 30 and also announced a moratorium.

Khan, who did not explain how he knew India was preparing a new test, said Pakistan's nuclear weaponry was "far superior" to that of the India and more effective.

He claimed India would be quickly brought to its knees in any war between the two.

"If war breaks out India will surrender within an hour or so because of the superiority of Pakistan's nuclear weaponry and its command and control system," Khan was quoted as saying.

The foreign minister underlined that the danger of war would continue until the two ended their dispute over Kashmir.

The Himalayan region, divided between the two countries and claimed by both, has triggered two wars in the past.

Khan said the South Asian summit next month in Colombo would provide a "good chance" for "meaningful" talks between Pakistani and Indian prime ministers.

He said both Pakistan and India were nuclear powers and whether the major powers did not admit it, "it is a fact whether the P5 or N5 admit the fact or not. It hardly matters."

## Sanctions on India, Pakistan have failed: Albright

WASHINGTON, Jun 17: US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has publicly admitted that the sanctions imposed by the administration against India and Pakistan following their nuclear tests last month had apparently failed miserably, reports IANS.

Appearing before Congress yesterday, Albright also acknowledged that the administration had been caught napping by India's tests, but maintained that the US had been deceived by New Delhi.

Albright said that the administration, particularly where humanitarian or food assistance was concerned, favoured lifting the sanctions, because "we are not trying to punish the people of India or Pakistan and we do not wish to create major instability."

Lauding China for its cooperation in the nuclear non-proliferation area, Albright noted how at the conclaves of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (P-5) in Geneva, Beijing, which chaired the meeting, after attending to the formal part of the proceedings had turned over to the US to lead the effort to condemn India.

Albright, in a testimony before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations in conceding the difficulties of getting Washington's allies to go along with sanctions against India and Pakistan, said: "I think that other countries view the use of sanctions or the imposition of sanctions in quite a different way than we do."

She said, "We have seen sanctions — depending upon how they are used and what the flexibility associated with a piece of legislation is — as useful tools of foreign policy."

But, there are times when sanctions that are more sledgehammer than allow some surgical activity to take place actually limit America's ability to carry out our policy," she complained. Albright noted that the Glenn Amendment, under which the sanctions against India and Pakistan were imposed, "is probably the strongest sanctions resolution that has existed. We had hoped that it would deter India and Pakistan, (but) it clearly did not, even though they are going to, I believe, suffer economically and they certainly have become less secure as a result of these bomb tests."

She recalled that she had discussed this issue during the meeting of the P-5 and told the other members that "the Americans have very strong sanctions resolution and we would like you all to join us, but certainly what we do not want is while we are being firm is for you all to go in and pick up the contracts."



South African President Nelson Mandela, right, listens to French President Jacques Chirac, centre, with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, left, at the National Museum of Wales Tuesday. Behind President Mandela is Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi. — AP/UNB photo

## BRIEFLY



UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan during a private audience with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican Tuesday. — AP/UNB photo

**Mandela visits Italy:** South African President Nelson Mandela arrived Tuesday in Rome on his first official visit to Italy since taking office in 1994, AFP reports from Rome.

Mandela, 79, travelled from Cardiff where he upstaged the 15 European heads of state and government assembled for their semiannual summit when he was awarded the Freedom of the City of Cardiff at a colourful ceremony inside the grounds of Cardiff Castle.

**Colombian rebels abduct 10:** Leftist guerrillas have abducted ten people in central Colombia, attempting to disrupt the upcoming second round of the presidential election, police said Tuesday, AFP reports from Bogota.

Rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia announced they had kidnapped eight shopkeepers and two municipal councillors in the town of Lejanias, police said.

## Ethiopia appeals for int'l emergency help

ASMARA, Jun 17: Ethiopia on Tuesday appealed for international emergency supplies for 300,000 people it said were displaced in the aftermath of fighting with northern neighbour and former Eritrea in which hundreds died, reports Reuters.

