

## 19 schoolgirls raped, killed in Kenya

**NAIROBI, July 15** : Nineteen Kenyan schoolgirls were killed and many were raped when boys at their mixed boarding school attacked their dormitory, the Kenyan News Agency (KNA) reported on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Kenyan State television said four other girls were taken to hospital with injuries and 71 were treated for bruises after the incident on Saturday night at St Kizito Secondary School near Meru, 180 km (110 miles) north of Nairobi.

KNA quoted a hospital source as saying the 19 girls were believed to have died mainly of suffocation after the boys pushed them into the dormitory.

It did not say how many boys were involved in the attack. But the television said three boys had been arrested.

Both KNA and the television said many of the girls who survived the attack said they had been raped.

Kenyan Radio said President Daniel Arap Moi ordered an immediate police inquiry into the incident.

The television quoted a watchman at the school as saying the boys left their dormitories after midnight screaming and shouting as they headed for the girls dormitories.

Most of the boys fled, the school grounds immediately after the incident, the television said.



**BAGHDAD** : Dimitri Perricos, head of a nuclear experts mission in Iraq, addresses the press 14 July at the Meridan Hotel in Baghdad saying that the Iraqis provided new list of its nuclear facilities July 14 and further warnings about a US-led attack if it fails to disclose full details on its nuclear capability. — AFP photo.

## Iraq delivers new list of nuclear facilities

**BAGHDAD, July 15**: Iraq, threatened with a US military strike and UN action, on Sunday delivered a new list regarding its nuclear facilities to UN inspectors.

The list was the third, and reportedly most detailed, that Baghdad has provided since April 27.

The head of the UN team inspecting Iraq's nuclear programme said the new list provided information that the team had demanded, but would not say whether the list as a whole satisfied United Nations demands.

Iraq's UN ambassador, however, told The Associated Press in New York that the new document merely elaborated on a previous list.

"The so-called new nuclear list that was given today is not a new list and there is no new material or equipment" in it, Abdul Amir Al-Anbari said in a

telephone interview.

The new material was issued after Arab leaders called on Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to cooperate with the UN nuclear inspectors, diplomats said.

The Foreign Ministry told senior diplomats that Baghdad would cooperate, but a government official also said that Iraq had called for an Arab League meeting because of the US threats.

Under terms of the UN cease-fire resolution that ended the Gulf war, Iraq is required to disclose all of its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons capabilities and to cooperate in their destruction.

Dimitri Perricos, leader of the 37-man inspection team, the new list provided information in all four categories requested by the team last week: research and development in the field of uranium enrich-

ment; manufacture and production of uranium; storage and burial; and the use of nuclear material.

But he would not say whether the list satisfied UN demands, saying that decision will be made by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, which has sent three teams to Iraq on behalf of the UN.

"Sources close to the UN inspection team said the list was the most detailed so far of those Iraq has provided.

Perricos was expected to report to the agency and the United Nations in New York on Monday, when the Security Council was to hear an assessment by UN officials of Iraq's declarations about its clandestine nuclear programme.

Baghdad has been accused of submitting incomplete lists and playing hide-and-seek with UN inspectors.

## 10 Asian states talk ways for cooperation in South China Sea

**BANDUNG, July 15** : Ten Asian countries began their first talks here today to establish ways of cooperation in the South China Sea despite conflicting sovereignty claims over the Spratly Islands, reports AFP.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, who opened the informal gathering, urged participants to show a more cooperative spirit to turn potential conflicts into constructive forms of mutually beneficial cooperation.

By developing and expanding cooperation on various fields in the area, "a conducive climate will be created for peaceful consultations and negotiations on the contentious territorial and jurisdictional issues," Alatas said in his opening remarks.

China, Taiwan, Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, all of which have claimed either part or all of the Spratlys, are taking part in the four-day workshop on managing potential conflicts in the South China Sea.

The other four countries are Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand and Laos.

Their delegations comprised officials, diplomats and scholars but all were here "in their personal capacities," said the Indonesian organisers.

The Spratlys is a group of tiny, mostly barren islands and reefs but they are strategically located in the centre of the South China Sea and are suspected to contain large under-sea oil reserves.

As a result, the six claimants have increasingly tried to assert their rights by establishing military posts on some of the islands.

## 8 gunned down in UP as 10 Sikhs killed

**NEW DELHI, July 15**: Sikh militants have gunned down five policemen and three civilians in India's Uttar Pradesh State, apparently to avenge the deaths of 10 fellow guerillas, newspapers reported today, says AFP.

