

# BRIEFLY

## Nine killed in Buddhist temple:

Nine people, including several monks, have been found slain in a Buddhist temple that serves as a community center to the city's Thai residents, reports AP from Phoenix. All were found shot to death in one room Saturday, said Maricopa County Sheriff Tom Agnos. The dead included an elderly woman and a man in his early 20s, Agnos said. Temple worshippers at the scene said one of the dead was a young man who had recently immigrated from Thailand and had just been initiated into the order. The temple has gold and jade statues, leading to speculation that robbery was the motive, but Agnos said it was too early to be sure. Department experts in Asian gang violence were investigating at the scene. The temple is in a remote area surrounded by cotton fields about 20 miles (30 kilometers) from downtown Phoenix. A sign identifies it as Promkunaram Wat and also says Buddhist Temple.

## 2 western women jailed in Malaysia:

A Malaysian court has sentenced two western women to 80 days in jail for staging an anti-logging protest in Sarawak state on Borneo island, the national Bernama News Agency reported late on Saturday, says Reuter from Kuala Lumpur. The court in Sarawak's Miri state also fined Anja Katarina Gabriele Licht, 24, of Sweden and 40-year-old Angela Christina Zelter of Britain 500 Ringgit (180 dollars) each. Six other foreign environmentalists who joined the protest on July 5 were earlier jailed for between 50 and 70 days after they pleaded guilty to trespassing. In passing sentence on the two women, magistrate Mohamed Chee Kadir said western environmentalists should fight their cause in their own countries.

## Quake shakes Tokyo:

A moderate earthquake with a preliminary reading of 4.0 on the Richter scale shook the Tokyo area Sunday morning, the Central Meteorological Agency said, reports AP from Tokyo. There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties from the 6:49 a.m. (2149 GMT Saturday) earthquake. The quake's epicenter was located 60 kilometers (37 miles) beneath the floor of Tokyo Bay, agency officials said.

## Shangkun to visit Mongolia:

Chinese President Yang Shangkun will make an official goodwill visit to Mongolia from August 26 to 29, the first trip to the remote Asian country by a Chinese leader in recent memory, reports Reuter from Beijing. The official People's Daily reported Sunday that Yang would make the trip at the invitation of Mongolian President Punsalmagyn Ochirbat. Mongolia a nation the size of western Europe but with a population of only three million, lies wedged between China and the Soviet Union, which last year withdrew most of the economic support upon which Mongolia has long depended.

## Maoist rebels kill 3 in Peru:

Suspected Maoist guerrillas raided a town and killed two Polish priests and a local official in the latest attack by guerrillas on religious or foreign aid workers in Peru, authorities said on Saturday, reports Reuter from Lima. Attackers believed to be members of the shining path entered the town of Pariacoto, about 300 km (500 miles) from Lima, and killed the priests on Friday night, said the Rev Antonio Culebras, a spokesman for the Roman Catholic Church. A Polish embassy official identified the slain priests as 32-year-old Michal Tomaszek and 38-year-old Zbigniew Strzalkowski.

## 2 Kurdish abductors shot dead:

Two Kurdish guerrillas suspected of abducting a group of German tourists were shot to death Saturday by security forces during a clash in eastern Turkey, local officials said, reports AP from Ankara. The regional governor's office in Mus said the security forces fought with the guerrillas near the town of Haskoy in Mus province. Documents found on the slain guerrillas indicated they were the gunmen who kidnapped the German tourists last week, the office said in a communique, without elaborating. Kurdish guerrillas kidnapped 15 German tourists while they camped near a crater lake near the town of Tatvan on August 1. Five of tourists later managed to escape. The guerrillas released the remaining tourists on Friday and the Germans flew home on Saturday.

## UK approved export of satellite device to Iraq

LONDON, Aug 11: The British government approved exports to Iraq of key components needed to build a surveillance satellite which would have been able to spy on coalition forces during the Gulf war, the Sunday Telegraph reported, says Reuter. Another Sunday newspaper, the Observer, said a British firm might have improved Iraq's ability to wage chemical warfare by supplying its military with nerve gas antidotes for two decades. The two reports were the latest in a string of allegations of British exports of Iraq, in contravention of an arms embargo, which have emerged in the past two weeks to the embarrassment of Prime Minister John Major's government. The Sunday Times said a week ago that 8.6 tonnes of depleted uranium were shipped to Iraq in 1988-1990. Other reports said export licences were granted for sensitive items until three days after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on August 2 last year. Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Lilley has denied any impropriety and Major has refused opposition Labour Party calls for a public inquiry into the allegations. A DTI spokesman, asked to comment, denied it had helped Iraq's military forces before the Gulf war by approving the export of satellite programme. Lilley said last week the government did not authorise licences for export to Iraq or Kuwait, let alone for sensitive chemical or nuclear materials, after Kuwait was invaded.

