

BRIEFLY

Israel's stand on PLO attack:

Israel's Security cabinet ordered tough new measures aimed at halting a wave of Palestinian attacks against Israeli civilians, state-owned media reported in Jerusalem, says Reuter.

The moves, if confirmed, are likely to bring international protest.

Israel radio said ministers meeting in secret session voted to expel Arabs deemed to have encouraged attacks, demolish their homes and further restrict entry to Israel of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Foreign journalists attempting to verify the story met a wall of silence.

Dalai's call to stop arms race:

The Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of Tibet's Buddhists and winner of the 1989 Nobel Peace Prize, called on Sunday for an end to weapons production and for the creation of an international peacekeeping force to combat aggression throughout the world. Reuter reports from Houston.

Dressed in the robe of a Buddhist monk, the Dalai Lama told about 2,500 people at a rice university that limiting weapons production would foster peace.

"I think long-term it would be worthwhile to keep in our minds our ultimate goal should be demilitarisation," he said.

Mortar attack on Athens hotel:

Terrorists fired a mortar toward a luxury hotel where a minister was eating dinner Sunday night, causing light damage but no injuries, police said in Athens, reports AP.

Police said they believed the left-wing terrorist group November 17 was responsible for the attack on the grounds of the Pentelikon Hotel in the northern Athens suburb of Kifissia.

The missile hit a tree and exploded, shattering windows in the hotel and in nearby apartment buildings.

It was not clear if the terrorists were targeting Education Minister Giorgos Souflias, who police said was in the hotel at the time.

2,000 Iraqis reach Turkey:

About 2,000 refugees fleeing Iraq's civil war arrived in Turkey this weekend, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported Sunday in Hakkari, Turkey, reports AP.

It was the largest group of refugees since fighting between Kurdish rebels and government forces began in northern Iraq following Iraq's defeat by the multinational force in the Gulf War.

Sahabettin Karpuz, governor of Southeastern Hakkari province, said the refugees were ethnic Turks who live in the neighboring Kurdish-dominated part of northern Iraq, Anatolia reported.

Karpuz said the refugees were initially sheltered in a tent city along the border and would be transferred to refugee camps after going under medical examination, Anatolia added.

40 killed in Haryana:

About 40 people were feared killed and five others seriously injured when a Haryana roadways bus fell into the Bhakra main line canal near Mirzapur in Kurukshetra district in Haryana this evening, reports PTI from Chandigarh.

Five bodies had been taken out while the remaining about 35 passengers were trapped in the bus which remained submerged in the water after three hours of the accident and all of them were presumed dead reports Chandigarh said.

Palestinian youth killed:

A Palestinian youth was fatally injured Sunday during a clash with Israeli soldiers in a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank, Palestinian sources said in Jerusalem, reports AP.

Iyad Ibrahim Razek, 17, died later of injuries in a hospital, the sources said.

Following the incident a curfew imposed on the Talkarm camp, located in the northern West Bank, a two-day curfew for the passover weekend had earlier been lifted.

The death brought to 790 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers since the start of the Intifada uprising in December 1987.

US to shoot at Iraqi planes:

The US Senate's majority leader urged the United States on Sunday to shoot down Iraqi warplanes and helicopters attacking rebels, but otherwise to stay out of the internal fighting in Iraq, reports Reuter from Washington.

"I think the policy of non-intervention generally is a correct one. I wish they (the US administration) would enforce the original policy of not preventing any aircraft, to operate against the rebels," Senator George Mitchell, a democrat from Maine, said in a television interview.

Suharto not ready to call it quits

NEW YORK, Apr 1: Indonesian President Suharto, facing the end of his fifth term in 1993, has implied in a magazine interview that he is not ready to call it quits yet, although he falls short of saying he will run again, reports Reuter.

In the interview in Mondays

Warsaw Pact goes

VIENNA, Apr 1: The once-mighty Warsaw Pact, a symbol of the Cold War and Soviet domination, slipped into history Sunday as a military alliance, reports AP.

One Hungarian newspaper called the occasion "the winning of the Third World War."

The end of the Warsaw Pact comes less than 18 months after demonstrators climbed atop sections of the Berlin Wall in protests that began the collapse of Communism across the Soviet bloc.

The ties that bound the Soviet Union's military to its Eastern European satellites for 36 years were to be formally severed on Monday.