The militants went on a shooting spree in the northern state's Shahjahanpur, Bijnore and Nainital districts Saturday night, after security forces killed the 10 in neighbouring Pilibhit region.

It was the first time so many Sikh militants were killed in a single incident outside Punjab, India's only Sikh-majority state where the separatists are fighting for a homeland called Khalistan (land of the pure).

Police and paramilitary forces in six hours of fierce fighting shot and killed the 10 militants early Saturday in Pilibhit, some 240 kilometers (150 miles) east of here.

The Hindustan Times and other newspapers said other Sikh guerillas in Uttar Pradesh struck back.

In Shahjahanpur, south of Pilibhit, Sikh rebels armed with self-loading rifles ambushed a police patrol and shot dead an inspector and three policemen, officials were quoted as saying.

Four policemen were wounded in the attack.

In Bijnore, the militants gunned down one constable and seriously injured four others in a firefight.

## BRIEFLY

### US, USSR agree on arms cut : US and Soviet negotiators reached agreement Sunday on all but both sides said was one technical issue for a historic treaty slashing long-range nuclear arsenals, reports AP from Washington.

US Secretary of State James A Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh announced the results of four days of talks in Washington.

One sticking point, Baker said, was on the definition of "throwweight" for determining whether a missile was a new type.

### Israel lifts curfew on Nablus : The army lifted its curfew on the West Bank's largest city Sunday after a major sweep in search of Palestinian militants. It said it arrested more than 50 people, and left leaflets warning others to surrender, AP reports from Jerusalem.

Some 120,000 people in Nablus, who had been under curfew for 24 hours, found leaflets claiming that the army had proved its effectiveness and telling activists it was giving them "a chance to surrender to the authorities".

The day-long raid was the largest in Nablus in more than a year. It took place in the Casbah, the alleys and market stalls that are the urban heartland of the 43-month-old Palestinian uprising against Israeli control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The raid came at a time when Palestinians have been turning increasingly to firearms. Stones and firebombs were the main weapon against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the uprising's initial stages.

Israeli television said there were 53 gunfire or grenade attacks on Israeli targets in the occupied territories between January and June, compared to 33 during the same months in 1990.

### Syria accepts US plan on ME : Syria's apparent acceptance of US Middle East peace proposals took Israeli leaders by surprise and they deferred reacting before Monday, AP from Jerusalem says.

The announcement from Damascus appeared to be a milestone as the first concrete sign of readiness by Israel's toughest enemy to negotiate, but key strategic differences about a format for peace talks remain.

Israeli officials reached by telephone Sunday night said the contents of a letter from Syrian President Hafez Assad to US President Bush, in which Assad said he found Bush's proposals for peace talks "acceptable," would have to be carefully studied before Israel responds.

Israeli peace activists immediately welcomed the Syrian statement, Army radio reported. It said the "Peace Now" movement, which favours an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, urged Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to "respond immediately or put the decision to the Israeli people."

It cautioned Shamir against taking a "shortsighted position that isolates Israel and makes it look as a rejector of peace," the radio said.

### Gulf commanders honoured : United States President George Bush on Sunday honoured the commanders of the British and French forces in the Gulf war alliance against Iraq, Reuter reports from London.

In ceremonies in London and Rambouillet France, Bush presented the legion of merit to British General Sir Peter de La Billier and French Commander General Michel Roquejeoffre.

This is the highest military award the US President can bestow on a member of a foreign armed force.

### France carries out N-test : France's underground nuclear explosion at Mururoa atoll in the Pacific Ocean on July 5 was the smallest ever recorded by the seismograph on the Cook Islands, New Zealand government scientists said on Monday, Reuter reports from Wellington.

The magnetic tape arrived by airmail today (from the Cook Islands) and shows that the explosion which was described by the French Ministry of Defence as being less than 10 kilotons actually had a yield of less than half a kiloton, "the department of scientific and industrial research said.

### US feeds Jordanian consumers : The United States supplied most of Jordan's imports in 1990 and Iraq received most of the kingdom's exports, said a government report published Sunday, AP from Amman reports.

The kingdom, which sympathized with Iraq during the Gulf war, has denied breaking UN sanctions against Baghdad despite unofficial reports of massive violations.

The Foreign Trade Statistical Bulletin, published by the government's Statistics Department, said that Iraq imported Jordanian products worth 273.1 million dinars (dhs 409.6 million) last year.

The bulletin did not specify whether the figure included the period following Aug 2, when the embargo was imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Jordanian officials have estimated the volume of Iraqi-Jordanian trade at dhs 500 million a year before the Gulf crisis.

