

# The World

## Pakistan wants peace with India, N-free region: Musharraf

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 7: Pakistan's military ruler said his country wants to work with rival India for peace and a nuclear-free South Asia, reports AP.

The two neighbouring countries, which have fought three border wars since independence from Britain in 1947, conducted nuclear tests two years ago, raising the specter of a possible atomic conflict in the subcontinent.

"Pakistan stands for peace and is prepared to take the bold initiative to change the status quo through a dialogue with India at any level, at any time, and anywhere," Gen. Pervez Musharraf said Wednesday at the UN Millennium Summit attended by more than 150 world leaders.

"Let me commit at this world forum, that we desire a no-war pact. We are ready for mutual

reduction of forces, and we also want to seek a South Asia free from all nuclear weapons," he said.

In his speech, Musharraf urged the UN Security Council to show the "political will" to intervene in the Kashmir dispute.

"Whereas the international community and this world body are seriously engaged in finding a solution to the Palestinian issue, Kashmir cries for justice after 52 years," Musharraf said. "If the people of East Timor could be given their freedom, why not the people of Kashmir?"

While the rest of the world is moving in the direction of economic progress and regional cooperation, Musharraf said his region was embroiled in conflict because of Kashmir.

"Why this tragedy? Because the people of Kashmir remain deprived of justice," he said.

## US, Britain call for release of Suu Kyi

UNITED NATIONS, Sept 7: US President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair used their speeches before the UN Millennium Summit on Wednesday to demand that Myanmar's military government release Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, reports AP.

The treatment of Aung San Suu Kyi by the Burmese regime is a disgrace, " blared declared at the conclusion of his remarks, calling on the largest ever gathering of world leaders to back his call for her freedom.

Foreign diplomats and journalists say Suu Kyi and senior members of her National League for Democracy have been under virtual house arrest for five days. The government had blocked Suu Kyi from traveling to the country-

side to carry out political activities two weeks ago, then forcibly brought her back to the capital Yangon on Friday.

Diplomats have since been blocked in their attempts to meet party leaders and telephone lines to their homes have been disconnected.

Clinton told the summit in his opening remarks that the world could not remain silent about the situation.

"We face a clear moral test today in Burma, where a popular leader who has struggled peacefully for dialogue has once again been confined, with her supporters imprisoned and her country in distress, all in defiance of repeated UN resolutions," Clinton said.

Criticism of US plans to deploy a limited missile defense featured high in Putin's speech at Wednesday's opening session of the Millennium Summit.

Avoiding a direct reference to the United States, Putin called upon world leaders to come to Moscow for a conference to ban the militarisation of space a challenge to any American plan to build and anti-missile defense system.

Addressing the Millennium Summit at the United Nations,

Putin described the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty as a "Foundation" of the entire nuclear arms control system.

"Particularly alarming are the plans for the militarisation of space," Putin said.

Noting that next year will see the 40th anniversary of Russia sending the first man into space, Putin said that Moscow would be the "most proper place for such a conference."

Although Putin has welcomed US President Bill Clinton's move to leave the final decision on whether to deploy the missile system to the next administration, his speech Wednesday indicated that Russia intends to push the United States to abandon the plan altogether.

At their meeting on the side-

lines of the summit on Wednesday, Putin and Clinton registered their disagreement on missile defenses but outlined several prospective fields of cooperation in strategic stability issues.

Putin also tried to win the limelight Wednesday by proposing to bar the use of enriched uranium and pure plutonium in nuclear power plants. He argued that the move would help stop proliferation of nuclear weapons and lower risks to the environment.

The meeting with Jiang gave Russia and China another chance to speak against the "unipolar world" their favorite term to describe the alleged US domination of global affairs.

"We stand for the United Nations playing a stronger role in global affairs," Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov told reporters after Putin's meeting with Jiang. "We favour a multipolar world based on respect for international law."

## Lanka slaps emergency ahead of polls

COLOMBO, Sept 7: Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga has declared a nationwide state of emergency giving greater powers to security forces and the police ahead of parliamentary polls, officials said today.

She has issued a proclamation extending the state of emergency by a further month requiring the reconvening of the national parliament which was dissolved on August 18, officials said.

They said the constitution allows Kumaratunga to reconvene a dissolved assembly for the specific purpose of having emergency laws approved for a further period.

The president can impose emergency laws only for 10 days and thereafter must get parliamentary approval to keep the

draconian laws going for one month.

However, since parliament was dissolved on August 18, she must issue a proclamation summoning the same parliament which can function until the parliamentary elections are concluded on October 10.

The emergency which was first imposed on May 18, 1983 gives wide powers to security forces and the police to arrest and detain suspects. The laws had been relaxed for brief periods and limited to certain areas of the country from time to time.

The emergency is primarily aimed at dealing with the separatist Tamil Tiger rebels in the island's northeast but political parties have accused the government of using the laws to stifle opponents.

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## UN evacuates staff from West Timor

Jakarta sends in troops

JAKARTA, Sept 7: The United Nations evacuated its staff and other aid workers from West Timor today as Jakarta sent in troops and investigators after the savage killings of three foreign UN staff in a militia attack, reports AFP.

The UN flew 100 personnel out of West Timor's main town of Kupang, and 96 other aid workers were taken, under Indonesian army escort, by land from the border town of Atambua to Batugade on the East Timorese side of the border, UN officials said.

The first evacuation flight arrived in Indonesia's resort island of Bali early Thursday with 75 aid workers aboard. Chris Lom of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) told AFP by phone.

A local photographer in Kupang said the UN workers were given a heavy military escort to Kupang airport where they boarded a chartered Merpati commercial airliner.

At around 2:00 pm (1200 BST), a convoy of trucks and cars, escorted by armed Indonesian soldiers, crossed the border into East Timor.

They were carrying 96 aid workers who had remained trapped in Atambua after murderous militiamen attacked two UN offices there and killed three foreign staff, a UN official said.

"They have been evacuated from Atambua. I think they are currently in Batugade in East Timor and are waiting for further transportation to Dili," a spokesman for the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) in Dili said.

"They were driven in a convoy under the escort of the TNI (the Indonesian armed forces)," said the official, who only identified himself as Peter.

Some 54 UN personnel, including three wounded, had already been evacuated by helicopter from Atambua and flown to Dili, the main town in East Timor on Wednesday.

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Tenders addressed to the General Manager, Currency Management & Accounts Department, Bangladesh Bank, Head Office, Dhaka shall be submitted by the tenderers in sealed envelope marked "Quotation for supply of 50 poisha coins" in the tender box kept in the said Deptt up to 1.00 PM on October 15, 2000. Tenders will be opened at 2:30 PM on the same day at the same place in the presence of tenderers, if any. Incomplete and conditional tender will not be considered.

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