

The World

UAE reopens embassy in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Apr 20 : The United Arab Emirates (UAE) today reopened its embassy in Baghdad...

The number two at Iraq's foreign ministry, Nabil Nejm, was also in attendance. The UAE becomes the fourth country from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)...

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have not re-established ties with Baghdad since the Gulf War. Despite the ten-year freeze in relations, the UAE remained one of Iraq's top donors of humanitarian aid...

They are also linked by a passenger and cargo ferry, which also stops in Bahrain.

Indo-Pak tensions may cast shadow at NPT review meet

NEW DELHI, Apr 20 : Persistent hostility between India and Pakistan could seriously undermine the April 24 conference in New York to review the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)...

"It is greater than the Cuban missile crisis of 1962," he said. "There are 50 years of hostility, no confidence-building measures, no checks to stop unauthorised or accidental use of nuclear weapons." The tension represents the biggest danger since the Cold War.

India and Pakistan. The conflict also put a spoke into peace talks which were frozen last year. US President Bill Clinton last month urged India and Pakistan to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty...

They engaged in a bitter military conflict in the disputed state of Kashmir last year. The latest engagement followed three earlier wars fought over five decades. Bidwai claimed that during the 1999 conflict 13 nuclear threats were exchanged between

India and Pakistan. The conflict also put a spoke into peace talks which were frozen last year. US President Bill Clinton last month urged India and Pakistan to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty...

There have been similar calls of restraint from Britain and France. Pakistan's military ruler General Pervez Musharraf, who seized power in a coup in October, has said his government was in no hurry to sign the CTBT and would make a decision after evolving a national consensus on the issue.

discriminatory nature" was becoming increasingly apparent, he said, adding that India's credibility as regards principled opposition to nuclear weapons had taken a severe beating following its shock nuclear tests.

Sreedhar, an analyst at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, however, said India and Pakistan were being unfairly targeted over the NPT issue. "Unlike the savage European conflicts, both India and Pakistan have demonstrated in their four battles a certain professionalism where an army fought an army. There were minimum civilian casualties and economic assets were not attacked."

Bunkers, illicit brew found near Lankan president's home

COLOMBO, Apr 20 : Police have destroyed an illegal distillery located in two underground bunkers within the tight security zone of President Chandrika Kumaratunga's residence...

maratunga's Temple Trees home is guarded by hundreds of elite police and army commandos in addition to anti-aircraft guns. All approach roads to Temple Trees are off limits for normal traffic at night.

The Dinamina newspaper said the underground operation located within 200 meters (yards) of President Kumaratunga's tightly-guarded Temple Trees residence was busted Tuesday by a special police unit. "Even the (local) Kollupitiya police station (adjoining President's house) was unaware of the existence of the massive illegal operation," the Dinamina newspaper said in its front-page headline story.

The Dinamina newspaper said its photographer was prevented by local residents of taking pictures of the illegal operation and even policemen taking part in the raid were being verbally abused by both men and women. Police had to make a second visit to the location after better arming themselves with weapons, the newspaper said.

Zimbabwe squatters vow to 'keep pressure on' for land redistribution

Mugabe rejects outside help to resolve crisis

HARARE, Apr 20 : The leader of war veterans occupying white-owned farms in Zimbabwe said today his group would refrain from further occupations "at the moment" but vowed to "keep the pressure on" for land redistribution, reports AFP. "We don't plan to occupy at the moment more farms," Chenjerai Hunzvi told AFP as he prepared early Thursday to tour white farms occupied by black squatters around the capital.

that matters were "starting to move" but "we have to keep the pressure on." Hunzvi's comments came a day after talks with representatives of the white farmers, which produced early signs of compromise between the warring sides but a continued hard-line from President Robert Mugabe. Meanwhile, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe today rejected international intervention to ease the land crisis in his country, saying it would be resolved peacefully "the long way".

also rejected calls to use the army to prevent violence by war veterans against white farmers, following the deaths earlier this week of two whites in clashes with squatters. "We want to be positive," he said. "We want to correct this land question in the interests of everybody." "We are not anti-white, not at all, but ... the people in Europe don't understand how deeply this land question touches our hearts."



Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe (C), the war veterans leader Chenjerai Hunzvi (R) and Tim Henwood (L), president of the Zimbabwean Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) at a press conference after a meeting with Mugabe at State House to try and solve the land occupation problem.

