

Wahid plans to buy presidential jet

JAKARTA, Sept 6: Cash-strapped and crisis-ridden Indonesia is considering buying a 60 million dollar jetliner for its travel-hungry head of state, news reports said today, reports AP.

Since coming to office, 11 months ago, President Abdurrahman Wahid has become the most travelled leader in Indonesian history and has visited dozens of foreign capitals to shore up international support for his democratic and economic reforms.

Until now he has chartered aircraft from the state-owned airline, Garuda.

However, presidential aide Wahyu Muryadi said the government was looking at whether to buy a twin-engine Boeing 737-800 for the president's use. It has a range of nearly 3,000 nautical miles (5,750 kilometers).

The possibility of its purchase comes even though the country is enduring a crippling economic crisis and is burdened with billions of dollars in debt.

"In foreign countries, it is common that a president has his own presidential plane, like the US president, who travels on Air Force One," Wahyu was quoted as saying by The Jakarta Post newspaper, while travelling with Wahid to New York for the United Nations Millennium Summit.

On his way to New York, Wahid stopped briefly in Seattle where he had talks with executives from The Boeing Co.

Lankan opposition accuses govt of election ploy

COLOMBO, Sept 6: A 10 per cent pay hike announced by the government for all state employees and pensioners is nothing but a ploy to garner votes during the Oct. 10 elections, Sri Lanka's main opposition party said Wednesday, reports AP.

The raise was announced by President Chandrika Kumaratunga's office Tuesday. More than 700,000 people will benefit from the decision that will take effect on Oct. 1.

"This is a reaction to our manifesto pledge," said Karunasena Kodituwakku, spokesman for the opposition United National Party, referring to the promise made by the party to increase wages and allowances if it came to power.

"This is a display of the government's political bankruptcy," Kodituwakku said.

An estimated 5,048 candidates from 29 political parties will contest the elections for the 225 seats in the Sri Lankan legislature. Only 1,449 ran for office in the last parliamentary election in Aug. 1994.

There was no immediate government reaction to the opposition charge, but an official statement said that the pay hike was announced after labour unions made representations to the government.

Castro arrives in UN after five years

NEW YORK, Sept 6: With much security but little fanfare, Cuban President Fidel Castro arrived in the United States Tuesday for the first time in five years for this week's UN Millennium Summit, reports AP.

Castro was seen arriving in a black limousine at the Cuban Mission in midtown Manhattan shortly after 1 pm (1700 GMT).

He earlier landed at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport and his vehicle was led by a police escort of four motorcycles and numerous sports utility vehicles to midtown Manhattan.

Castro's automobile went directly inside the garage at the mission, where he is to stay during the three-day summit.

Cuban officials said Castro immediately went into a meeting with the foreign ministers of Cuba and Malaysia. There were no immediate details of the meeting.

Castro's arrival had not been announced and there were no protesters stationed nearby.

Castro arrived in the United States three months after winning a major victory over his political enemies in this country with the return of 6-year-old Elian Gonzalez to the communist island.

Elian was the subject of a protracted custody fight between his relatives in Miami, who fought to keep him in the United States, and his father and grandparents, who battled to have him returned to Cuba.

Five shot dead in S Africa

DURBAN, South Africa, Sept 6: Five men were shot dead and 11 were wounded in a shooting spree on the outskirts of South Africa's eastcoast city of Durban, police said today, reports AP.

The men, aged between 25 and 35 years, were gunned down Tuesday evening in a street running through the grounds of a massive men's residential hostel in the shabby KwaMashu suburb north of the city. KwaZulu-Natal province police spokesman Vish Naidoo told AFP.

"It is very unclear (what happened) at this stage. These people were attacked with AK-47 rifles. It looks like they were not specific targets -- they were just shot at random," Naidoo said.

No arrests have been made and police are not sure how many people were involved in the shooting.

Some residents of the hostel had earlier marched to the KwaMashu police station to demand the release of two men arrested at the weekend for murder, Naidoo said.

Attack on UNHCR office in West Timor: Four killed

JAKARTA, Sept 6: Four people, all believed to be foreign UN staff, were killed in a savage attack by hundreds of pro-Indonesian militia on the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) office in West Timor today, a UN official said, reports AFP.

"Yes there were three burned bodies taken out of the UNHCR building in (the border town of) Atambua," a UN staffer, speaking by phone from the West Timor capital of Kupang told AFP.

"A fourth international (person) was dragged out of a hotel and burned in front of it, one of our local staff said. We don't know the name of the person or who he worked for."

"We have four foreign staff unaccounted for, but they could be in hiding, because a lot of international staff were being chased by militia," said the UNHCR worker, who gave his name only as Werner.

He said the UNHCR believed the three bodies taken from the burned UNHCR office were those of their missing staff. Earlier reports had said that only two people had been injured in the attack.