## Albanian refugees burn down Red Cross office

BARJ (Italy), Aug 11: This year, about one of every 100 Albanians has fled across the Adriatic Sea to Italy, seeking the liberty and economic opportunities long denied them at home, reports AP. But many have been sent right back. For thousands of other Albanians the exodus has led to a soccer stadium where the refugees are housed with little food or care. Their disappointment and desperation erupted in violence over the weekend. On Saturday, refugees rioted and burned down a Red Cross office as Italy forced thousands of their compatriots to return to Albania. In another episode, hundreds of Albanians at a food distribution point rushed police barricades, lunged at food crates and were driven back by police and soldiers wielding clubs. More than 20,000 Albanians have been accepted into Italy this year, but authorities have refused to accept any of the 12,000 who arrived Wednesday, many of them jammed on a single overcrowded ship. After an emergency Cabinet meeting Saturday, Vice Premier Claudio Martelli said that the government was committed to the "total and immediate repatriation of this new wave of refugees."

## Mortar attack in Croatia: one killed

BELOGRADE, Aug 11: A man was killed in a mortar attack in the breakaway Yugoslav Republic of Croatia on Saturday night, Croatian radio reported, says Reuter. It said the man, the second person killed since a fragile ceasefire in Yugoslavia's ethnic fighting was announced, died in an attack on the village of Hrasovica, southeast of the Croatian capital Zagreb. The ministry, which oversees police operations, meanwhile opened a 24-hour witness hotline and distributed photographs of three Iranians believed to have been the killers. Bakhtiar, 76, was murdered Tuesday about the same time he received the three men at his home. Also killed was his secretary, Fouroush Katibeh.

## Bandits kin 12 villagers in Sind

KARACHI, Aug 11: A gang of bandits attacked a village in the southern province of Sind and killed 12 people including women and children, police said today, reports Reuter. The bandits wounded 18 people and set ablaze the village of Jhunki, near Bhiria city, before fleeing on Saturday night. Police said the villagers were attacked for helping security forces arrest some bandits from their hideouts in forests along the river Indus. Banditry is common in Sind where police claim to have killed several hundred bandits in operations since January.

## France ignored Reza's warning on entry of Iranian hit squad?

PARIS, Aug 11: The son of the late Shah of Iran claimed Saturday that the slaying of former Iranian Premier Shehpoor Bakhtiar could have been avoided had French authorities heeded warnings that an Iranian hit team had entered France, reports AP. Reza Pahlavi was quoted as saying in Saturday's editions of Le Figaro newspaper that the assassination squad entered France 72 hours before Bakhtiar was killed at his home outside Paris. "What revolts me is that this murder could have been avoided," Pahlavi was quoted as saying. "My networks informed the French authorities of the presence of an Iranian team in France." The Interior Ministry had no comment on Pahlavi's assertions. The ministry, which oversees police operations, meanwhile opened a 24-hour witness hotline and distributed photographs of three Iranians believed to have been the killers. Bakhtiar, 76, was murdered Tuesday about the same time he received the three men at his home. Also killed was his secretary, Fouroush Katibeh.

## Major uranium deposit discovered in Meghalaya

NEW DELHI, Aug 11: A major deposit of uranium has been found in the north eastern state of Meghalaya of India, the Press Trust of India reported, reports Xinhua. Scientists of the Atomic Minerals Division of the Department of Atomic Energy cited this as the largest, richest, near-surface and low-cost sandstone-type uranium deposit discovered in India so far. The sandstone-type uranium ores are spread over 10 square kilometers at depths varying from eight to 47 meters from the surface, they said. This has attracted in France were very well explained to him," a ministry communique reported. "The ambassador expressed the Iranian government's condemnation of all terrorist acts and assured us that Iran wasn't implicated in any way in the assassination of Bakhtiar," it said. The Iranian Embassy blamed the killings on struggle between opposition factions, or as part of a campaign to poison recently warming Franco-Iranian relations. The assassination, coupled with the kidnapping of a French relief worker in Beirut, has raised fears that France may have fallen victim to a power struggle between moderates and hardliners Muslim clergy ruling Iran.