### Killing of 'Verses' translator defended : The killing last week of the Japanese translator of Salman Rusdie's 'The Satanic Verses' was justified, a leading British Muslim opponent of the novel was quoted Monday as saying, Reuter reports from London.

"The attacks are justified because people translating the book are also insulting the faith," Abdul Quddus, a senior Vice-President of Britain's Muslim League, told the Daily Telegraph.

Professor Hitoshi Igarashi was stabbed to death in Japan on Friday and police said they did not know who killed him. Ettore Capriolo, 61, who translated "The Satanic Verses" into Italian, was stabbed at his Milan flat on July 3.

### Li returns home : Chinese Premier Li Peng returned home Monday after a near two-week, six-nation tour of the Middle East, the Foreign Ministry said, AFP reports from Beijing.

During his trip to Egypt, Jordan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Kuwait, Li gave China's support to peace efforts in the region, at a time when Beijing wants to play a greater role in international affairs.

In a joint communique issued in Damascus at the end of last week Li said he favoured a greater United Nations role in settling the Arab-Israeli conflict and called for an international peace conference on the issue under the auspices of the world body.

## Benazir's plea to grill MPs for power abuse rejected

**KARACHI, July 15** : The Sindh High Court here Sunday dismissed a petition by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto challenging the validity of a law framed to punish abuse of power by members of parliament, reports AFP.

A division bench ruled that the 1977 parliament and provincial assemblies

(disqualification of membership) order was a valid piece of legislation.

The court also ruled that the cases President Ghulam Ishaq Khan had filed against Ms. Bhutto under the legislation were competent in law and did not suffer from any legal or constitutional infirmity.

The former Premier, dismissed by the President in August 1990 for alleged abuse of power and corruption, is facing several charges in special courts empowered to bar those convicted from participating in politics for up to seven years.

## Future of Clark air base now uncertain

**MANILA, July 15** : Fears of mud flows, flooding and more volcanic eruptions have cast doubt over the future of Clark Air Base as a US military facility in Philippines, US envoy Richard Armitage said today, reports Reuter.

"I have already indicated to Philippine Foreign Secretary Manglapus, unfortunately, that the future of Clark is questionable," Armitage said on arriving in Manila.

cal associates. Her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has been in jail since October, facing trial on criminal charges.

## Iran to supply contraceptives free of cost

**NICOSIA, July 15**: Iran on Sunday announced measures ranging from free contraceptives to ration cuts for large families to try to curb its rapidly growing population, reports Reuter.

Health Minister Dr Reza Malekzadeh said the cabinet announced the moves in response to a growth rate of 3.9 per cent in the past ten years, Iranian Television reported.

"On the basis of a cabinet proposal, families who have three children or less can continue to enjoy the country's resources while the fourth child will not be granted any privileges such as ration coupons for basic goods," Malekzadeh said.

He said the proposal would go into force by next year.

## Gorbachev doomed to win?

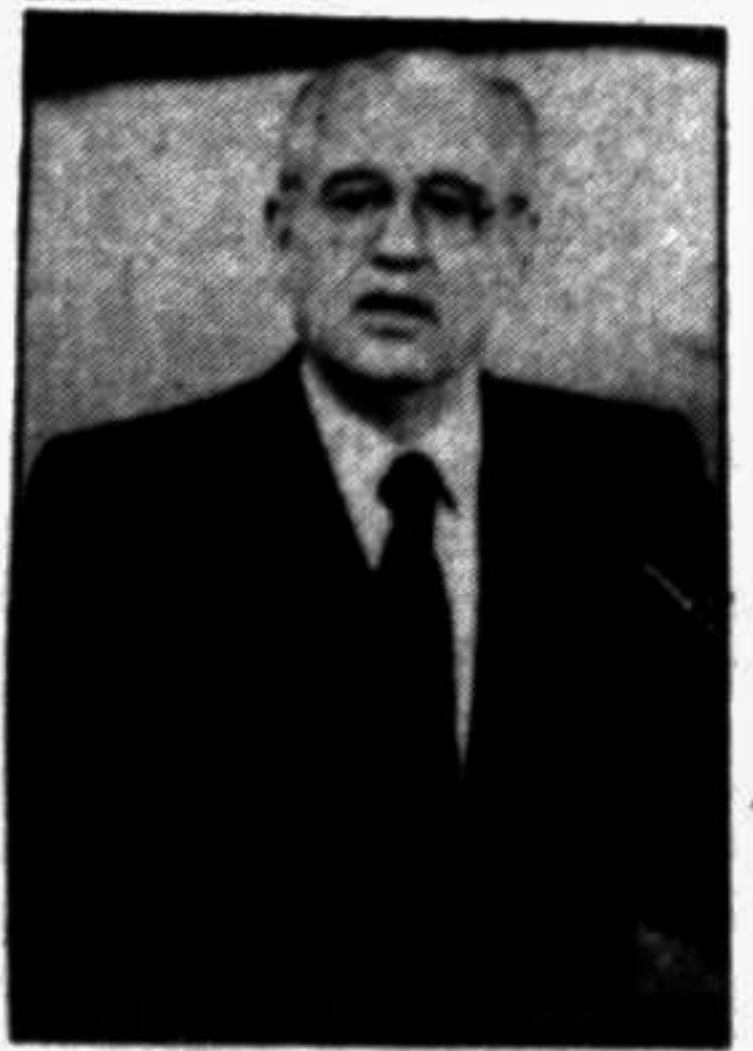
**MOSCOW, July 15** : Whatever the outcome of Mikhail Gorbachev's talks with the leaders of the Group of Seven in London next week the Soviet leader is certain to reap political fruit from the meeting, reports IAN.

