

# BRIEFLY

## Philippines selling volcanic ash:

The Philippines is selling bottles of volcanic ash at 10 dollars apiece to raise funds for thousands of people made homeless by Mount Pinatubo's eruption, President Corason Aquino said on Sunday, reports Reuter from Manila.

I have told (Foreign) Secretary Raul Manglapus to try if it's possible to sell all over the world these little souvenirs of Mount Pinatubo, specially where we have consulates, Aquino said in a radio broadcast.

Perhaps 10 dollars isn't asking too much.

Aquino also appealed for donations of sacks to be used to collect volcanic ash which swamped towns around the volcano.

## IRA bomb detonated by army:

Army explosives experts detonated a bomb Sunday that had been planted outside a military recruiting office in northeast England, the Ministry of Defense said, AP from London reports.

The blast rocked the heart of Preston, a town 195 miles (315 kilometers) northeast of London, and caused some structural damage to buildings. No injuries were reported.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the incident, but police said the Irish Republican Army was suspected.

The bomb was unstable and the army team decided to detonate it rather than risk an attempt to move it, a Ministry of Defense spokesman said.

The bomb was spotted by a staff member at the Royal Air Force recruiting office, he said.

The office is just a half-mile (kilometer) from Preston's main railway station where two months ago a cache of 20 incendiary devices was discovered on a platform.

## Warsaw Pact to go:

Representatives from the six remaining Warsaw Pact countries were gathering Monday to complete the disbanding of the once-powerful military alliance binding the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, says AP from Prague.

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel, ironically, will preside over the last meeting of the Warsaw Pact Political Committee. Havel was a playwright turned dissident who was jailed by the former Communist regime after the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion crushed the Prague Spring reform movement.

Comecon, the Soviet-led trade bloc, was disbanded Friday at a brief meeting in Budapest, Hungary.

Poland will be represented by its president, Lech Walesa, the former Solidarity labor union leader and Romania by President Ion Iliescu, an ex-Communist.

## 13 guerillas killed in Salvador:

Government soldiers killed at least 13 leftist guerillas after ambushing them in this small town in central El Salvador, the military and witnesses said Sunday, AP reports from Rio Frio.

A news release from the headquarters of the army's 5th Infantry Brigade in San Vicente, 38 miles (61 kilometers) east of San Salvador, said the clash took place Saturday night.

The government troops set up an ambush that trapped an estimated 30 to 40 guerillas as they marched through the town, the news release said. At least 13 guerillas were killed, and the rest fled after a firefight, it said.

Residents of the town, which is five miles (8 kilometers) east of San Vicente, at first refused to talk to reporters about the gun battle. But one witness, Pedro Mario Urias, 38, later confirmed that fighting broke out Saturday night while most of the towns people were attending prayer services.

## 3 Slovenian ministers resign:

The three Slovenian members of Yugoslavia's Federal Government resigned Sunday, Tanjug news agency said, quoting Slovenian Radio, AFP reports from Belgrade.

Deputy Prime Minister, Zivko Pregl, Transport and Communication Minister, Jozef Slokar and Information Minister, Darko Marin, resigned with the agreement of the leaders of the breakaway Republic, Tanjug said.

No reason was given for the resignations.

They came as the Yugoslav Prime Minister was in the Slovenian Capital Ljubljana for talks with Slovenian leaders prior to a meeting of the Federal Government in Belgrade on Sunday evening.

## British pilot killed:

A British pilot was killed when his bi-plane crashed during an air show on Sunday, police said, reports Reuter from London.

Peter Tredaway, 57, was giving a flying display in his pre-world war two De Havilland Rapide Aircraft when it plunged into a field in front of a crowd of 8,000 people.

His 23-year-old son Peter was among the spectators at the show in Easick in southern England.

## Appeal to oust Saddam:

An Iraqi opposition leader appealed Sunday for international help to topple Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and put him on trial for war crimes, AP from Damascus says.