# Pak-Soviet talks begin to end Afghan civil strife

ISLAMABAD, Aug 11: A senior Soviet envoy opened talks with Pakistani officials today aimed at pushing forward efforts to find a political settlement to the 13-year-old Afghan civil war, reports Reuter. A Soviet delegation led by Afghan expert Nikolai Kozyrev immediately went into talks with Pakistani Foreign Ministry officials and later was to call on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, a government spokesman said. Kozyrev, who led the Soviet delegation that negotiated the Geneva accords in 1988 that led to the withdrawal of all Soviet troops in Afghanistan, will meet Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday. He may also meet some of the Mujahideen fighters based in Pakistan, but Mujahideen sources said they were waiting for details. "I think it would be natural if there is a meeting. They are here and we are here and the main topic of the visit is Afghanistan," said one Mujahideen official. The Mujahideen would prefer to talk to the Soviet Union instead of the Soviet-backed government in Kabul because they believe Moscow holds the key to peace in Afghanistan. Kozyrev is the most senior Soviet official to visit Pakistan since former Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze came in 1989. AFP adds: The visit of

Nikolai I Kozyrev, Yuri M Kotov, and Bakhtiar Hakimov, Kremlin experts on Afghanistan, is seen as significant after more than two years of mutual mistrust. Kozyrev's trip was postponed several times following the capture of the Afghan garrison city of Khost by Pakistan-based Mujahideen last spring. Moscow still suspects Islamabad and its Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) of pursuing a "military solution" to the Afghan conflict, diplomats said, while Pakistan deplores continued Soviet support for President Najibullah and insists that he must go. In addition to discussions at the foreign office, the Soviet were also scheduled to meet with president Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, officials said. They indicated there was a possibility of contacts between the diplomats and representatives of Pakistan-based Mujahideen factions during the team's two-day stay in Islamabad. The visit follows a conference here last month that produced a joint declaration from Pakistan, Iran and Afghan resistance factions of their conditional willingness to consider recent UN proposals. Meanwhile, in northeast Afghanistan, leading resistance commander Ahmed Shah Masood has extended his control over the border area with the Soviet Union, after a series of gains since mid-May, western diplomats said. Masood, known as the lion of Panjshir, is affiliated with the moderate fundamentalist Jamiat-e-Islami faction. Three of his emissaries held talks recently with Soviet officials "somewhere" on the Soviet-Afghan border on "matters of mutual interest," the commander said in a message received here this weekend. Moscow and Washington had welcomed UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar's May 21 initiative on a peaceful settlement for Afghanistan.



Najibullah: A peace exit soon?



Gulbuddin Hekmatyar: A hardliner

# 40 Tamils, 3 troops killed in Lankan fierce fighting

COLOMBO, Aug 11: At least 40 Tamil rebels and three soldiers were killed in fighting in northern Sri Lanka, military sources said today, reports Reuter. After a three-week battle, the fiercest of the eight year conflict, the camp was relieved by government forces on August 3. Military figures gave rebel casualties at 2,200 and troops deaths at 160 in the Elephant Pass fighting. A Tiger representative in London said about 250 guerrillas had been killed and 1,000 soldiers had died. Thousands of Jaffna residents and traders streamed into Vavuniya, 100 km (65 miles) to the south, at the weekend after a month-long ban on movement was lifted by the Tigers. Vavuniya residents said the Tigers had prevented residents from coming to the south because of the Elephant Pass battle. The state-run Sunday Observer said Sri Lanka's air force was acquiring three Chinese F-85 fighter aircraft this week. "We have already trained our pilots and we will be able to use them immediately," an air force official was quoted as saying.

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## Cory paid taxes while in exile

MANILA, Aug 11: President Corason Aquino paid income tax to the government of the late President Ferdinand Marcos during her family's two-year exile in the United States, Aquino's Press Secretary said on Saturday, reports Reuter.

