

## Sharif stirring up Islamic fundamentalism: Benazir

ISLAMABAD, Dec 1: Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto accused Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif today of stirring up Islamic fundamentalism in Pakistan and called for international pressure to halt the process, reports AFP.

The former Pakistani Prime Minister made the call in a letter released by her Pakistan People's Party and addressed to world leaders and international human rights groups.

Bhutto said Sharif wanted to impose a system of justice similar to that introduced by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

A bill designed to enforce Islamic Sharia law has been passed by the Lower House of Pakistan's National Assembly and is awaiting endorsement by the Senate.

The world leaders' should send a strong message to the Sharif regime that the Taliban system of justice is unacceptable in Pakistan as it is in Afghanistan, Bhutto said.

The party said the letter had been sent through private

channels to international human rights groups and leaders of various countries including British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The appeal came as Sharif left here Monday for Norway and an official visit to the United States during which he is to meet President Bill Clinton in Washington on Wednesday.

Bhutto said the imposition of barbaric Taliban style justice would undermine Pakistan's "liberal" constitution and its "pluralistic and tolerant" democracy, besides threatening ethnic and religious minorities.

While we in opposition will do all we can within our power to thwart actions additional voices from the international community must be raised against the reactionary and extremist goals of Sharif," she said.

A similar appeal by Bhutto earlier this month triggered strong condemnation by ruling Pakistan Muslim League members who described it as an act of treason.

## BRIEFLY

### Djibouti president in Libya:

Djibouti's President Hassan Gouled Aptidon flew to Libya on Monday for talks with Moammar Gaddafi in violation of a UN flight ban.

Gaddafi radio and UN officials said, AP reports from Cairo.

Aptidon's arrival in Libya follows visits by the presidents of Gambia and Congo and by Louis Farrakhan, head of the US Nation of Islam. A UN flight permission is required to fly to Libya. UN officials said Monday in New York that none of the officials obtained such permission. Aptidon flew into Libya's coastal city of Sirt from Paris where he attended a French-African summit, said the radio report which was monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp.

### Truck accident kills 13 in India:

At least 13 people were killed and 16 injured when a truck carrying rocks overturned yesterday in the southern Indian state of Karnataka. Press Trust of India reported, AFP says from New Delhi.

Seven children were among the dead, PTI said. The accident occurred when the driver of the lorry lost control while trying to avoid a collision with another vehicle.

### Annan welcomes Cambodia govt:

UN chief Kofi Annan on Monday welcomed the formation of Cambodia's coalition government under the premiership of Hun Sen, AFP reports from United Nations.

Hun-secured on Monday an overwhelming vote of confidence for his coalition government with arch rival Prince Norodom Ranariddh, ending months of political deadlock. In a statement issued here, Annan also expressed his desire "to see Cambodia resume its full role in the family of nations."

### China detains 5 dissidents:

Chinese police have detained five dissidents, including veteran activists Xu Wenli, in an apparent crackdown on efforts to set up an opposition party, a human rights group said Tuesday, AP reports from Beijing.

Police took Xu away from his home in Beijing on Monday evening. More than 20 police officers also searched his home and seized a computer, a typewriter, a fax machine, an address book and more than 1,000 pages of documents, the Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said.

### Bomb hurled on Taiwanese boat:

Taiwanese police shot a Chinese fisherman in the leg after he and other crew members hurled dynamite at a Taiwanese patrol boat, police said on Tuesday, AP reports from Taipei.

Fisherman Lin Chuanshou, 25, was in fair condition after being hospitalised with a bullet wound on the Taiwanese-held Matsu island group, Matsu marine police chief Tsai Yu-chen said. Four other crew members of the boat who dove overboard to avoid capture were rescued and being held at military police headquarters on Matsu, Tsai said.

### 34 miners killed in China:

A deadly explosion in an underground mining operation in southwest China killed 38 mine workers and left six missing, media reports said yesterday, AFP says from Beijing.

The Beijing Evening News said an explosion on Sunday at the Laibin coal mine, some 260 km from the Yunnan provincial capital of Kunming, injured an additional 18 workers. There were 80 workers on duty at the time of the explosion. Mining explosions kill an average of 10,000 workers each year in China.

### Bush arrives in Kuwait:

Former US president George Bush arrived in Kuwait yesterday on the second leg of his Gulf tour, the official KUNA news agency said, AFP reports from Kuwait City.

Bush arrived from Saudi Arabia and is expected to meet Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah and Crown Prince Sheikh Saad Al Abdulla Al-Sabah, the agency said. The former president will also visit the 3,500 US troops stationed in Kuwait, mostly at Camp Doha.



Models display clothing by French designers at the BMW Haute Couture & Lifestyle fashion show in Cairo on Sunday. — AP/UNB photo

## Hun Sen seeks entry of his country into ASEAN

PHNOM PENH, Dec 1: Prime Minister Hun Sen pushed Cambodia's case Tuesday for entry this month into the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, saying the country had met all the conditions, reports AP.