Truck-bus collision kills 46 in Kenya

NAIROBI, Apr 20 : At least 46 died early today when a Mombasa-bound bus collided head on with a trailer truck at Mitto Andei along the busy Nairobi-Mombassa highway, the official Kenya News Agency (KNA) reported, says AFP.

Russian Parliament okays START II

MOSCOW, Apr 20 : The Russian parliament finished ratifying the START II nuclear arms reduction treaty with approval by the upper house, giving President Vladimir Putin a significant foreign policy achievement less than a month after his election, reports AP. The ratification Wednesday came after a seven-year period when the treaty, which would halve US and Russian warhead stockpiles, languished in the Russian legislature.

Communists and their allies in the lower house had blocked the treaty for years, saying its terms of halving each side's nuclear arsenals to 3,000-3,500 warheads would deal a blow to Russia's strategic strength at a time when its conventional forces are severely underfunded. But the Communists lost their dominance of the Duma in last December's election and were unable to muster enough votes to continue blocking the treaty.

Asia, Europe to dominate Cannes 2000

PARIS, Apr 20 : The first Cannes Film Festival of the 21st century sees seven Asian and nine European films contending for the Golden Palm in a line-up announced Tuesday that promises action and spectacle alongside the customary art house fare, reports AFP. Melodrama and costume drama feature strongly in a mouthwatering menu that will open in the southern French resort on May 10 with "Vatel", a film about a 17th-century French chef credited with inventing modern gastronomy. Four American films are also competing for the top award to be handed out by a jury headed by the most American of French filmmakers, Luc Besson.



Soldiers work to recover bodies of victims from the crash site of Air Philippines flight 541 on the southern island of Samar yesterday. Rescuers continue to search for more bodies as relatives attempt to identify the remains of the 131 passengers and crew who died in the accident, the worst air disaster in the Philippines history. - AFP photo

'Hitler was a broken man'

LONDON, Apr 20 : Adolf Hitler was a "broken man" in April 1945 who believed he had been let down by the Wehrmacht and the SS, according to British secret service transcripts of an interview with a top Nazi general that were made public early Thursday, reports AFP.

The first-hand testimony from General Gottlieb Berger, a top-ranking SS officer, depicts a paranoid, fuming Führer contemplating his defeat as the Soviet Red Army pounded Berlin. "He was completely finished, a broken man," Berger told British M15 officers following his capture at the end of World War II.

Berger said Heinrich Himmler tried to persuade Hitler eight days before his death to flee Berlin in the face of the Soviet advance, but that he had advised the Nazi leader to stay and commit suicide. "I told him that it was out of the question and that he could not betray the German people, and that it was very easy — he didn't utter a word — to put a bullet through one's head or to take one of those pills or tubes issued, which worked instantaneously," Berger said.

Hitler is believed to have committed suicide on April 30, 1945 with his mistress Eva Braun in his Berlin bunker, but formal proof of the manner of his death has never been established.

Elian Gonzalez barred from leaving US

MIAMI, Apr 20 : A US Appeals Court has barred Cuban castaway Elian Gonzalez from leaving the United States for the time being, and questioned the official line that the six-year-old is not entitled to seek asylum, reports AFP. The decision by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, which does not prevent US authorities from reuniting Elian with his father in Washington, was frowned upon by US and Cuban authorities but heartily applauded by supporters of Elian's Miami family.

"We conclude that plaintiff is entitled to an injunction pending appeal. Therefore it is ordered that plaintiff Elian Gonzalez is enjoined from departing or attempting to depart from the United States," the judges wrote Wednesday. And in a second blow to the US authorities, the court in Atlanta, Georgia, refused to order Elian's Miami family to give up physical custody of the boy in exchange for an injunction. The Justice Department had sought to have the injunction thrown out. But failing that, it sought a trade-off whereby Elian would stay in the United States, but in his father's custody, while the legal wrangling over the boy's future continued.

Italy seeking D'Alema's successor

ROME, Apr 20 : Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi on Thursday kicked off consultations with political leaders to find a successor to Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema, in a first meeting with the president of the Senate, reports AFP. Nicola Mancino, leader of the upper house of parliament, arrived at the presidential palace on the Quirinal around 9.15 a.m. (0715 GMT).

Talks between the head of state and the presidents of both chambers of parliament after the resignation of a prime minister are a longstanding tradition in Italy and do not mean that they could be named as successors to the premier. After Mancino, Ciampi was to consult with the speaker of the lower house of parliament Luciano Violante. A meeting with former president Francesco Cossiga has been scheduled for 10.45 a.m. (14.45 BST). Ciampi was to pursue his search for a successor to D'Alema at 4.30 p.m. (20.30 BST) after meeting representatives of the small neo-fascist Movimento Sociale-Fiamma Tricolore.

