

News Digest

PAGE 2

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1997



More bodies found

after Bangladesh quake

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Eight more bodies have been recovered from the rubble of a five-story building that collapsed during an earthquake in Bangladesh last week.

A district official at Chittagong, 140 miles southeast of the capital, said Monday those bodies brought the total death toll in Friday's 6.0 magnitude quake to 13.

The quake was centered 65 miles east of Chittagong, according to the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo.

Guerrillas kill Peruvian

soldiers in jungle ambush

LIMA, Peru (AP) — Guerrillas ambushed an army patrol in Peru's northern Amazon jungle, killing six soldiers and wounding seven, the military reported Monday.

One guerrilla died and an undetermined number were injured in the attack Sunday in a remote stretch of jungle in La Polvora district in the department of San Martin, 290 miles northeast of Lima, an armed forces news release said.

Guerrillas opened fire on the soldiers and, after a gunfight, retreated, carrying with them "an appreciable number of wounded," the military statement said. The soldiers were riding in a truck at the time of the attack.

The statement did not say what group the guerrillas belonged to, but the Shining Path is the only group known to operate in the region.

Israeli police suggest

indicting former official

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — In a blow to a prime minister already facing a mutiny in his own party, police have recommended indicting Benjamin Netanyahu's former top aide on charges of theft and fraud, Israeli TV stations said Monday.

The aide, Avigdor Lieberman, resigned Sunday as director of the Prime Minister's Office, a position equivalent to White House chief of staff.

His departure appeared aimed at quelling a mutiny against Netanyahu in the governing Likud, where Netanyahu's rivals for the leadership were outraged by efforts allegedly spearheaded by Lieberman to tighten the prime minister's control of the party.

At a news conference Monday, Lieberman vowed "to continue to act with all my strength" to help Netanyahu. Such political activity "was not enabled by my status as a civil servant," he explained.

But a few hours later, Israel's two main TV stations said police have recommended charging Lieberman with theft and fraud because he only repaid about a quarter of a \$40,000 loan provided several years ago.

Police spokesman Linda Menuhin told The Associated Press there was an investigation against Lieberman and that it was completed, but she would not confirm that the police were asking the state prosecution for an indictment.

No comment was available from Lieberman on the reports. Israel TV said Netanyahu's office denied the resignation was connected to the police investigation.

Iraq's palaces remain off limits

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — U.N. arms monitors searching for Iraq's banned arsenal inspected 11 sites without interference Monday — including pharmaceutical factories where biological or chemical weapons could be produced.

But a new confrontation could still develop if U.N. inspectors try to search dozens of other sites, including President Saddam Hussein's many palaces, which Iraq considers sensitive to national security.

An American U-2 spy plane, which Iraq has threatened to shoot down, made another flight into Iraqi airspace Monday, its third since the crisis over weapons inspections started more than three weeks ago.

A Pentagon official in Washington said the flight over central Iraq — part of the U.N. weapons inspection program — was completed without incident.

Monday's inspections went smoothly, as they have since they were resumed Saturday. "They have had a normal inspection day with no problems reported," said Allan Dacey,

a British spokesman for the U.N. monitors.

He said the inspectors were searching for missiles and biological, chemical and nuclear weapons, as well as examining arms imports and exports. Some inspectors flew in helicopters to check for any inappropriate activity on the ground; U.N. inspectors have accused Iraq of sneaking documents out the back doors of weapons sites even as inspectors were entering the front.

The arms inspectors' job is to certify that Iraq has complied with U.N. resolutions requiring it to eliminate weapons of mass destruction in line with treaties that ended the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Economic sanctions, imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait that led to the war, have devastated the Iraqi economy.

Despite the latest cooperation in Baghdad, American and Iraqi officials were still arguing over whether inspectors should search Saddam's many presidential compounds.

In Washington, deputy White House national security adviser

James Steinberg said the United Nations had "clear authority" to look at the 47 presidential compounds.

"These presidential palaces seem to be getting larger, more numerous," U.N. weapons inspector Richard Butler said Monday on ABC television. "How many palaces can one have?"

Bill Richardson, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, also demanded the inspectors "have full access to all the sites."

"We're talking about 47 presidential sites, 63 sites the Iraqis have deemed do not deserve access. How can you do your job?" he said. "This crisis is far from over."

But Iraq, citing national sovereignty and security, has long rejected the inspectors' contention that they should be free to visit any suspicious site.

"The crisis might be renewed if America's intransigent attitude continues," Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz was quoted by the Iraqi News Agency as telling Jordanian television.

Still, the inspectors stayed away from the palaces Monday and instead searched 11 sites, seven of them drug factories that could be used for producing biological or chemical weapons, INA said.

Access to presidential palaces was a factor in Iraq's crisis with the weapons monitors last month. It claimed the Americans were spies intent on preventing the lifting of U.N. sanctions against Iraq.

When the U.N. Security Council condemned that stance, Iraq threw the Americans out on Nov. 13. The United Nations removed the other inspectors in protest, and the United States escalated its military presence in the region, sending a second aircraft carrier to the Gulf and extra fighter planes to Kuwait.

The crisis was resolved last week under a Russian-mediated deal in which Iraq agreed the Americans could return, and Moscow pledged to work toward lifting U.N. sanctions. The 75 weapons monitors, who include four Americans, returned to Iraq on Friday.

Critics: FAA takes too long

WASHINGTON (AP) — Over Thanksgiving, hundreds of thousands of travelers will walk to airport gates through security equipment that still does not check for plastic explosives and board airplanes where many packages haven't been screened for bombs.

Seven years after a presidential panel urged drastic improvements in airport security, federal officials are just now beginning such long-awaited changes as the profiling of passengers to identify security risks and the mandatory matching of bags to passengers.