Eastern European officials said the end of the six-nation pact will lead to changes in the Western NATO alliance, and that the former Warsaw Pact nations would seek new security agreements.

"Its importance lies not only in the fact that we became independent, but it also gives us a chance to establish a good, new type of relationship with the Soviet Union," Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszensky said on state radio.

But the end of the pact was barely noted in the other pact nations — Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Bulgaria — which already had been busy for months casing themselves away from Moscow's control.

issue of Time Magazine. Suharto, 70, deflects several questions about his intentions.

Asked by Time whether he would turn down a call to run again from Indonesia's part-elected, part-appointed People's Consultative Assembly Suharto, said: "We will see in 1993, not now."

Suharto, who came to power with his new order government in 1967, said he is not allowed under Indonesia's constitution to present himself as a candidate and must wait for the Assembly's call.

Whether it comes will depend on my physical condition. I will be 72 by then. If I am unable to carry out the guidelines of state policy, I have to admit it and declare that I am not able to pursue the presidency, Suharto said.

Suharto also gave little indication he or his government intended to ease what some critics say is an authoritarian administration.

The new order government is committed not to change the constitution, he said when asked whether Indonesia's laws will be changed to allow greater freedom to criticise the government.

"As to the laws, they CAN certainly be modified, but there are no restrictions on people criticising the government," he said.

What is important is how the criticism is lodged. It should be of value, it should not be against the interest of the nation.

Suharto reiterated his opposition to creating a regional economic bloc, which he said would be an economic confrontation.

He also said Indonesia was unfairly criticised for not doing enough to protect its rain forests and predicted that communism would not re-emerge in Indonesia.



AL AHMADI OIL FIELD, Kuwait: A general view of the Kuwaiti desert flooded with oil from destroyed oil wells March 31 at Al Ahmadi, South of Kuwait City. Teams are now working to cap the wells and extinguish those which are burning. — AFP/UNB photo

Kirkuk in ruins, shows carnage of civil war

KIRKUK (Iraq), April 1: Kirkuk, the gateway to the Kurdish region of Northern Iraq, shows the carnage of civil war but is firmly under the control of troops loyal to President Saddam Hussein, reports AFP.

Correspondents who toured this oil producing city at the invitation of the Ministry of Interior on Sunday, saw military convoys of loyalist troops patrolling Kirkuk in all directions and soldiers camping at the city's outskirts.

The government had announced Thursday that loyalist troops had recaptured Kirkuk about 280 kilometers (175 miles) North of Baghdad from Kurdish guerrillas who held the city for six days but appeared to have put up only minimal resistance.

In Baghdad, meanwhile officials said troops had retaken the rebel held cities of Dahuk and Arbil in the heart of Kurdistan.

The report could not be confirmed but a Kurdish opposition group in Damascus said that Arbil had come under heavy fire and that it was possible that rebels had withdrawn from the city.

At the entrance to Kirkuk this correspondent saw the corpses of three civilians including the body of a child less than 10 years old rotting on the side of a street strewn with burned out and ripped up vehicles.

Two bodies were frozen in death in a car caught in the middle of a battle.

The length of an avenue of small unfinished concrete block houses had been pounded by artillery shells but nothing indicated that the rebels had shot back at the army set up under a highway bridge.

In the center of the city, there were signs of fighting in two nearly deserted neighbourhoods. Facades pockmarked by bullets streets filled with debris and stores ripped open.

The attack was called at 10 am Thursday. Two hours later, everything had ended, "the Province's Governor, Hashim Al-Majid said.

The Kurdish opposition had announced the fall of Kirkuk on March 19.

The saboteurs controlled the city for six days, ransack-

ing stealing, destroying everything that they found Al-Majid said.

Two supermarkets appeared to have been looted then set on fire.

According to the governor, the revolt was carried out by gangs of rowdies who came to pillage, as well as deserters, monarchists, and fundamentalists who support an Islamic Republic Kurds and non Kurds have been supported by our neighbours.

Iraqi officials have accused Iran of actively aiding the rebellion throughout Iraq. Opposition Shi'ite religious groups some based in Iran, are leading the revolt in the south.

But Teheran denies direct involvement in the uprising. No casualty toll from the fighting is available, but it isn't high, Al-Majid said.

The whole province has been liberated and the insurgents have withdrawn to 50 kilometers (30 miles) outside of Kirkuk, he added.