The militia attack was the deadliest since the UNHCR arrived there to help repatriate East Timorese refugees.

The survivors of the attack were in hiding awaiting rescue helicopters from the UN peacekeeping force (UNPKF) in East Timor, but in the East Timorese capital of Dili, a UNPKF said the rescue mission was stalled.

In Kupang, Chris Lom of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), whose Atambua office was also attacked Wednesday, told AFP by phone -- some six hours after the attack -- that he understood a joint evacuation effort was already underway by UNPKF and Indonesian security.

"About 15 international staff are being evacuated (from Atambua) but they are spread all over town, so it's very difficult," he said.

He said the 15 included staff from non-governmental organisations as well as UN agencies.

The IOM's Atambua international staff had all been evacuated last month, and were not among Wednesday's evacuees, he said.

He said the UN was also trying to get their local staff out.

Meanwhile in Kupang, Lom said 40 to 50 international staff were holding a meeting. "Essentially everyone is waiting to see what happens in Atambua," he said, when asked whether they too would leave.

Earlier Lom had told AFP that the attacks on the UNHCR and IOM offices in Atambua were launched by hundreds of militia who had been parading through town with the body of a dead militia leader, killed by unknown assassins the day before.

They burned the UNHCR building to the ground and ransacked the empty IOM office, he said.

A local journalist in Atambua told AFP that the three bodies from the UNHCR office had later been taken out of the rubble and had been laid on the ground near the burned office.

A military officer in Bali, the headquarters of the Udayana command which oversees East Timor, said Udayana commander Major General Kild Syahnakri had flown to Kupang as soon as he received the news.

Tensions have been high among the militia since Indonesia pledged to close border refugee camps there within three months.

The militia, backed by the Indonesian military, laid waste to East Timor then fled to West Timor ahead of the peacekeepers' arrival after last year's vote for independence in East Timor.

N Korea threatens reprisals against US for security checks DPRK team withdraws from UN summit

SEOUL, Sept 6: North Korea today threatened reprisals against the United States for the "brigandish" security checks that led its nominal head of state to withdraw from the UN Millennium summit in New York, reports AP.

A delegation led by Kim Yong-Nam, head of the communist North's parliament, arrived back in Pyongyang on Wednesday after angrily protesting at security checks, including strip searches, demanded by American Airlines security staff at Frankfurt airport in Germany.

A North Korean foreign ministry statement said the United States would pay a "dear price" for what it called a "despicable and crafty" insult.

The US government expressed regret at the incident but denied any involvement. American Airlines apologised.

But it all came too late to save a planned meeting between Kim

Yong-Nam and South Korea's President Kim Dae-Jung in New York and another with Japan's Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori.

South Korea launched diplomatic efforts in New York to avert a US-North Korea crisis and Kim Dae-Jung was to raise the latest storm when he sees US President Bill Clinton on Thursday.

The 15-strong North Korean delegation had planned to take a Frankfurt-New York flight on Monday night.

But American Airlines said Kim Yong-Nam had not been allowed to take the flight "because he refused to submit himself to the security checks that all US airlines require."

North Korea's vice-minister for foreign affairs Choe Su-Hon said US security staff "opened suitcases and handbags of each member of the presidential entourage, forced them to take off clothes and shoes and thoroughly searched even the sensitive parts

of the body as if they were criminals."

The North Korean foreign ministry condemned the "obstructive moves of the US administration authorities," the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported.

Despite a tentative improvement in relations, North Korea is one of seven countries on a US list of nations considered sponsors of state terrorism, for which special security rules apply.

But the ministry said the security motives given were an "absurd pretext."

It added: "This is a brigandish act of violating the international usage of travel and neglecting elementary etiquette and morality for a state representative."

North Korea accused the United States of being "the world's biggest state of hoodlums and rogues. It is an entirely legitimate exercise of our sovereignty for us to take a strong measure

Nepal extradites Pakistani to India

KATHMANDU, Sept 6: Nepal quietly extradited a Pakistani to India after police recovered 35 kilograms (77 pounds) of RDX explosives from him and others in a hotel here, a local daily said today, reports AP.

The daily Himalayan Times today, quoting an anti-terrorist squad, identified the Pakistani national as Mustaqbal alias Sal, who is an alleged member of a terrorist outfit.

He was extradited to India yesterday.

Meanwhile "police are interrogating Shiba Khadka and Habib Malik who have been arrested in a joint operation of the Nepali and Indian police," the newspaper said.

Khadka is a Nepali national but the nationality of Malik is yet to be ascertained.

Police confirmed they had arrested three people Saturday night for carrying 35 kilograms of highly explosive materials known as RDX on their way to India.

It was the biggest amount of RDX explosives confiscated in Nepal so far by police.



