

## INTERNATIONAL

## Tanzania bomb probe challenged

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — Attorneys representing two men charged in the 1998 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania said Monday they planned to challenge the constitutionality of the investigation involving their clients.

Egyptian Mustapha Mahmoud Said Ahmed and Tanzanian Rashid Saleh Hemed appeared in a magistrate's court after boycotting the previous two hearings.

They have been protesting

the lack of progress in the investigation of the Aug. 7, 1998 terrorist bombing that killed 11 people and injured 86 others.

A nearly simultaneous blast at the U.S. Embassy in neighboring Kenya killed 213 people and injured 5,400.

The two men were arrested and charged about a year ago. They have been held without bail and have made more than 20 court appearances.

Preliminary proceedings against the two have been regularly adjourned as prosecutors, citing the lack

of forensic reports from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, sought more time to complete their investigation. No evidence has been presented in the hearings.

"We want to go to the High Court for reference on validity of these proceedings and as to whether or not constitutional rights have been infringed," said Hemed's attorney, Dr. Fauz Twaiib.

The attorneys want the court to review the constitutionality of the FBI's

role in the probe as well as "questions of adjournments and our clients being confined to prison without any evidence at all being brought to court."

"We feel that our clients are being denied constitutional rights. The Bill of Rights has been infringed in respect to their right for fair trial and fair investigation."

Tanzanian law is silent on whether a foreign investigative body can work in the country.

(See Tanzania, Page 17)

## Algeria reshuffles local administrators

ALGIERS, Algeria (AP) — In a shake-up of Algeria's bureaucracy, Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika on Monday fired 16 local officials and appointed 22 new administrators.

The pro-government newspaper *El Moudjahid* said Monday that the reshuffling was "the first in a series" and showed Bouteflika's desire

to "put an end to depravity and lack of seriousness" in the Algerian bureaucracy.

The 16 removed from office had been named by Bouteflika's predecessor, Liamine Zeroul. The officials, called prefects, are appointed by the government to oversee the country's regions.

Elected in April, Bouteflika has taken steps to

end violence and lawlessness that has shaken the country for the past seven years.

He has staked his political future on a Sept. 16 referendum, which includes an amnesty and a reduction of prison terms for Islamic militants not guilty of murder, rape or planting bombs.

An estimated 100,000 people have been killed since an Islamic insurgency erupted

in 1992 when the military-backed government canceled elections that the now banned Islamic Salvation Front was set to win.

Seeking to repair his country's image abroad, Bouteflika will travel to Italy Monday to take part in an annual political conference, officials said.

In his first visit Bouteflika (See Algeria, Page 17)

## Kenya closes war-torn Somalia border

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Citing rampant insecurity and the increasing flow of arms into the country, Kenya closed its border with war-torn Somalia for the second time in two months, news reports said Monday.

Clearly exasperated that Somalia has been without a functioning government since 1991 and unable to control its own borders, President Daniel arap Moi said Sunday he had no alternative but to close the 420-mile border through which contraband goods have also been passing.

"I have patiently waited for Somalia to form a government but in vain," Moi said at a public function. "Black market goods have been coming into the country;



I want imported goods to enter through the port of Mombasa so that Kenya can be protected."

The announcement came scarcely a week after Kenyan

authorities said they had opened the southern stretch of the border from the central DIF area south to the Indian Ocean. The section was closed in June after about 400

Somali faction-based militiamen crossed into Kenya, stole weapons from 23 Kenyan soldiers at a border post and made off with radio equipment and two trucks.

The trucks and guns were returned the next day after Kenyan security forces threatened to use force to get them back.

Somalia has had no central government since clan-based faction leaders ousted dictator Mohamed Siad Barre in January 1991 and then turned on each other.

Clan elders and Muslim leaders have taken over most administrative functions.

Ethnic Somalis have historically been the inhabitants of what is now northeastern Kenya, and ties extend across the border.

## United Nations: Congo ordered 250 executed

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — A special military tribunal set up by President Laurent Kabila has ordered more than 200 people executed, a U.N. official said Monday.