Critics say the changes, some of which take effect Jan. 1, have taken too long and fall short of recommendations the Federal Aviation Administration was first urged to implement in 1990.

That's when numerous potential holes in the airport safety net were identified by a presidential panel convened after a plastic explosive hidden by terrorists inside a radio cassette player destroyed Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Several times since then, most recently by a panel headed by Vice President Al Gore, government reports have stressed the importance of closing holes in the airport security system.

"They totally and consciously failed to address the screening of passengers and hand-carried bag-

gage from an explosives detection standpoint," former FAA security chief Billie Vincent said. "They really failed miserably in looking at the overall system."

Added Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., a member of the commission that studied security after the Flight 103 bombing: "Not much has changed. It doesn't even take a great deal of sophistication to bring about a tragedy."

FAA officials say they are addressing many of those concerns.

To help, Congress boosted the FAA's 1998 budget by \$785 million, to \$9.1 billion, including about \$100 million for security improvements and an additional \$44 million for research and development.

"We are very much well on our way to have the security situation in the United States more effective in preventing acts of terrorism," said Cathal Flynn, FAA assistant administrator for civil aviation security.

But even with the changes, potential security loopholes remain. For instance, panels have warned that security gains from passenger profiling could be partly lost through the use of curbside baggage check-ins or electronic ticketing — practices that remain prevalent today.

And there is concern that the security workers who operate metal detectors and screen passengers hold low-paying, high-turnover positions.

The FAA's effort has been criticized in several reports — from Congress' General Accounting Office, from the FAA's own inspector general and from various panels.

For example, the Flight 103 panel asked the FAA to ensure that luggage was not loaded unless the bags' owner also boarded the plane. In September 1996, the TWA Flight 800 commission recommended a similar match.

FAA officials say such a plan finally will be in place by Jan. 1.

One major problem is that the technology that so effectively stopped the use of metal guns to hijack airplanes can't detect plastic explosives. Bomb detectors as efficient and reliable as X-ray machines do not yet exist, experts say.

"It has proven far more difficult to develop this scanning technology than originally thought," said Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., a member of the Flight 103 panel. "We still don't have a single one-shot machine."

Instead, airlines are relying on a series of steps. By Jan. 1, all airlines will be profiling passengers, using a series of criteria to determine which people should be singled out for further examination.

Those passengers will have their luggage screened using new explosive detection machines, or won't have their bags loaded on the airplane unless they also board the flight.

Captive workers released

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP) — Five foreign aid workers kidnapped by militiamen in northeastern Somalia were released unharmed Monday and were in good health despite three days of captivity.

In a separate incident, militiamen killed at least nine people north of Mogadishu Monday in a dispute over farmland, witnesses said. Two Italian aid workers based nearby were briefly taken hostage, their offices were looted, and a driver for CARE International was wounded.

The two relief workers, from Coperazioni Italiano Nord-Sud, apparently were taken simply because they happened to be in the area at the time of the clash, which killed eight militiamen and one civilian.

Meanwhile, the five freed aid workers — one from the European Union and four from the United Nations — arrived safely at the U.N. Children's Fund office in Bossaso, said Agostino Paganini, the group's director of operations in Somalia.

"They are fine, OK, tired," Paganini told The Associated Press. The hostages were flown to Nairobi later Monday.

They include one British employee of the European Union, two Kenyans, an Indian and a Canadian, the British Foreign Office said.

They were abducted Friday in the self-declared independent Republic of Somaliland, apparently in a dispute over coal exports between two tribal clans, the Wasangeli and the Marjeteen.

Wasangeli fighters apparently carried out the kidnapping in retaliation for the Marjeteen's capture earlier that day of a Palestinian business partner of two Somali charcoal dealers, a U.N. source said.

The Marjeteen militia freed the Palestinian on Sunday on condition that the aid workers were let go, the source said.

Aid workers have often been targets of armed Somali factions vying for control of the country, which has had no central government since a 1991 coup ousted the president.

Daily Nebraskan

Questions? Comments? Ask for the appropriate section editor at (402) 472-2588 or e-mail dn@unlinfo.unl.edu.

Fax number: (402) 472-1761

World Wide Web: www.unl.edu/DailyNeb

The Daily Nebraskan (USPS 144-080) is published by the UNL Publications Board, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln, NE 68588-0448, Monday through Friday during the academic year; weekly during the summer sessions. The public has access to the Publications Board.

Readers are encouraged to submit story ideas and comments to the Daily Nebraskan by calling (402) 472-2588.

Subscriptions are \$55 for one year.

Postmaster: Send address changes to the Daily Nebraskan, Nebraska Union 34, 1400 R St., Lincoln NE 68588-0448. Periodical postage paid at Lincoln, NE.

ALL MATERIAL COPYRIGHT 1997

THE DAILY NEBRASKAN

Editor: Paula Lavigne
Managing Editor: Julie Sobczyk
Associate News Editor: Rebecca Stone
Assistant News Editor: Jeff Randall
Assignment Editor: Chad Lorenz
Opinion Editor: Matthew Waite
Sports Editor: Mike Kluck
A&E Editor: Jim Goodwin
Copy Desk Chiefs: Nancy Zywiec
Kay Prauner
Photo Director: Ryan Soderlin
Design Chief: Joshua Gillin
Art Director: Aaron Steckelberg
Online Editor: Gregg Stearns
Asst. Online Editor: Amy Pemberton

General Manager: Dan Shattil
Publications Board
Chairwoman: Melissa Myles, (402) 476-2446
Professional Adviser: Don Walton, (402) 473-7301
Advertising Manager: Nick Partsch, (402) 472-2589
Assistant Ad Manager: Daniel Lam