"I strongly hope there won't be any reasons to leave Cambodia out of the regional framework, because we have fulfilled everything we and our friends have required," Hun Sen said at a ceremony introducing his trusted adviser, Hor Nam Hong, as the new foreign minister.

But Hun Sen spoke as Singapore's Foreign Minister S. Jayakumar, currently the chairman of ASEAN's standing committee, effectively ruled out Cambodia's chances of being admitted before a Dec 15-16 summit in Hanoi.

Jayakumar said he had no plans to convene an urgent meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers and said the Hanoi meeting would focus on the economic slowdown affecting the region, not Cambodia.

Parliament endorsed Hun Sen's new government Monday, taking Cambodia a long way toward regaining international legitimacy lost when Hun Sen ousted his co-premier, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, in a coup last year.

Cambodia's seat in the United Nations has since been vacant and its entry — just weeks away at the time of the coup — into ASEAN suspended. ASEAN comprises Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

ASEAN was deeply involved in efforts to return a semblance of democracy to Cambodia and helped engineer the return of Ranariddh from abroad to lead his royalist party in new elections in July. Hun Sen's party narrowly won.

The opposition alleged fraud and violence and held up formation of a new government until Ranariddh, citing international pressure, agreed to a compromise earlier this month.

## Jerusalem on top of agenda for talks with Israel, says Arafat

WASHINGTON, Dec 1: Declaring Jerusalem the No. 1 item on his agenda in peace talks with Israel, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has reigned a hot dispute with prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to soft-pedal the Jerusalem and statehood issues in advance of talks with Israel on a final settlement.

The city was divided before Israel pushed Jordanian troops out of east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war and declared the united city the eternal capital of the Jewish state — a stand most Israelis support however they may differ on other aspects of the ongoing peace effort. Jerusalem is home to 422,000 Jews and 180,000 Palestinians.

The pledges of aid to the Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza are designed to al-

leviate poverty.

He also asserted anew at the conference his hope to establish a Palestinian state next year, despite stern opposition from Netanyahu and repeated admonitions from the US government to soft-pedal the Jerusalem and statehood issues in advance of talks with Israel on a final settlement.

The city was divided before Israel pushed Jordanian troops out of east Jerusalem in the 1967 Mideast war and declared the united city the eternal capital of the Jewish state — a stand most Israelis support however they may differ on other aspects of the ongoing peace effort. Jerusalem is home to 422,000 Jews and 180,000 Palestinians.

"To help the Palestinians in their quest for independence, the United States must help Palestinians care for themselves," Suari Taber, the executive director, said in a statement.

"No peace stands a chance of lasting if it does not deliver real results to ordinary people," President Bill Clinton said in urging the European, Asian and

Arab nations to do better than the \$12.3 billion pledged five years ago.

Clinton met privately also with Arafat at the White House, hearing his complaint that Israel had not released enough political prisoners under the Wye agreement the president helped arrange in October.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright invited the Palestinian leader to her home Sunday for a similar chat.

"I am satisfied," Arafat said in response to the announcement by Albright that "it appears the delegations pledged more than \$3 billion dollars." She called the response "a substantial achievement."

The European Union pledged \$2 billion in assistance to Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza over five years. The United States has contributed \$100 million since 1993.

Wolfgang Schuessel said at a windup news conference.

He said half a million jobs had to be created for the Palestinians over 10 years, adding that the EU would continue to give money.

"We are by far, as a group of countries, by far the largest donor," Schuessel said. "We pledged today to keep the momentum during the last five years' period; all in all, we spent more than \$12.3 billion, and I think this will be possible for the next five years."

Clinton said the United States intends to increase its contribution by adding \$100 million to the \$100 million a year it plans to donate over the next five years. The United States has contributed \$100 million since 1993.

India to deploy Prithvi missile on ships by Jan 16

NEW DELHI, Dec 1: India's naval version of formidable Prithvi missile would be deployed on-board certain surface ships by January 16 and its newer submarines upgrades to have missile-launching capability. Admiral Vishnu Bhagwat said here today, reports PTI.

The naval chief said India was also developing certain elements of a short-range anti-ship weapon. He, however, did not elaborate.

Asked if India would upgrade its "Kilo" class submarines to allow them to launch missile like Pakistani submarines, the admiral replied in the affirmative and said the newer versions of such ships being acquired from Russia would also have this capability. Till now Indian submarines could only launch torpedoes.

Bhagwat, assisted by the naval top brass, said the sophisticated "Sea Harrier" jump jets would undergo a mid-life upgradation within a time-frame and fitted with top-of-the-line avionics and radars.

Baghdad complains to UNSC

US officials made 'dangerous threats' against Iraq's integrity

BAGHDAD, Dec 1: Iraq complained on Monday in a message to UN Security Council President Peter Burleigh that senior US officials had made "dangerous threats" against Iraq, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said, reports AFP.

In his letter, Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Said Al-Saifi "warns against dangerous threats by senior US officials against Iraq. Its security and its integrity," the agency said.

These threats are a flagrant violation of the UN Charter and international legal principles," the Iraqi minister wrote in the message carried by INA.

