

International

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Wednesday, March 23,

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Korea to ask China for help in stando

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea - Tensions on the world's most heavily armed border escalated Tuesday, with North Korea accusing South Korea of provoking war, and South Korea saying it needs better security to ensure peace.

South Korean President Kim Young-sam said he would ask China, North Korea's only major ally, to help ease the nuclear standoff on the divided

North Korea's official news agency called South Korea's plans to deploy Patriot missiles and conduct military exercises with the United States provocative steps ... and a declaration of war.

North Korea, after refusing to allow full inspections of sites where it is suspected of developing nuclear weapons, threatened Monday to pull out of an international nuclear controls treaty. That could lead to a U.S. push for international sanctions.

"If pressure is applied on this issue, that can only complicate the situation on the Korean peninsula and it will add to the tension there."

- Chinese Premier Li Peng

China has backed efforts to get North Korea to permit the inspections. But Chinese Premier Li Peng suggested Tuesday that China would not support economic sanctions.

"If pressure is applied on this issue, that can only complicate the situation on the Korean peninsula and it will add to the tension there," Li said in Beijing

In Washington, State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said Chinese officials have

indicated their willingness to work with the States on the Korean situation.

Tensions have risen sharply in the pa because of the North Korea's refusal to all nuclear inspections or to exchange envo South Korea. The envoys were to have do ways to make the peninsula nuclear-free. On Monday, Pyongyang renewed and threat to withdraw from the Nuclear proliferation Treaty, which it joined in 1985 The International Atomic Energy Agen; in Vienna, referred the issue to the U.N &

Council, opening the way for possible sanding No proposal for sanctions has been made,

five permanent members of the Security Com the United States, France, Britain, China and were meeting privately Tuesday aftern discuss the North Korean situation.

McCurry said a resolution warning North it risked sanctions could be ready for U.N.k Council consideration later in the week.

Airport openir Richa Bill Cuom brings first rel Stern ticket flight to Bosni Stern

The Associated Press

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovi Crowds waved and children yellow flowers sang Bosnia songs Tuesday as a U.N. plan 22 tons of food and medicine Tuzla, the first relief flight to h in almost two years of war.

envoy to former Yugos for

Eng in 3

of peace and hope will keep go in this city and the whole com he said

the peaceful period for Bo Herzegovina," Beslagic replied.

under control of the Muslim government of Bosnia. The reop

officials, was blocked for mom Serbs, whose big guns can a reach the tarmac.

The actual reopening tuned ou to be more symbolic than the unit Truck convoys carrying food an

fighting in central Bosnia block

box of seeds.

convoys, signed a cease-fit February and last week created federation in Bosnia.

Somalia. The United Nation

brokered a cease-fire in March

after fighting between the two

had destroyed three-quarters

capital, Mogadishu, and killed

"It's a great day for the peop Tuzla," said Yasushi Akashi, the 'Opening of the airport m arrival of peace at long last." In a ceremony on the ha guarded airfield, Akashi press Tuzla's Mayor Selim Beslagic

> 'I hope, like these seeds, the at 8

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Tuzla, in northeastern Bost

of the airport, a major goal of

der. Alv:

relief supplies have been read city through Serb-held ten recently with relatively few dela And Croats and Muslims,

radicals in the nearby village of Abu Tig.

In the militants' two-years campaign of violence,

more than 330 people have been killed, including

government officials, police, militants, Coptic Christians

and four foreign tourists. The government has arrested

thousands and sentenced 51 people to die, 32 of whom

the Nile River village of Sidfa and ended in the morning

The latest violence began with an attack on police in

already have been executed.

Two inmates were killed Saturday near Cape Town in a cell fire, Olckers said

A Queenstown guard saw smoke coming from the cell just before noon Monday. Firefighters were called and

prison guards ran to help, but they found the prisoners had stacked their steel beds against the cell door, Olckers said.

Last week, the prisoners' rights group called on inmates to stage peaceful protests to win the right to vote in the April 26-28 election, the first national ballot in South Africa to include the black majority.

BOTTOM TOP LINE? OB.

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Jail blaze kills 21 prisoners in voting protest that included marches, hunger strikes

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa Twenty-one prisoners were killed by flames and smoke Monday after barricading themselves in their communal cell and setting it on fire to protest their exclusion from South Africa's first all-race vote, officials said.

Prison officials linked the fire to demonstrations at prisons across the country by inmates demanding voting rights.

At Pietermaritzburg late Monday, protesting prisoners used beds as battering rams to force their way from their cells into the main courtyard, where they were in a standoff with guards and army had joined weekend demonstrations

troops called in as reinforcements.

Egyptian gunbattles leave 13 dead

In a statement, the Department of

"irresponsible" call for protests by a Golden Miles Bhudu of the South

could have prevented violence. The deaths occurred at

south of Johannesburg.

Pietermaritzburg is about 300 and other fires. miles east of Johannesburg.

Correctional Services blamed the fire deaths and other disturbances on the prison rights group.

African Prisoners' Organization said his group had called for peaceful protests, and that prison officials

Queenstown Prison, about 500 miles Department spokesman Col. Chris

Olckers said that over the weekend, some of the men who died in the fire

Somalia faction leaders to an

The Associated Press

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ridden villages. El-Alfy, the country's chief police official, The Associated Press said informers were providing exact information on the ASSIUT, Egypt - Police and Muslim militants fought militants. more than 12 hours of gunbattles overnight and Monday, However, the radicals have succeeded in slaying police on an almost daily basis in southern Egypt. They killed leaving 13 militants and security officers dead in four policemen and wounded five others, including two extremist village strongholds in southern Egypt. The battles in troubled Assiut province were a marked high-ranking officers, in the attack that started the overnight confrontation.

increase in the violence surrounding the radicals' campaign to topple the secular government and impose strict Islamic rule in Egypt.

Interior Minister Hassan el-Alfy maintained that the latest attacks by radicals were acts of desperation under pressure from security forces.

'What they're doing is no more than trying to show they exist," he was quoted as saying by the state-owned Middle East News Agency

Security sources said el-Alfy ordered 3,000 police as police in armored personnel carriers battled the from Cairo to take over three of Assiut's most violence-

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fire agreemen

The Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenva - After a week of meetings and several postponements, Somalia's factions are expected to announce an agreement Tuesday for a cease-fire and for choosing the next leaders of the lawless, war-torn country.

U.N. spokesman George Bennett

said Monday that he was relatively confident the agreement would be announced by Somalia's principal warlords, Ali Mahdi Mohammed and Gen. Mohamed Farrah Aidid, and the leaders of 13 other factions.

An expected announcement has been postponed three times since Sunday

We're also

his old bank.

The faction leaders have been

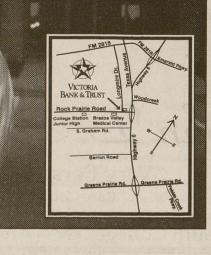
meeting in Nairobi for a week with funding from the United Nations Operation in Somalia. Bennett said that if the faction leaders failed to reach agreement as promised Tuesday, "I don't think the U.N. is going to fund their stay for any longer in Nairobi.'

The international commu Aidid and Ali Mahdi are the main figures trying to take control of

feared the country will revert to after most Western forces with from Somalia in the coming

30,000 people.

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