D'Alema resigned Wednesday, three days after his center-left government coalition suffered heavy losses in regional elections.

NLF rebels kill 19 settlers in Assam

GUWAHATI, India, Apr 20 : Tribal guerillas killed 19 people in separate attacks on settlers in India's remote northeast region, police said today, reports Reuters. "In two separate incidents tribal militants shot dead 11 Nepalis in two Umlaphar villages ... in Karbi Anglong district," a police officer said.

Liberation Front of Tripura raided the Bengali-dominated village of Laxmipur village and set fire to three houses forcing the inmates to rush out, police said. "The rebels then opened fire on them from AK-47 assault rifles," Superintendent Nepal Das said. Seven people, including two women, died on the spot and another succumbed to injuries in hospital.

"The two villages are located some 270 kms from Guwahati, the main city in the oil and tea-rich state of Assam. The police officer said heavily armed guerillas raided the first village on Wednesday morning, gunning down three Nepalese settlers. Another group of rebels attacked the other Umlaphar village killing eight people. "In both incidents the militants opened indiscriminate fire at the civilians from their sophisticated weapons," he said. Separatist guerillas also struck in the neighbouring state of Tripura on Wednesday night, killing eight Bengali settlers. A group of 20 heavily armed members of the outlawed National

Nepalese and Bengali people are a tiny minority in the landlocked northeast region inhabited by some 200 ethnic groups. Earlier this month, tribal guerillas killed 11 labourers in Assam and set fire to three trucks carrying timber. "It seems the militants in the area have started ethnic cleansing operations by targeting non-tribals," the police said.



US President Bill Clinton stands at attention as the colour guard plays the National Anthem during dedication ceremony of the Oklahoma City National Memorial in Oklahoma City Wednesday. The memorial honors the 168 people killed on April 19, 1995, in the bombing of a Federal Building in the city. Flanking President Clinton is Governor of Oklahoma Frank Keating (R) and his wife Cathy (L). — AFP photo

Jordan begins trial of alleged Laden network

AMMAN, Apr 20 : The trial of 28 people linked to suspected international terrorist Osama bin Laden and accused of plotting attacks on Western and tourist targets opened here today, reports AFP. The suspects, including 13 fugitives being tried in absentia, face stiff prison terms -- or the death penalty -- if found guilty. Thursday's hearing is expected to be devoted to a reading of the charges including plotting to carry out terrorist acts, possession and manufacture of

weapons and membership in an outlawed organisation, judicial officials said. The trial is being held at the Amman state security court and is presided over by a military judge, Colonel Tayel Rakad. The suspects were brought to court in two police vans. As they drove into the compound the suspects chanted in unison: "Allah-o-Akbar" (God is great). Journalists were allowed inside the court house for the public trial but photographers were kept outside the premises.

BRIEFLY
Hacker arrested in Canada: The 15-year-old hacker arrested in connection with cyber-attacks that paralyzed high-profile Web sites and cost their owners several hundred million dollars was back in school Wednesday, Canadian Press reported, AFP says from Montreal.
Swoop on sin businesses in Beijing: Chinese police have cracked down on illicit entertainment in the capital, closing down 118 brothels, gambling dens and other illegal establishments in a week-long sweep, state media reported Thursday, AFP says from Beijing.
One executed in Tennessee: The state of Tennessee carried out its first execution in 40 years Wednesday despite an appeal by the European Union to stay the sentence, AFP reports from Nashville.

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology
Tender for Purchasing Ambulance
Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the interested manufacturers/suppliers/dealers for supplying one Ambulance, made in Japan.
Prof Maglub Al Nur
Director
Advisory, Extension and Research Services
BUET, Dhaka

Former Slovak PM Meciar arrested
TRENCIANSKE TEPLICE, Slovakia, Apr 20 : Slovakia's former prime minister Vladimir Meciar was arrested today by police in his home north of Bratislava, the TASR news agency reported, says AFP.
Asia, Europe to dominate Cannes 2000
PARIS, Apr 20 : The first Cannes Film Festival of the 21st century sees seven Asian and nine European films contending for the Golden Palm...

Department of Applied Physics & Electronics
Tender Notice
Sealed tenders are invited from bona fide firms for supply of the following computer, computer components and instrument as per specification given below for the Department of Applied Physics & Electronics, Rajshahi University.