The appeal was made by Baian Jabbar on the second-day of a weekend meeting in the Syrian capital of the Iraqi Opposition Committee, an umbrella group for about 20 organizations opposed to Saddam and his ruling Arab Baath Party. Jabbar is responsible for the committee's general secretariat.

He appealed to the world community to "encircle the Iraqi regime politically and economically" to help oust Saddam and bring him to trial.

The international community has maintained a boycott against Iraq that has been in place since shortly after Iraq's Aug 2 invasion of Kuwait. The United States has said the boycott should remain in force until Saddam is removed from power.

## Kashmiri rebels threaten to kill Indian executive

SRINAGAR, July 1: Kashmiri militants threatened yesterday to kill an Indian executive in 24 hours unless the government met their demands, while another militant group offered to hand an Israeli over to the United Nations, reports AFP.

In a separate development, a third group holding two kidnapped Swedish engineers said Sunday one of them, Ole Loman, was in serious condition after being shot twice in the leg in an encounter with Indian security forces.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said in a brief press release here they would hand 25-year-old Israeli tourist Yair Yitzakhi over "only" to a UN representative, but did not say when.

A JKLF representative clarified by phone that it had no demands as it did not see itself as a terrorist group, and a woman who spoke to him at a secret JKLF hideout by telephone Sunday said Mr. Yitzakhi appeared in good spirits.

There was no immediate response from the Indian government, but the Press Trust of India (PTI) said Moshe Yegar, Israeli's Assistant Director General for Asian and African Affairs left for new Delhi yesterday for talks on the case.

Yitzakhi fell into the hands of the JKLF after he and seven other Israelis fought off a rival Kashmiri Muslim secessionist group in a botched kidnapping attempt in which one other Israeli tourist died.

However, a headline group holding Indian Oil Corp. (IOC) Executive E. K. Doraiswamy, kidnapped Friday, set a 3:00 pm Monday (0930 GMT) deadline for his execution if the government did not release three of their colleagues.

The countdown for Doraiswamy's execution has begun, a caller identifying himself as a representative of the Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen, said Sunday afternoon.

He said the body of the executive, who was snatched while supervising the construction of a new gas storage depot on the outskirts of the city Friday afternoon, would be dropped at the gates of the statehouse in Srinagar.



PHILIPPINES: A cascading mudflow of volcanic debris engulfs a river of Porac June 30 after rains triggered the avalanche from Mount Pinatubo volcano. Porac town is located about 20 kilometres (12.4 miles) east of Mount Pinatubo. — AFP photo

# Saudi Arabia seizes eight Iranian planes

TEHERAN, July 1: Saudi Arabia has seized eight Iran Air planes that belonged to Kuwait and had been repainted in the colours of the Iranian national carrier, the World of Islam Newspaper reported Sunday, reports AFP.

The paper, which is close to Iranian hardliners, said the aircraft were seized at Jeddah Airport where they had been flown to repatriate Iranian pilgrims from the nearby Muslim holy city of Mecca.

The planes were "among a number of Kuwaiti aircraft put in storage in Iran by the Iraqi regime," it said.

They had been "brought into the service of the Iranian civilian fleet and repainted in the colours of the Islamic Republic", World of Islam said, quoting informed sources.

It seems the Kuwaiti government applied pressure on Saudi Arabia to return the aircraft, the paper said without specifying when they were

seized.

There was no official comment from Iran Air on the report but according to Teheran press reports, hundreds of Iranian pilgrims are stranded at Jeddah Airport because of a disruption in flights.

Iraq says it flew 148 aircraft to safety in Iran, including six Airbus planes belonging to Kuwait, during the Gulf war.

Reuter reports from Washington: The American Newspaper Publishers Association (ANPA) on Sunday urged Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney to meet leaders of the newspaper and television industry to discuss their complaint that stifling restrictions were placed on Gulf war coverage.

ANPA President Cathleen Black said in a letter to Cheney the military restrictions prevented the public from being informed about the hostilities in a timely manner.

"We believe the time is right to address the problems and to ensure that the stifling restrictions imposed on the press in the Gulf are not repeated," Black wrote.