In the center of the city, the manager of the Qasr Al-Kirkuk Hotel whose facade bears several bullet holes, said the rebels had occupied his establishment.

Kuwait returns to normalcy

KUWAIT CITY, Apr 1: Children are once again playing soccer in the park. Flashing traffic lights are replacing armed soldiers at checkpoints. Business is bustling at the fried chicken outlet, reports AP.

Bit by bit, life Kuwait is regaining a semblance of normalcy for the first time since the Iraqi invasion, and people are talking about the challenges of the future rather than the misery of the recent past.

The government, whose cabinet ministers resigned March 19, has been largely invisible during the initial stages of rebuilding.

But in the past week, electricity has been restored, banks have re-opened, tap water has been running and staple foods have become available in many stores.

Imelda to be sued for recovery of \$350m

MANILA, April 1: The Philippines will file up to seven criminal cases against the widow of former President Ferdinand Marcos to recover 350 million dollars kept by the Marcoses in Swiss Banks, a senior official said Sunday, reports Reuter.

There are five to seven criminal cases ready for filing against Mrs Marcos, David Castro, the head of the Presidential Commission of good government in charge of recovering Marcos's alleged hidden wealth told reporters.

The cases may involve fraudulent tax returns, unexplained wealth accumulated during the Marcoses 20 years in power and violations of central bank rules by illegally funneling millions of dollars out of the country, he said.

A Swiss Federal court has said Manila must file criminal charges against Mrs Marcos by December as a condition for returning to the Philippines the 350 million dollars believed deposited by the Marcoses in Swiss Banks.

The cases will be filed a few

months before the deadline, Castro said.

"It's just a question of legal strategy," he added. The Philippine government last month reversed a ban on allowing Mrs Marcos to come home to that she could face the graft charges.

The government is also trying to recover through the backdoor assets of the Marcoses that are not covered by cases already filed against them and their political allies, he said.

Castro said the government also wants to dig up part of the property housing Mrs Marcos's family mausoleum on the central Philippine island of Leyte. It is a safe containing part of the alleged hidden wealth is buried there.

Government informers in the village of Olot some 355 miles (570 km) south of Manila claim a safe was hidden in the compound of the family crypt after President Corazon Aquino was swept to power in 1986, he said.

"We don't know what is in there... but the Marcos family had gold deposits in Switzerland, Castro added.



Off the Record

A museum for garbage

SAN JOSE (California): Anyone who thinks garbage stinks hasn't been to the San Jose's latest attraction—a museum where talking trash is good clean fun, reports AP.

Half-eaten pizzas, empty beer cans and disposable diapers are part of the new museum, intended to make people think about how much rubbish they throw away and to spread the word about recycling.

"It's a great outing for parents and their children. Plus, it doesn't smell bad," said museum spokesman Jim Lochmiller.

The museum, run by Browning-Ferris at its 11 million-dollar recycling center, is drawing school groups and scout troops like flies. It will open to the general public April 6.

"This is pretty neat," said Amy Dao, a fourth grader visiting with her class. "I've never seen so much garbage before."

Visitors encounter the "Wall of Garbage," a 100-foot (32-meter) long, 20-foot (7 meter) high display of paint thinner cans, Styrofoam containers, egg cartons, old shoes, broken dolls, plastic bags and scraps of food.

The wall represents the amount of trash discarded by the entire United States every second. Santa Clara County every three minutes and one person every six years.

All the garbage is real. It doesn't stink because it's been sterilized and in the case of food and other perishable materials, carefully preserved.

Afficionados can pickup bits of garbage and recycling lore—such as the average car interior contains 60 pounds of recycled paper and that each recycled can saves enough energy to power a television for three years.

"What we're offering is the rage-to-riches story of waste," said company sales manager Anne Petchauer.

They died 3 hrs apart

ALEDO (Illinois): A couple who family members said had one of the longest marriages on record died just three hours apart, two weeks shy of their 81st wedding anniversary, reports AP.

Roy Lingafelter, 102, and his 98-year-old wife, Lizzie, died Friday at the Mercer County Nursing Home here.

"They lived a very good life together. They enjoyed life," granddaughter Barb Kelly said. "And this way, neither one had to know the other was gone. The good Lord wanted it that way."

The Lingafelters had been confined to their rooms for about a week while suffering from pneumonia, a nurse at the home said.