Congo's Military Court of Order has ordered the execution of 250 people over the past two years for crimes against Kabila's government, according to Frej Fenniche, director of the U.N. human rights agency in the capital, Kinshasa. Those executed included both soldiers and civilians.

Fenniche called the figures "worrying" and said the government should abolish the court.

The tribunal, which was set up by Kabila after his 1997 takeover, was initially responsible for resolving discipline problems within the army. But it has slowly extended its jurisdiction to non-army matters.

Decisions of the court, which is headquartered in Kinshasa

with branches across the country, are irreversible.

In March, it sentenced journalist Thierry Kyalumba to four years in prison for "divulging state secrets" after he published an article detailing weapons acquisitions by rebels fighting to oust Kabila.

Since coming to power, Kabila has repeatedly harassed and detained journalists and political opponents in this central African nation divided by civil war.

Rebels, who launched their campaign last August, accuse Kabila of mismanagement, corruption and warmongering.

A cease-fire agreement was signed July 10 by Kabila and his allies — Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia — and by Rwanda and Uganda, who are backing the rebels. One rebel faction signed on Aug. 1. But the principal rebel organization has refused to sign because of a leadership dispute.

## WORLD BRIEFS

## ALL REMAINING HOSTAGES SET FREE BY REBELS IN SIERRA LEONE

FREETOWN (IPS) — The last group of 37 hostages, including U.N. military observers, captured by a rebel group in Sierra Leone earlier this month, have been released. The hostages were released Aug. 10 after intensive negotiations between British authorities, the rebel high command, the Sierra Leonean government and West African leaders. The hostages, which included several Nigerian soldiers, five senior military officers of the U.N. Military Observer Mission In Sierra Leone (UNOMSIL), a Ghanaian, a Malaysian, a Russian, and a Kyrgyz national, were kidnapped on Aug. 4 while on their way to Okra Hills, about 70 kilometers north of Freetown, to collect some 200 children abducted by the rebels in January. The children were also released. The abductors were mostly from the former Sierra Leone Army (SLA), the renegade soldiers who fled into the bush after their Armed Forces Revolutionary Council (AFRC) junta was toppled in February 1998. The rebels' demand for food, medicines, and an opportunity to meet with their estranged leader, Major Johnny Paul Koroma, who was chairman of the AFRC, were acknowledged by the negotiators.

## MILLIONS NEED EMERGENCY FOOD AID IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

HARARE (IPS) — Nearly 10 million people in sub-Saharan Africa need emergency food assistance, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) report released earlier this month. The report, "Food Supply Situation and Crop Prospects in Sub-Saharan Africa," says the current main season cereal crop has failed due to erratic and insufficient rainfall, armyworm outbreaks and unusually high temperatures. It is the seventh consecutive poor harvest since 1996, says the report. On the positive side, according to the report, crop prospects are generally favorable so far in most of western Africa, notably in the Sahel. The food supply situation is forecast to remain satisfactory until the next harvest, except in Sierra Leone. Implementation of a peace accord signed recently should improve the situation, the report adds.

## U.N. SENDS DOCTORS TO TREAT SURVIVORS OF TOXIC CHEMICALS

NAIROBI (IPS) — The United Nations sent a team of medical doctors earlier this month to treat hundreds of civilians suffering from severe infections, allegedly caused by toxic chemical weapons, in the southern Sudanese towns of Lanya and Kaya, on the border of Uganda. "The medical team has gone there fully prepared because we don't know yet what the cause of the symptoms are," said Sharad Sapra, spokesperson at the U.N. humanitarian office in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi. People affected in the two towns have complained of sore eyes, running noses, sore throats and disorientation following a series of air raids in rebel-held areas by the Islamic fundamentalist regime in Khartoum. Sapra has denied reports that a U.N. team has been sent to Sudan to establish whether chemical weapons of mass destruction had been used in the region. "We are a humanitarian arm of the U.N., and can only provide humanitarian assistance to the people affected," he said.

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