A group of 17 leaders of the US newspaper and television industry wrote to Cheney last week asking for a meeting on new coverage plans that would be used in the event of future hostilities involving US troops.

The private Gannett Foundation has urged US media to unite for wartime access to information and prevention of wartime censorship.

Since the military supplied much of what was reported through briefing and videotapes and since television was the main source of Gulf war news for most Americans, "what Americans saw on their screens..... reflected the government's viewpoint," it said in a study released earlier this month.

# Phnom Penh govt abolished

BANGKOK, July 1: The Khmer Rouge, Cambodia's most powerful guerilla force, said today that the Phnom Penh government had been abolished following peace agreements between the country's warring factions last week, reports AFP.

With the agreements reached at talks in the Thai seaside resort of Pattaya, Cambodia's Supreme National Council (SNC) has become "the sole representative of the Cambodian state which is recognized by the United Nations and the international community," said the Khmer Rouge radio monitored here.

"That is, in all villages, communes, districts and provinces throughout Cambodia, there is no more Phnom

Penh regime nor any other administration, except the SNC headed by Samdech (Prince) Nordom Sihanouk," it said.

Prince Sihanouk, the nominal head of a guerilla coalition dominated by the Khmer Rouge, became "de facto" SNC Chief at the talks in Pattaya, where the factions also agreed that the body was to represent their war-torn country internationally and be eventually headquartered in Phnom Penh.

The Prince, Cambodia's deposed former ruler, has announced his determination to serve as "a bridge" between the Khmer Rouge and the Cambodian government.

The Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge was driven from power in Cambodia in January 1979

when Vietnam invaded its southwestern neighbour to install a friendly government in Phnom Penh.

In a separate radio commentary, the Khmer Rouge repeated its claim that there were Vietnamese forces fighting along its government troops in Cambodia.

Vietnam must "remove all its forces from Cambodia under the UN supervision and control," the radio said.

It charged that Vietnam was continuing to "endlessly ship reinforcements to Cambodia for the purpose of building up its forces."

"Moreover, there are over one million Vietnamese immigrants in Cambodia, cooperating with the Vietnamese forces in activity implementing the

# 'No democracy in country' Pakistan ravaged by vote rigging, fumes Benazir

KARACHI, Pakistan, July 1: Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, angered by a by-election result, said on Sunday that Pakistan was ravaged by vote-rigging, reports Reuter.

"The cancer of rigging is so much that the government cannot hold even one by-election by fair means," the former Prime Minister told a news conference.

She was speaking after a by-election for a Sindh Province Assembly seat on Saturday in which a prominent candidate backed by her People's Party (PPP) lost to one supported by the government.

There is no democracy in Guerillas abduct five govt officials in Assam

NEW DELHI, July 1: Separatist Guerillas abducted five government officials today in simultaneous kidnappings in different parts of the north-eastern Indian state of Assam, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, says AFP.

Four armed men of the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) seized K. Tewari, a senior officer, near his official residence as he made his way to the Secretariat in Dispur city.

The other four victims were identified as Dasarath pandit, a senior Telecommunications engineer in the town of Jorhat, M.M. Das, a Deputy Commissioner in Darrang district, and two geophysicists working for the oil and natural gas commission.

Das was abducted at Mangaldoi and the engineers, whose names were not given, from their homes in Jorhat, the agency said, adding that the government had sounded a statewide red alert.

No further details were immediately available.

the country," said Bhutto who had blamed rigging for the PPP's humiliating defeat in national election last October.

Unsuccessful PPP candidate Abdul Hafeez Pirzada said: "I have been defeated by massive rigging. But it is our moral victory. We have won the election. We have won with hands down."

He said the government sent 16,000 policemen to a small village to terrorise voters.

Another report says: Bandits have threatened to blow up four bridges across the Indus River in southern Pakistan unless a paramilitary operation against them ends, officials said Sunday.

"It is the biggest challenge to the government from the bandits in Pakistan's 44-year history," said an official in the Sindh provincial capital, Karachi.

He said bandits sent a mes-

sage to officials in Dadu in central Sindh warning: "stop the anti-dacoit operations or face our wrath."