But in a sign of a waning of tensions, international commercial flights were due to return to Eritrean skies for the first time since Ethiopian air raids on June 5 and 6 forced them to withdraw, airline officials said.

Ethiopia's state-run disaster prevention and preparedness commission said 27,000 tonnes of food, blankets, tents, plastic sheeting and household goods were required for the displaced, mainly in the northern border areas.

A small airline was playing the Asmara-Djibouti route on Tuesday but a number of major airlines said they would resume flights by the end of the week. Egypt air scheduled a flight to Cairo on Friday and a Saudi airliner was due on Saturday.

"The return of commercial flights is imminent," said an official at national carrier Eritrean Airlines. "So far Dallo is flying to Djibouti. But there are planes for Friday and Saturday when a number of commercial airlines return."

Most of the international press corps in Asmara to cover the conflict were booked on the Egypt Airliner out of Eritrea.

Earlier on Tuesday, Ethiopia said it would resume commercial flights to three northern towns today.

The towns are in northern Ethiopia and vulnerable to attack by Eritrea's small air force.

## UN arms inspector says Iraq's cooperation with new work plan could end embargo

KUWAIT, Jun 17: Chief UN arms inspector Richard Butler said Tuesday Iraq's full cooperation with his two-month work plan could earn it an end to the oil embargo imposed in 1990, reports Reuters.

But Butler said it all depended on Iraq's full cooperation and compliance with the work programme he agreed in Baghdad earlier this week with Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz.

"We would be able, who knows perhaps in October, to give to the Security Council a report that says Iraq had completed all the actions required of it with respect to disarmament," the Australian diplomat told a news conference in Kuwait.

He flew to Kuwait on Monday from Iraq.

Butler said his report to the United Nations Security Council on his latest visit to Iraq would be circulated this week while he would discuss it in person in New York early next week.

He said if Iraq met as promised all UN demands to eliminate its mass destruction arms "then the oil embargo of 1990 and some financial restrictions will disappear."

"I'll expect our October report will be different from any the council had been before. What we need is full cooperation by Iraq," added Butler.

## Turkish PM signs pact with opposition to hold early polls

ANKARA, Jun 17: Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz has signed a pact with an opposition faction for early general elections next year under which he is to resign by December, government sources said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

"Prime Minister Yilmaz will resign at the end of 1998 at the latest and elections will be held with a new government in April, 1999," read the text of the one-page accord between Yilmaz and opposition powerbroker Deniz Baykal.

A copy of the deal was obtained by Reuters on Tuesday.

The prime minister signed the agreement last night and sent it to Baykal, said Ugu Ksoz, a senior member of Yilmaz's Motherland Party.

Butler stressed that from the side of his UN Special Commission (UNSCOM), "I made a promise to Iraq that we would do this work honestly, competently and quickly. We have no hidden agenda." He added that accusations that he was purposefully delaying the lifting of the crippling sanctions were "nonsense."

Butler said that if Iraq met all requirements agreed on this week, the UN's Iraq file for missiles and chemical weapons "could be fairly close to empty."

"Biological is in a more difficult state and it will be the subject, according to the programme of work of a rather different and special meeting in Baghdad in July because of the unsatisfactory nature of all of Iraq's declarations on the biological area in the past," he said.

But Butler remained upbeat. "No. No... I believe that everything in the work programme could be cleared up by August" when he is due to meet Aziz in Baghdad to review progress.

"We firmly believe that the materials we need exist, are in the possessions of the government of Iraq," said Butler who urged Iraq to put their shoulder to the wheel. "They could step forward and give us what we need in a matter of weeks," he added.