Indian Muslims shout anti-government slogans in New Delhi yesterday during a protest against BJP president Bangaru Laxman's recent announcement to attract Muslims into the party. Laxman said his party will make sustained efforts to reach Muslims to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). --AFP photo

Taliban capture key Afghan town

KABUL, Sept 6: Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia has captured the strategic northeastern opposition bastion of Taloqan after fierce fighting overnight, resistance sources said today, reports AP.

Opposition spokesman Abdullah said troops loyal to anti-Taliban commander Ahmad Shah Masood had pulled out of the Takhar provincial capital in the early hours of the morning.

"After two hours of fighting we pulled out. There were some casualties in the course of the fighting," he said, speaking from New York.

If the Taliban can hold the city, which has changed hands in the past, it would mark a significant victory in their northeastern campaign to drive Masood -- their last remaining opposition -- from his traditional heartland.

Most opposition satellite phones at Taloqan were not answered Wednesday morning, although one Masood spokesman in the area, Mohammad Habel, was able to say the frontlines were now to the east and north of the city.

"We have pulled out of the city and we are now about five to six km to the east," he said, adding there were "no losses of men or material."

"The Taliban control only the city itself. Our forces are holding the outlying districts. Fighting is going on around Hazar Bagh (to the north)."

"There are no civilians, not even a child, left in the city. They left along with our forces."

Taliban information ministry sources here said the militia led by commander Abdullah entered Taloqan overnight but initially confined themselves to the city centre to avoid ambushes.

Clean-up operations at first light Wednesday captured "a good number of tanks and other heavy weapons and prisoners who had hidden themselves in different places," one official said.

Taliban sources confirmed the ongoing fighting in Hazar Bagh area and that Masood supporters had fled east to the mountains of Farkhar and Keshem districts.

Myanmar junta intensifies propaganda against Suu Kyi

YANGON, Sept 6: Myanmar's military rulers intensified their campaign against Aung San Suu Kyi's pro-democracy movement, announcing Wednesday that 24 members of her party have deserted her, reports AP.

State-run newspapers reported that the members resigned from the National League for Democracy party in Mandalay, Myanmar's second largest city, and an important constituency for Suu Kyi.

The New Light of Myanmar daily said the resignations were submitted to the Election Commission in March.

But making the news public now indicated that the government wants to convey the impres-

sion that Suu Kyi's movement is losing popular support as it falls under increasing restrictions by security forces.

The resignations could not be immediately confirmed as NLD's offices and headquarters have been shut down since Saturday by the government, which accused the party of links with terrorists.

NLD's top nine leaders including Suu Kyi, 55, are under virtual house arrest and their telephone lines have been disconnected. No one is allowed in or out, and guards are posted outside the gates of their homes.

Myanmar's authoritarian government has kept the NLD on a tight leash since 1988 when

Suu Kyi led pro-democracy demonstrations.

The military government allowed national elections in 1990 but refused to honour the results when the NLD won a landslide.

Suu Kyi's latest confrontation began on Aug 24 when security forces blocked her vehicle as she tried to drive out of Yangon to the countryside for party work. She camped out in the open for nine days before being forcibly returned to Yangon.

In the following days, the state press launched blistering attacks on her and the NLD. The government has ignored international condemnation and accused the West of meddling in its affairs.

In comments published Tuesday, Lt Gen Khin Nyunt, the head of military intelligence, said "two Western countries" are "creating unrest in the country by agitating a handful of disruptive and subversive groups." He did not name the countries, but apparently was referring to the United States and Britain, who have harshly criticized the military rulers.

The government has also been irked by British ambassador John Jenkins' attempt to go to the house of one of the NLD leaders, Tin Oo, over the weekend.

A government statement said Tuesday Jenkins had overstepped "universal diplomatic norms."

Barak rules out breakthrough in ME peace process

NEW YORK, Sept 6: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak ruled out any breakthrough in Mideast peacemaking unless Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat changes his stand on terms of a settlement, reports AP.

Barak's office made the statement Tuesday night after the Israeli met with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to preview President Bill Clinton's

planned back-to-back sessions Wednesday with the two Mideast leaders on the fringes of the UN Millennium Summit.

During the 45-minute meeting, the statement said, Barak and Albright "agreed that without an open and realistic attitude" by Arafat, it will not be possible to reach a breakthrough toward an agreement.

Indeed, the statement contin-

ued, Barak and Albright "agreed they still had not heard of a real change in Chairman Arafat's position since Camp David."

Barak's summit with Arafat at the presidential retreat in Camp David, Maryland, collapsed in July largely over Arafat's rejection of an offer by Barak for limited control over east Jerusalem. The Palestinian leader insisted on full sovereignty over east Jerusalem,

which the Palestinians want as the capital of a future state.