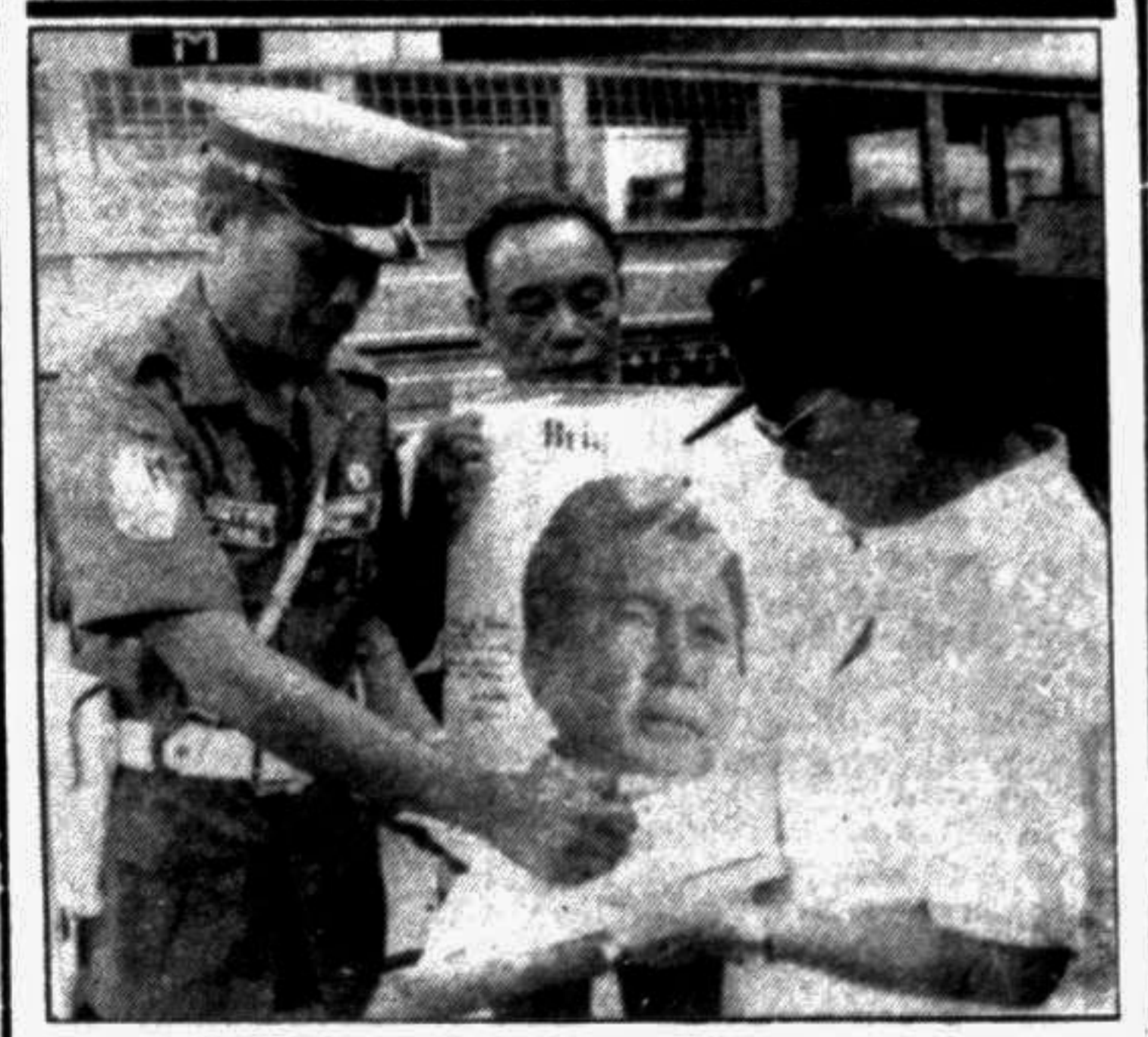
## Mother Teresa again

KHARTOUM (Sudan): Mother Teresa has offered her help to Sudanese children affected by war and drought, the Sudan News Agency reports, says AP. The Nobel Peace Prize-winning nun met Thursday with Brig. Dominic Rastano, member of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, and offered the services of her India-based missionary organization to help young victims of war and drought, the news agency said. A civil war has ravaged southern Sudan since 1983, displacing millions of civilians, and a drought in the African nation has exacerbated a famine that has affected millions more.

