

International



An East Timorese protester is carried off by police and soldiers during his arrest after breaking through a police blockade during a demonstration near the US embassy in Jakarta Monday. About 100 East Timorese activists staged a protest to commemorate the 23rd anniversary of Indonesia's invasion of the formerly Portuguese colony and underscored their demand for independence. The arrested protester was later released. — AP/UNB photo

DPRK to build 3 underground missile-launch bases

TOKYO, Dec 8: North Korea is developing three underground facilities capable of launching ballistic missiles, Japan's public broadcaster reported Tuesday, reports AP.

US spy satellites have confirmed what appear to be three missile-launch bases under construction in the northern part of North Korea, NHK television quoted Japanese Defense Agency sources as saying.

The three facilities are being built at varying depths ranging from 50 metres (562 feet) to 100 metres (1,125 feet) below ground, the report said.

A Defense Agency spokesman contacted by the Associated Press had no comment. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

The report comes as former US Defense Secretary William Perry, the newly appointed US government policy coordinator for North Korea, is on a three-nation Asian tour.

On Monday, Perry met South Korean President Kim Dae-jung in Seoul. Kim proposed a "package deal," in which the United States would provide economic and diplomatic benefits to North Korea in exchange for access to a suspected nuclear weapons site. Perry plans to visit Tokyo and Beijing later this week.

Charles quizzes Spice Girls

LONDON, Dec 8: Prince Charles met up with Spice Girls at the 77th Royal Variety Performance, and quizzed the two pregnant band members about when they are due and how they are coping, reports AP.

"Have you been doing lots of exercise?" the prince asked Posh Spice, Victoria Adams on Monday. Her baby is due in February.

Scary Spice, Mel B, responded, "Yeah, this" as she mused eating. Mel B's baby is due next year.

The four-member Spice Girls performed their song, "Goodbye," for the show at the Lyceum theater in London. They did the performance sitting down so the pregnant Spice wouldn't have to dance. The fundraising extravaganza was to benefit the Entertainment Artists' Benevolent Fund.

BRIEFLY

52 Tibetans held in Nepal: Nepal police have arrested 52 Tibetans for illegally entering the country, the state-run news agency, the RSS reported yesterday. AFP reports from Kathmandu.

"Police of Katar village in Udayapur district, arrested 52 Tibetan refugees on Saturday and sent them to the department of immigration in Kathmandu for further action," it said.

China executes 3 smugglers: Three convicted drug smugglers have been executed in southern Guangdong province after a court upheld a previous sentence, the official Xinhua news agency reported yesterday. AFP reports from Beijing.

The three men, Huang Shang, Xu Tao and Lin He were detained by marine police in April after being caught smuggling 219 boxes of narcotics, weighing 4.354 tonnes, into China through Guangdong.

4 Germans kidnapped in Yemen: Four German tourists were kidnapped in southern Yemen by armed tribesmen, police and tribal sources said late Monday, AFP reports from Sanaa.

The tourists, three men and a woman, were kidnapped Sunday afternoon near the village of Yefleh, 80-km south of the capital, Sanaa, by members of the Bani Dhabian tribe, the sources said.

Blast kills 1 in Philippines: A bomb allegedly planted by Muslim militants ripped through a bus in the southern Philippines killing one passenger and wounding 11 others, police said yesterday. AFP says from Zamboanga.

The bus was en route to nearby Iligan city from Pagadian when the home-made bomb exploded Monday afternoon, killing one person instantaneously. 11 others passengers sustained deep shrapnel wounds and were taken to a hospital.

Plane crash claims 5 in Canada: Five people died and two others were reported missing after a twin-engine plane plunged into the St Lawrence River Monday. Canadian coast guards said. AFP reports from Montreal.

Three people, including the pilot, managed to free themselves from the craft and were airlifted to hospital where they were treated for hypothermia.

Top Clinton aide says

Australia as a N-waste dumping ground will be unique

Conservation Foundation, told AFP.

"It's a very optimistic outlook to say Australia's going to have a stable political outlook for 200,000 years. That's just farcical."

Gallucci, dean of the prestigious Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, said he had met Australian Prime Minister John Howard earlier this year but said they had not

Obuchi appeals for world peace

TOKYO, Dec 8: Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, making a pledge for world peace, today marked the 57th anniversary of Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbour by describing it as "unforgettable," reports AFP.

"It is an unforgettable day not only for the Japanese but also for all human beings," Obuchi was quoted by Jiji press as telling reporters.

"I want to renew my recognition of the importance of the past and my pledge, as a Japanese, to contribute to the world peace in the future," he told the Australian newspaper.

Australia was one of the few places in the world with the political and geological stability necessary for such a sensitive gatekeeping job, Gallucci said.

But environmentalists objected Tuesday, saying saddling Australia with the world's nuclear waste was short-sighted.

"The government of Australia has only been around for 99 years," Larry O'Loughlin, a campaigner for the Australian

Cambodian refugees will return home soon

PHNOM PENH, Dec 8: Potential stability offered by the formation of a new government and the surrender of Khmer Rouge guerrillas has cleared the way for more than 35,000 refugees to return to Cambodia, a United Nations official said on Tuesday, reports AP.

Although there is no timetable for the repatriation of the refugees, "their return should occur within a few months," said Francois Fouinat, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Director of Asia and the Pacific.

Most of the refugees were forced into Thailand during Hun Sen's violent coup against his co-prime minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh last year. Several villages along the border were leveled as Ranariddh's retreating forces fought Hun Sen's stronger army to a stalemate.

A second wave of Cambodians came across the border in March as the last Khmer Rouge stronghold of Aulon Veng was captured by a combined force of government and defecting rebel fighters.

Following a close election in July, Hun Sen and Ranariddh settled their differences last month and formed a coalition government. Hun Sen became sole prime minister and the prince was named president of the National Assembly.

New immigration rule likely in Canada

OTTAWA, Dec 8: Canadian Immigration Minister Lucienne Robillard on Monday introduced a proposal that would change the rules for obtaining Canadian citizenship, reports AFP.

Under the measure before parliament, new immigrants would be required to live in Canada for 36 months over a period of five years before qualifying for citizenship.

"That's a direct message to permanent residents, to immigrants to this country," Robillard said at a press conference.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.

She said the proposal would be introduced in the spring.