A senior US official, briefing reporters on the meeting between Barak and Albright at Barak's New York hotel, gave a more subdued account. But the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said, as Barak's statement did, that Clinton's dual sessions with the Mideast leaders Wednesday could be critical.

BRIEFLY

Quake rocks Sumatra Island:

A mild earthquake rocked the town of Bengkulu on Sumatra Island Wednesday, but there were no reports of damage or casualties, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said, AP reports from Jakarta.

The magnitude 5.3 tremor struck at 2:08 am local time (1908 GMT Tuesday) and was centered beneath the Indian Ocean, about 187 kilometres (112 miles) southwest of Bengkulu, the agency's Jakarta office said in a statement.

Bengkulu, about 500 kilometres (300 miles) northwest of Jakarta, was rocked by a 7.9 magnitude tremor on June 4 that killed about 100 people and left thousands homeless.

4 killed in China road mishap:

A truck carrying students home from boarding school plunged off a road in southwestern China, killing four teenagers and a bystander, a police officer said Wednesday, AP reports from Shanghai.

Eight students also are hospitalised after the crash Saturday in Fengling county near the city of Chongqing, said Xu Zhenming, a county police officer. The truck wasn't licensed to carry passengers but the driver was taking home students aged 14 and 15 who lived in his town, Xu said. A farmer was hit by the truck and killed when it fell off the edge of the road, Xu said.

Suharto can be tried in absentia: Wahid

JAKARTA, Sept 6: Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid said former dictator Suharto could be tried in absentia if it was impossible for him to attend his corruption trial, the state Antara news agency said today, reports AP.

"If there is no other way (to bring him to court), he should be tried in absentia," Wahid said in New York where he is attending the UN Millennium Summit, which opened Wednesday.

The president conceded that the legal process against the former dictator who ruled Indonesia for 32 years "is not easy."

"Suharto could not be brought to court as all of his doctors have said he is sick while I know that (Suharto) sometimes picks eggplants in his hydroponics garden in his house," Antara quoted Wahid as saying.

Wahid said last week that Suharto's trial must proceed, and


repeated his pledge to pardon Suharto, but only after he returned any ill-gotten wealth allegedly amassed during his 32 years in power.

Suharto, now 79, failed to show up in court at the opening session of his trial last week, pleading ill health. The panel of judges adjourned the session until September 14.

The South Jakarta District Court on Tuesday confined Suharto to city arrest for another two months.

Lalu Mariyuni, head of the panel of judges trying Suharto, has raised the possibility of trying the disgraced former leader at his house to avoid the medical objections which forced the trial's abrupt adjournment.

But Mariyuni added that to do so would require a legal opinion from the Supreme Court.



সোনালী ব্যাংক
জড়দ্রব্য ও মনিহারী বিভাগ
প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অত্র ব্যাংক ব্যবহারের নিমিত্তে ২ (দুই) টি রিজার্ভেশন/এনলার্জমেন্ট সিস্টেমের প্রতি মিনিটে অন্ততঃ ২০ (বিশ) কপি ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন প্রেইন পেপার ফটোকপি মেশিন ক্রয়ের জন্য বাংলাদেশের প্রকৃত এজেন্ট/সরবরাহকারীদের নিকট হতে সীলমোহরকৃত খামে দরপত্র আহবান করা যাচ্ছে। অত্র বিভাগ হতে সরবরাহকৃত নির্ধারিত তফসিলে দরপত্র আগামী ২৪/০৯/২০০০ইং তারিখে বেলা ২.৩০ মিনিটের মধ্যে ব্যাংক ভবনের ৬ষ্ঠ তলায় অত্র বিভাগে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাস্তব দাখিল করতে হবে এবং ঐ দিন বেলা ৩.০০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) দরপত্র খোলা হবে। দরপত্র গ্রহণের পূর্ব দিন পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে অত্র বিভাগ হতে দরপত্রের তফসিল ক্রয় করা যাবে এবং তফসিলে বর্ণিত শর্তাবলীর ভিত্তিতে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। প্রতিসেট তফসিল ৫০০/- (পাঁচশত) টাকা মূল্যে (অফেরতযোগ্য) আবেদনপত্র ও আবশ্যিকীয় কাগজপত্র প্রদর্শনপূর্বক ক্রয় করা যাবে। দরপত্রের সাথে যেটো উদ্ধৃত মূল্যের উপর ৫% হারে জামানত জমা দিতে হবে। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত বিস্তারিত তথ্যাবলী সিডিউলে উল্লেখ আছে যা যথাযথভাবে পালন করতে হবে। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার অধিকার ব্যাংক কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন। অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র খোলা সম্ভব না হলে তা পরবর্তী কার্যদিবসে খোলা হবে।

নং-সোহোঃ জল/১৬/৫৭৫/২০০০
তারিখঃ-১৬/০৯/২০০০

আবদুস সাত্তার খন্দকার
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