The visit may go a long way to rebuild Gorbachev's somewhat tarnished image of a reformer both inside and outside the Soviet Union. In London Gorbachev is going to reaffirm his determination to bring the Soviet Union back into the mainstream of the world civilisation and will call for extending into the economic sphere his concept of new mentality, which was instrumental in burying the cold war. In the eyes of Soviet people his invitation to the G-7 summit is proof of the West's continued trust in Gorbachev as the Soviet national leader with whom it is prepared to do business. This has special significance for Gorbachev in view of the likely Presidential elections in the Soviet Union next year following the signing of the new Union Treaty.

In fact, the Soviet leader scored his first point even before he set out for London. The leaders of nine Soviet republics with whom he is negotiating the Union Treaty gave their unqualified support for his stand at the London talks and agreed they needed a strong centre to successfully deal with the outside world. A

success of Gorbachev's London mission may persuade some of the six pro-independence Soviet Republics to sign an economic pact with the over-hauled Soviet Union.

Western promise of help will also give an important psychological boost to Gorbachev's market reforms: it will be reassuring for wary Soviet people to know that the rich West will stand by them in times of trial.



However, the crucial question is the extent of future Western assistance. So far the West has agreed to make the Soviet Union an associated member of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, which entitles it to technical aid but the Soviet economy will need a lot more

to go over to the market without running the risk of economic collapse and social upheavals.

On the way to the London summit Soviet leaders made heroic efforts to clear main obstacles to the inflow of Western capital into Soviet economy — the political and economic uncertainty and the absence of legal safeguards for foreign investors. Gorbachev and the leaders of nine republics, which account for 98 per cent of Soviet territory, agreed on the principles of a new Union Treaty that would preserve the Soviet Union as a single state. But even before the treaty has been concluded the nine republics plus Armenia signed a joint anti-crisis programme to end their tug-of-war with the Federal Government and synchronise radical market-oriented reforms.

The Federal Parliament urgently endorsed a law on privatisation of the Soviet economy and approved in first reading liberal foreign investment legislation. To improve its record on human rights the Soviet Union passed a law on the freedom of emigration, though its enactment for financial reasons has been put off till 1993.

Yet, the West is still reluctant to throw its financial resources into the bottomless Soviet economy. The process of political stabilisation in the

Soviet Union is still rather fragile: lingering disagreement between the centre and republics on power-sharing has frustrated Gorbachev's plan to have the Union Treaty signed before the G-7 summit.

Conservative opposition to the concept of a decentralised union and a market economy has increased. The economy has been sinking ever deeper into crisis, with inflation expected to reach a three-figure rate and production to decline by at least 20 per cent by the end of the year. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union is still spending close to a third of its Federal budget on defence.

Leading Soviet economists are highly sceptical about the market reform programme of the Federal Government under Premier Valentin Pavlov, while the reform itself is yet to make a start in the Soviet Union.

However, Gorbachev will take a different programme to London drawn up by Soviet economist Grigory Yavlinsky in cooperation with Western experts. It is not only a far more radical and detailed plan but the one that offers differing scenarios of the Soviet reform depending on the scale of Western involvement. The Yavlinsky plan will enable Gorbachev to argue in London that Soviet economic revival will come much faster

## Off the Record

### And now 'love-in' protest

**MELBOURNE** : Dozens of prostitutes and homosexuals staged a "love-in" Sunday, kissing on plastic sheets on the ground and simulating sex under blankets to protest the arrest of two AIDS-infected prostitutes, reports AP.