Sahhaf also asked the Security Council "to discuss and give priority to this dangerous matter."

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan issued a warning of his own Monday to Iraq, saying President Saddam Hussein will have to face up "very quickly" to a military strike by the United States and Britain if a new crisis breaks out over UN weapons inspections.

Military strikes against Iraq were only narrowly averted in mid-November when Saddam, in a last-minute decision, resumed cooperation with UN disarmament inspectors.

Nobel laureate calls for release of HR activist in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1: Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jose Ramos Horta on Tuesday called for the release of an outspoken Malaysian human rights activist arrested during an anti-government demonstration, reports AP.

Tian was arrested Nov. 21 soon after a demonstration by supporters of jailed former deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim.

It was the third time that Tian, Chairman of the opposition Coalition of People's Democracy, had been picked up by police for protesting against the government Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad and demanding political reforms.

Tian won a bail appeal Monday. But as soon as he walked out of the courthouse police arrested him again.

On Tuesday, Tian appeared at a courthouse in his Kuala Lumpur neighbourhood of Petaling Jaya. The Judge did not charge him with a crime, but ordered him to be held for five days while police investigate possible charges.

The judge also ordered that Tian be taken to a hospital for treatment of asthma.

Quake death toll rises to 25 in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Dec 1: The death toll from a powerful earthquake that hit a remote island in Indonesia rose to 25 on Tuesday as rescue teams searched for more victims and survivors, officials said, reports AP.

The magnitude — 6.5 quake hit Mangole Island on Sunday night, destroying buildings and houses and triggering landslides.

Strong aftershocks continued to rock the island Tuesday, hampering rescue efforts and frightening villagers.

Initially six people were reportedly killed on the island, about 1,900 kilometers (1,180 miles) northeast of Indonesia's capital, Jakarta.

Karin Samona, a local government official contacted by telephone on Mangole, confirmed the toll jumped to 25 after reports were received from isolated villages. At least eight were still missing, he said.

Rescue teams are looking for more possible victims in remote areas. The toll could rise further," said another official Wahab Konoras in a telephone interview from Ternate, the capital of North Maluku regency.

Several officials denied the unconfirmed reports that the toll had already climbed above 30 dead.

## UNGA demands full implementation of Bosnia peace accord

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 1: The UN General Assembly demanded full implementation of the Bosnia peace agreement and called on all parties to hand over all those indicted for war crimes as international tribunals.

He noted that the Dayton accord and the tribunal's statutes clearly stated that any extradition should be carried out exclusively on the basis of cooperation.

The assembly resolution also encouraged all parties to accelerate the peaceful and orderly return of refugees and internally displaced persons to all areas of the country, including those where they would be an ethnic minority.

The resolution, which is not legally binding, condemned all acts of intimidation, violence and killings, including acts designed to discourage the return of refugees. It demanded that such acts be investigated and prosecuted.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat prepares to blow a kiss as he and President Clinton take part in the Mideast Peace and Development Conference at the State Department in Washington on Monday. The president announced plans on Monday that would boost US aid to the Palestinians by \$400 million while extending its current \$100-million-a-year assistance programme for five more years.

— AP/UNB photo

## House judiciary body may broaden impeachment inquiry on Clinton

WASHINGTON, Dec 1: The House Judiciary Committee may broaden its impeachment inquiry on President Bill Clinton to include his campaign in fund-raising activities in 1996, according to published reports.

Republican members said they planned to investigate all allegations that Clinton may have committed "criminal wrongdoing" in raising funds for his re-election campaign. The Chicago Tribune, The Washington Post and The New York Times said today.

The announcement comes as the committee is under pressure to speed up its inquiry into Clinton's efforts to cover up his relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

The panel today will discuss issuing subpoenas to Federal

Nutty.

The committee members did not reveal the nature of the allegations against Clinton who in the past has denied violating any law governing campaign funding activities.

A democratic committee aide called the new subpoenas "absolutely bizarre" that showed the weakness of the case against Clinton.

It's an impeachment inquiry in search of a crime," aide James Jordan told The Tribune. Democrats on the panel are expected to fight the subpoenas, he said.

A White House spokesman on Monday said Clinton was unlikely to accept an invitation by House Judiciary Committee Republican Chairman Henry Hyde to testify about his relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

The committee has received information indicating that the Lewinsky and Freeh memorandums may contain allegation of criminal wrongdoing by the president, said Republican spokesman Paul Mc-

## Hospital threatens to sue him if he stays

## Pinochet is well enough to be discharged from clinic

LONDON, Dec 1: He may have been a high-profile patient, but former Chilean dictator Jose Miguel Insulza is on a diplomatic mission to win his release, but judging by public comments by the British government, it is a doomed task.

In fact, a spokesman for the Grovelands Priory Hospital warned Monday, if he stays any longer the clinic will consider discharging him.

According to today's British press, staff at the clinic are unhappy at the unwelcome attention they have focused on him, and tired of his demands.

Last week Britain's highest court, the House of Lords, ruled that he could not claim sovereign immunity as a former head of state to avoid extradition.