An old man who was born in North Korea, waves a South Korean national flag Tuesday as cattle, donated by North Korea-born tycoon Chung Ju-Yung, founder of South Korea's giant Hyundai business group, leave the inter-Korean border for North Korea. Around 500 cattle left the military demarcation line including 250 cows. — AFP photo

## US sanctions on India, Pakistan: Details likely this month

WASHINGTON, Jun 17: The United States expects to announce later this week details of sanctions it has imposed on India and Pakistan because of their recent nuclear tests, a senior State Department official said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

"This week we should be having announcements here (at the State Department) and at the White House on the full scope of these sanctions — how they will be implemented," assistant secretary of State for South Asia Karl Inderfurth said.

As it was required to do by US law, Washington slapped sanctions on both countries after first India and then Pakistan tested nuclear devices last month.

They include bans on aid and on support for loans from international financial institutions, but there are humanitarian exceptions in both cases and government lawyers have been working on the details.

One controversial issue has been whether US department of agriculture export credit programmes for the two countries will have to be suspended.

Inderfurth, speaking at a State Department news conference, gave no details, saying only that "these sanctions will hurt."

## Car bombs rock Karachi Dy police super among 9 gunned down

KARACHI, Jun 17: Two car bombs rattled the ethnically troubled eastern neighbourhood of Karachi early Wednesday, injuring one person and sending dozens of panicked residents in the area running for cover, said police and eyewitnesses, reports AP.

The first bomb, hidden in the trunk of a car, went off outside a small restaurant, they said. The powerful blast shattered windows and sent debris flying in every direction.

Within minutes and barely 3 km away a second car bomb exploded on a narrow road crowded with shops and residences. No one was hurt.

Police officials at the scene said no one has taken responsibility for the bombings, but they suspect they were linked to the relentless bloodletting between rival factions of the Mohajir Qaim Movement.

Also on Wednesday morning in a separate incident a police officer was killed. Gunmen smashed through the front door of Deputy Police Superintendent Shamim Ahmed's home, shot him and fled, said police.

The bombings and Ahmed's killing followed a night of violence that left eight people dead, including three members of the same family.

Shortly after midnight on Wednesday a lone gunman broke into a house in the ethnically troubled eastern district of Karachi killing a father and his two sons. A third son struck away, found his gun and killed the attacker, the police said.

So far no one has taken responsibility for the killings.

"Also overnight, gunmen killed Khalid Mahmood, the brother of a Mohajir dissident. Mahmood was sitting outside his pharmacy in the heart of Karachi when gunmen rode by and shot him, police said.

A drive-by shooting outside a restaurant, also in the central district of Karachi, left three people dead and at least nine others wounded.

## 2 supporters of Ranariddh shot dead

PHNOM PENH, Jun 17: Two supporters of deposed Cambodian co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh, including a party activist and the wife of a party official, were shot dead by unidentified gunmen, party and police officials said today, reports Reuters.

The two were killed in separate incidents in Prey Veng Province south east of Phnom Penh on Sunday night and the party was demanding a thorough investigation into their deaths, an official from Ranariddh's Funcinpec Party said.

"We hope the authorities in Preyveing can investigate in a manner in which we can have confidence and trust," senior Funcinpec official May Sam C Oeun told Reuters.

The killings came six weeks before Cambodia's July 26 election.

Observers hope the poll will restore stability to the country which has been in crisis since last July when powerful second Prime Minister Hun Sen ousted his senior co-premier, Ranariddh.

May Sam Oeun said several gunmen took 32-year-old Funcinpec party worker Phin Phorn from his home in Limpong Trabek district, walked him one or two hundred metres (yards) away, and shot him dead.

Phin Phorn was a member of the Funcinpec district election committee, he said.

## No troops withdrawal: Milosevic Yugoslavia to continue talks with Kosovo rebels

MOSCOW, June 17: Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic flew back to Belgrade Tuesday after agreeing in talks with Russian leaders to meet many of the demands set by world powers for ending bloodshed in his troubled province of Kosovo, reports Reuter.

But though Russia was quick to present the pledges made by its Yugoslav ally as a major breakthrough, the United States and other western countries said Milosevic had not gone far enough.