Gangs of bandits, known locally as dacoits, are often armed with rocket launchers, assault rifles and explosives smuggled from the civil war in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Police and paramilitary rangers launched an operation backed by army helicopters and armoured vehicles against the bandits on June 11 after the release of three kidnapped Chinese engineers.

More than 50 bandits have since been killed, raising the death toll to more than 370 in the past six months, a police spokesman said. Four hundred suspects have been arrested.

In a 30-hour anti-dacoit operation near Hyderabad on Friday and Saturday, 13 people were killed, including two paramilitary police and eight bandits.

# Off the Record

## Anne caught in a bomb scare

LONDON: Princess Anne was caught in a bomb scare Sunday when a suspicious package was found aboard a jet she planned to take the Canada, where she is making an official visit, police said, reports AP.

The package was later found to contain marijuana worth 25000 pounds (dls 40,000), a Customs and Excise spokesman said.

An Air Canada staff member discovered a canvas bag hidden behind a panel in a toilet of the Boeing 767 just before it was scheduled to take off from London's Heathrow Airport for Halifax, Nova Scotia, the police spokesman said.

The passengers were evacuate, and the jet was towed to a remote area where police explosives experts examined the package. They found 45 pounds (20 kilograms) of cannabis resin, police said.

The jet had arrived from Kingston, Jamaica.

Officials would not say whether Anne, the daughter of Queen Elizabeth II, was evacuated from the plane with the other passengers. She was in a VIP lounge waiting to board the flight at one point, but officials would not say whether she had actually boarded the plane.

The flight was delayed for almost four hours, and Anne transferred to another Air Canada flight bound for Montreal, Buckingham Palace said. The princess is scheduled to attend official engagements in Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

A police spokesman said no arrests had been made in connection with the incident. An Air Canada spokesman was not available for comment.



LONDON: Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher wipes away a tear during an exclusive television interview with British channel ITN. Mrs Thatcher announced that she will not seek re-election as a Member of Parliament and will accept a seat in the largely ceremonial House of Lords, thereby ending a 32-year-old career in elected office. — AFP/UNB photo

## Di most popular in UK

LONDON: Princess Diana is the most popular member of the British royal family, according to two polls released on Monday, her 30th birthday, reports AP.

A Gallup poll conducted for Daily Telegraph, showed Diana has moved ahead of her husband, Prince Charles, in the nation's affections.

Between June 19 and 25 Gallup asked 985 adults, "Who is your favorite member of the royal family?"

Diana's popularity almost doubled since a similar poll in 1988, with 22 per cent now listing her as their favourite, up from 12 per cent.

Respondents described Diana as fashionable, caring and charming, but few people thought she was intellectual, the Telegraph said.

Charles dropped to No. 2 with 15 per cent, down six points from 1988, the Telegraph said. His sister Anne also had 15 per cent, the Queen Mother had 4 per cent, and the Queen 12 per cent.

A separate Gallup poll conducted for Legal and General insurance company surveyed 500 married women.

Almost a third nominated Diana as their favourite, and praised her as a good ambassador and mother.

## If not divorced, let's marry again

NEW YORK: Their divorce just didn't work out, so Las Vegas resort executives Steve and Elaine Wynn got married again, AP reports.

The civil ceremony took place Saturday at the Waldorf Towers, the same date and venue as their first marriage 28 years ago. Their daughters, Kevin, 24, and Gillian, 22, attended.

The Wynns were divorced five years ago but still lived together and kept a close relationship. "Steve just never got around to moving out," Mrs Wynn said.

Wynn added: "We regret to say that the divorce just didn't work out."

The couple plan a honeymoon in Italy.

Wynn is chairman of the board of Mirage Resorts Inc., which operates the Mirage and Golden Nugget hotels in Las Vegas. Mrs Wynn is a member of the board of directors.



LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia: As air-raid sirens go off at nine o'clock sharp June 30 announcing an imminent attack by the Yugoslav Air Force these Ljubljana residents prepare to go to the nearby shelter carrying blankets and radio receivers. — AFP photo