Couples were showered with condoms, flowers and streamers during the protest on the lawn outside the Victorian Arts Center downtown.

It was by the Prostitutes Collective of Victoria and a group known as ACT-UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power.

The two prostitutes arrested earlier this month were charged with knowingly and recklessly endangering life. They have not appeared in court to answer the charges.

ACT-UP spokeswoman Karen Stewart said the infected prostitutes were given bail on the condition they not have sex and observe a curfew.

She said the charges and bail conditions were a denial of the prostitutes' rights.

Stuart Robinson, a 31-year-old dance lecturer from Melbourne University who took part in the protest, said the right to have sex was "the same as other fundamental human rights."

ACT-UP spokesman Dale Constable said workers in the sex industry were fully aware of the implications of prostitution and the AIDS virus and said they had put "a huge effort" into the campaign for safe sex.

A police spokesman said no arrests were made during the protest.



**BARCELONA, Spain** : A replica of Christopher Columbus's Santa Maria leaves Barcelona July 13 for Japan as part of the commemoration of his 1492 discovery of America. — AFP/UNB photo

### Prank on Cresson

**PARIS** : Military cadets at a prestigious French academy turned an annual tradition into a prank on France's new premier, Edith Cresson, reports AP.

The cadets, from the elite Ecole Polytechnique, each wore a spring of watercress — "cresson" in French — in their sashes as they marched down the Champs-Elysees in the annual Bastille Day parade.

By tradition, the cadets each year come up with a new gag for the parade, which celebrates the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789.

Cresson, France's first woman premier, stood at the parade's reviewing stand beside President Francois Mitterrand. Sources close to the premier said they "were amused."

### France honours Loren

**PARIS** : Anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss and actress Sophia Loren topped the Bastille Day list of 50 people named to or elevated within the prestigious Legion of Honour, reports AP.

Their names were published in Journal Officiel on Sunday, the 202nd anniversary of the fall of the Bastille prison, the event historically viewed as the beginning of the French Revolution.

Admission to the Legion of Honor, established by Napoleon in 1802, is awarded for long and distinguished public service, either military or civilian.

The Rome-born Loren, 56, known for her sultry roles in numerous Hollywood and Italian films over a 30-year period, was awarded the rank of Chevalier, the lowest grade in the prestigious order.

Levi-Strauss, 72, born in Belgium but a long-time resident of France and member of the Academie, the ultimate guardian of the French language, is among the world's leading anthropologists.

He was promoted from Grand Officier to the Grand Croix, the order's top rank.

### Bombs, be alert!

**LONDON** : The "media bag" issued to journalists covering the economic summit exactly resembles in shape and design a bag on a poster distributed throughout the London subway which warns: "Bombs Be Alert," reports AP.

The only difference is that the media bag is gray and the poster bag is blue.

Anyone seeing an unattended bag is warned to leave it alone and call for help.

The media bag, marked "London Economic Summit 1991" under a globe and an "S" for the summit logo in red, blue and black, contains enough reading material about London, Britain and who's who at the summit to keep a reporter busy for the next three days without bothering about who's saying what at the summit itself.

There is also a summit tie, a summit scarf and a fancy scarf clip, summit cufflinks, a summit T-shirt, a traveling clock, three summit ballpoint pens, writing paper, a bar of chocolate and a packet of Scottish shortbread fingers.

## Uprising against Israelis to escalate, says Arafat

**AMMAN, July 15** : Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat yesterday vowed that Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip will escalate their uprising against Israeli occupation, reports Xinhua.

After meeting with Jordanian Prime Minister Taher Maari, Arafat said that assassination of uprising activists by Israelis would in no way end the uprising now in its 44th month.

This will make the Palestinians even more determined to realize their dream of establishing an independent state, he added.

The PLO Chairman arrived here earlier in the day from Baghdad, where he met with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during a five-hour

stopover. The official Iraqi News Agency reported the meeting but gave no details.

The visits to Iraq and Jordan were Arafat's first since the Gulf War. The PLO supported Iraq in the Gulf crisis triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last August and Jordan was seen as tilted toward Iraq.

According to Jordan's official news agency Petra, Arafat discussed with Maari conditions for Palestinians in the occupied territories and Israel's suppressive measures.

Arafat told the press that they also discussed the current efforts to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of the relevant U.N. resolutions and international legitimacy.