"Clearly it is an important step forward — President Boris Yeltsin trying to convince President Milosevic not to continue violence and to begin a dialogue. It moves us in the right direction but I don't think it ends the journey," Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said in Washington after the talks.

Milosevic's promises, contained in a joint statement with Yeltsin, included a pledge to continue negotiations with leaders of ethnic Albanians in the Serbian province.

But Milosevic failed to agree to an immediate withdrawal of Serbian security forces fighting independence-minded Albanians in Kosovo — the key demand set by the six-nation contact group on ex-Yugoslavia for averting NATO intervention.

"I think in principle we reached agreement, the most important thing is that Milosevic agreed to sit at the negotiating table with the Kosovo Albanians," Yeltsin said.

The Kremlin said Yeltsin had outlined to US President Bill Clinton by telephone and that Clinton had expressed satisfaction with the results.

## Clinton discusses stalled ME peace process with Hariri

WASHINGTON, June 17: President Bill Clinton met Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri on Tuesday to discuss the stalled Middle East peace process, reports Reuter.

Hariri said after the meeting he doubted Israel's commitment to peace but suggested if it were to resume talks on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks of the peace process, an agreement could be reached in three months.

"It's not a secret we are very sceptical about the readiness of the current government of Israel to work toward a general peace in the region," Hariri told reporters.

"As far as Lebanon and Syria are concerned, if the government of Israel is willing to seriously work toward peace by continuing the negotiations... we can achieve and agreement within three months," he added.

Hariri was formally scheduled to see US national security adviser Sandy Berger at the White House on Tuesday and Clinton dropped by the meeting. The US President also met Jordan's King Hussein on Monday to discuss the peace process.

Peace talks with Syria were suspended more than two years ago after a series of suicide bombings in Israel. The United States has separately been seeking to coax Israel and the Palestinians back into peace negotiations.

## 'House demolitions tearing down hopes for Middle East peace'

JERUSALEM, Jun 17: The bulldozer tracks were still dark and fresh as Abdallah Jabarin, an unemployed Palestinian day labourer, picked his way through the rubble that had been his family home, reports AP.

"This was the kitchen, and here is where we slept," he said Tuesday, pointing to piles of broken concrete and twisted metal, remnants of the two-room house he built five years ago on a hillside in traditionally Arab east Jerusalem.

Israel for years has claimed the right to destroy illegally built Palestinian structures. But Palestinians say the pace of house demolitions in Arab areas is accelerating — and tearing down hopes for peace.

Jabarin's home in Jerusalem's Beit Hanina district was one of five Palestinian homes bulldozed by the Israeli military in the city over a 24-hour period.

The demolition, early Tuesday, came only hours after the US administration urged a timeout on the tactic, citing delicate efforts to restart the Mideast peace process.

"At the time when we are trying to bring the parties together, these house demolitions send the wrong signal," State Department spokesman James Rubin said Monday in Washington.

Forty Arab homes have been demolished so far this year in east Jerusalem, up from 17 in all of 1997, according to Palestinian officials, who say another 120 Arab houses in the city are threatened with the same fate.

But David Bar-Ilan, a top aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said only a tiny fraction of illegally built homes are actually destroyed. And he said Israel clearly has the right to require home-builders to go through legal channels.

"This government will not abdicate its duties because of foreign criticism," he said. "There can't be anarchy because of criticism by governments who would do the same things themselves."

The Interior Ministry said all five of the homes torn down Monday and Tuesday were built without permits, in areas that had been zoned as open space.

But Palestinians say building codes and zoning policies aren't the issue. Faisal Husseini, the top Palestinian official for Jerusalem affairs, said the demolitions are part of an Israeli strategy ultimately aimed at quashing Palestinian aspirations to establish a capital in east Jerusalem.