## Cow meets workers' dream

MIAMI: An escaped 650-pound (292 kilogram) cow spent several hours doing what lots of workers dream of doing: wrecking the boss' office, reports AP. The cow appeared Thursday in the parking lot of Hangar One, a company that services planes at a suburban airport. It charged at red-shirted employees, activated an automatic door and ambled into the building. "People were jumping in the cars, diving for cover," said Shannon Levinson, a Hangar one employee. "She took one look at me and she came right at me." The cow chased Levinson through the lobby and into the manager's office. Levinson ran out another door and trapped the cow inside. During the next three hours, the cow kicked in the wall, dented a desk, crushed a plant and shattered a coffee table. Unskilled in roundups, police called a dairy company. A crew drove the beast through a makeshift corral leading from the office to the back of a cow trailer.

# Off the Record



MANILA: Followers of deposed President Ferdinand Marcos ask army sentry guard Staff Sergeant Sony Benigno to sign a petition August 10 to have Marcos's remains returned to the Philippines. —AFP/UNB photo

## 'Love in time of cholera'

SAN FRANCISCO: Gabriel Garcia Marquez did not break a contract when negotiations failed over movie rights to his best-selling novel "Love in the Time of Cholera," a federal appeals court has ruled, reports AP. Marquez was sued by California movie producer Richard Roth, who claimed the author reneged on an agreement over movie rights. But the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals ruled Thursday that no binding agreement existed because Marquez had never signed a Contract. Marquez, who lives in Mexico, won the 1982 Nobel Prize in literature. His novels include "One Hundred Years of Solitude" and "Chronicle of a Death Foretold." During negotiations for film rights to "Love in the Time of Cholera," Marquez's agent set a sale price of \$5 million and Marquez specified that the film would have to be shot in Colombia with a Latin American director. However, a final agreement sent to Marquez's agent in Barcelona in February 1989 did not contain clauses discussing the director or filming location. Despite continued negotiations, no final agreement was ever made and Roth sued. The court ruled that Marquez's signature was necessary to make the agreement binding.



DENVER--Mother Teresa of Calcutta reaches for a child in the crowd as hundreds of the sick and injured gather around her to receive her blessings during an inter-faith prayer service here.

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# Castro won't retire at 65

WASHINGTON, Aug 11: Many Cuban exiles began packing their bags after the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe, sensing that Fidel Castro soon would be on his way out as well. "Christmas in Havana" was their rallying cry, reports AP. Miami police started making contingency plans for dealing with the chaos expected to accompany Castro's fall. A conservative lobbying group here launched a contest offering an all-expense paid trip to a "free Cuba" to whoever picked the exact date of Castro's demise. But as he passes the milestone age of 65 on Tuesday, Castro has confounded his critics by beating the odds yet again. "Isn't 65 retirement age?" asked Frank Calzon, an anti-Castro Cuban exile who is Washington director of the pro-democracy group Freedom House. Castro obviously doesn't see himself as ready for the rocking chair just yet, even though he's spent nearly half of his life

running Cuba. He has ruled the island nation since 1959. The only current world leaders who have served longer are North Korea's Kim Il Sung, who came to power in 1948, and Jordan's King Hussein, who has headed the Arab state since 1952. Castro's revolution has never been under greater pressure, but he can boast that there hasn't been a single significant challenge to his rule. A year ago, many wondered whether the revolution would survive long enough for Castro to host the Pan American Games. They have their answer: He'll spend his birthday at the festivities. Castro may at some point soon suffer the same fate that befell his friends in Eastern Europe. He continues to cling to a philosophy that has been almost universally repudiated. The Soviet Union, after a generation of unwavering support, has become an uncertain partner at best. And the impoverishment of Cuba continues un-

abated, owing partly to a precipitous drop in Cuba's foreign trade since the disappearance of the socialist bloc. Castro has never been more isolated. So how has he been able to survive all these setbacks? McGeorge Bundy, a national security adviser to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, believes Castro has a lot more going for him than other communists who lacked his staying power. "He's a genuinely extraordinary figure," Bundy said. "He's a damned good demagogue." Bundy believes Castro may be around for some time and wonders whether continued American hostility actually strengthens his political position at home instead of weakening it. Gillian Gunn, a Cuba expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, says Castro has been able to manipulate the issue of Cuban nationalism to his own advantage.



BEIJING: Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu (C) receives flowers from a youth as Chinese Premier Li Peng (R) looks on during the arrival ceremonies August 10. Kaifu is the first Japanese premier to visit China since Noboru Takeshita came here in August 1988. —AFP/UNB/photo