The couple would have been married 81 years on April 11. Lingafelter drove a horse and buggy 19 kilometers (12 miles) from his farm in Keithsburg to Aledo in 1910, to marry his 17-year-old bride.

The Guinness Book of World Records lists two marriages that lasted 86 years. One marriage in England began in 1762 and ended in 1848. A New Hampshire couple's marriage lasted from 1743 to 1829.

"You have to give and take and agree with each other," Mrs. Lingafelter said of her marriage during an interview last year. "And of course, we loved each other."

Bush begins fishing holiday

ISLAMORADA (Florida): President George Bush took time off from official duties on Sunday and began a three-day fishing holiday in the Florida Keys, reports Reuter.

Bush was accompanied by his wife Barbara and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and his wife to the resort city of Islamorada 100 miles (160 km) south of Miami.

It was his first holiday since the Gulf war ended on February 28 and the third year in a row he had come to the Keys for fishing. The Keys are a chain of islands on the southern tip of Florida.

Bush returns to Washington on Wednesday after stopping to visit his 89-year-old mother in Hobe Sound, near Palm Beach, Florida.



TIRANA: Albanian election official empties ballots from box at the Albanian election headquarters March 31. Albanian authorities claim that 95 per cent of the registered voters voted in the country's first free legislative elections since 1946. — AFP/UNB photo

Akihito obeys traffic signals

TOKYO, April 1: The Emperor of Japan has broken with imperial prerogatives and for the first time ordered his motorcade to stop at Tokyo traffic lights, reports Reuter.

A court spokesman said Emperor Akihito's Limousine and accompanying security cars stopped five times at red signals on Sunday afternoon during a private trip from the palace to attend in marine biology seminar.

It was the first imperial motorcade to halt at a red light the spokesman for the imperial household agency said. Until Sunday, all traffic signals were pre-arranged to show green wherever the Emperor's Limousine went.

From now on, Akihito's car could halt at all traffic lights during his private unannounced trips, the agency said.

Akihito, who ascended the throne in January 1989 is a marine biologist like

Ishaq wants to destroy me and PPP: Benazir

LAHORE, Apr 1: Former Premier Benazir Bhutto told a special court here Sunday that President Ghulam Ishaq Khan wanted to destroy her and the Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), reports AP.

She spoke after the court formally charged her with misusing Air Force aircraft to transport deputies during a failed no-confidence motion against her in the National Assembly in 1989.

The President, who dismissed Ms. Bhutto in August 1990 on charges of corruption and mismanagement, has filed several cases of alleged abuse of power during her 20-month in office.

Ms. Bhutto said the cases were filed because she had refused to leave the country or quit politics which the President had desired.

She said her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, was arrested in a

President, top communist leaders lose seats

Opposition sweeps Albanian polls

TIRANA, Apr 1: The Opposition Democratic Party was believed to have won the poll in the Albanian capital Tirana on Sunday, and its leader Sali Berisha obtained 90 per cent of votes to win in the west — central town of Kavaje, according to unofficial results released here by the party.

Party officials said the democrats were set to win in

Tirana, and several top communist leaders were believed to have lost their parliamentary seats.

Among them was expected to be President Ramiz Alia, and possibly Prime Minister Fatos Nano.

The elections were the first free ones held in this East European Country since the communists came to power in

1946. The democrats, formed less than four months ago after the government decided to allow a multi-party poll, have been widely tipped to win.

Earlier on Sunday, Albanian television said that more than 95 per cent of the country's 1.9 million registered voters had turned out to cast ballots.

Democratic party officials said that Foreign Minister

Muhamet Kapllani had lost his seat, as had Spro Dede, Secretary of the Communist Party's Central Committee.

Although no official results had yet been released, a crowd of enthusiastic supporters surrounded the Democratic Party headquarters here, chanting, "Ramiz Alia, you are beaten."

An earlier report says: Albania's ruling Communist Party appeared headed for a major defeat in the country's first free elections since before World War II, reports AP.

According to unofficial early returns reported by the Opposition Democratic Party Albanian President Ramiz Alia lost his seat in Parliament in the first round of balloting Sunday while Democratic Party leader Sali Berisha won with a crushing 90 per cent of the vote in his constituency.

The Democratic Party formed less than four months ago, said its candidate, Franko Kroqi beat Mr Alia with 60 per cent of the vote in a constituency in the capital Tirana.

Albania the longest Stalinist holdout in Eastern Europe, was the last country in the region to organize free multi-party elections.