"It is a real battle," he said. "The aim is to empty Jerusalem of Palestinians. It's been increasing — it's a big campaign."

The status of Jerusalem, over which Israel claims complete sovereignty, is to be determined in negotiations yet to be held.

Pending those talks, each side accuses the other of trying to prejudice the outcome by changing the makeup of various Jerusalem neighborhoods.

The question is an explosive one. It was the groundbreaking for a Jewish neighborhood in east Jerusalem that led to the breakdown of peace talks 15 months ago.

Israel's Supreme Court rejected a petition Tuesday by Palestinians who claimed that the Israeli housing project on a disputed east Jerusalem hilltop discriminates against them as Arabs, a court official said.

The 30 petitioners were from the villages of Umm Toubah and Beit Sahour, which border the hilltop known as Har Homa in Hebrew and Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arabic.

Israeli and international human rights groups denounce the practice of demolitions, and say the military's tactics are often brutal.

The destruction of Jabarin's home in Beit Hanina was in many ways typical. Scores of Israeli soldiers converged on the house at 7 am, the family said. Crying children were hustled from their beds, the parents' protests ignored.

Soldiers carried out the family's few possessions — mattresses, plastic chairs, a few dishes — and piled them in a jumbled heap. Then the bulldozers moved in.

Jabarin, 33, tried to get a building permit for his home but was turned down. It is almost impossible for Palestinians to get permission to build in east Jerusalem or the West Bank, which Israel captured from Jordan in the 1967 Mideast War.

Fuelling Palestinian resentment, some who have lost their homes to demolition say they paid large fines to the Jerusalem municipality for building without a permit — then their houses were torn down anyway.

Jabarin said he paid a 5,000-shekel (dls 1,300) fine in 1995 and hoped that was the end of the matter. It wasn't.

The family planned to stay for a night or two with Jabarin's father. "But we are a big family," he said, "and it's a small house."

He said he hoped to get a tent from the Red Cross and pitch it on the site of his wrecked house. Listening, his wife Kefah rubbed red eyes with one hand as she cradled her 8-month-old son, Anas, with the other.

It's not good for the baby, being out in the open like this," she said. "This is not a way for people to live."

## Off the Record

### Bizarre ice creams!

MERIDA, Venezuela: Eighteen years ago, Manuel Da Silva Oliveira had a small snack bar that offered just four ice cream flavours, reports AP.

Then he saw a television show about a Brazilian who made avocado-flavoured ice cream, and Oliveira got an inspiration that has brought him fame — as an unparalleled creator of bizarre ice creams.

After watching the show, Oliveira went to work trying to recreate the avocado concoction. "I lost 45 kilos of ice cream because it kept crystallising," he recalls. "After 50 kilos, I achieved it."

He introduced more new flavours and business took off. Today you can wander into his Coromoto ice cream parlour and ask for some tuna fish ice cream. If that doesn't suit your taste, you can always try onion, spinach or a perennial favourite, fried pork rind.

Oliveira's inventiveness has won him a place in the Guinness Book of Records as owner of the ice cream shop with the most flavours. At last count he was up to 709.

"I wanted to create something that didn't exist in the world," says Oliveira, a mirthful 68-year-old who proudly proclaims that most people, including his wife, called him crazy when he started.

The Portuguese immigrant's shop is a local landmark with flavours like carrot, tomato, shrimp, squid, beans, trout, spaghetti, corn, rose petal, garlic, champagne and chili pepper (yes, it's hot).

Amazingly, many don't taste as disgusting as they sound. The trout is creamy, sweet, and not unpleasant — unless you don't fancy chunks of fish floating about in your ice cream. The same goes for the shredded beef.

Not all 709 flavours are offered every day. Customers choose from a rotating menu with 60 flavours. The top sellers are corn, rose petals, trout and a concoction Oliveira recently came up with called "France-98" in honour of the World Cup soccer competition in France. It includes champagne, brandy, wine, almonds and nuts.