

Militants unhappy over UK official's visit to Srinagar

SRINAGAR (India) Aug 10: British Labour Party official Gerald Kaufman met Kashmiri leaders on Friday but militant groups fighting to end Indian rule said they were unhappy over his schedule, reports here.

Kaufman arrived in Srinagar but was whisked away by helicopter to the official residence of Jammu and Kashmir State Governor Girish Saxena.

Reporters at the airport were not allowed to meet Kaufman, the first western politician allowed to visit Indian-ruled Kashmir since an independence uprising began

two years ago.

Kaufman later met local leaders and representatives of Human Rights and Trade union organisations. An eight-year-old boy who was injured in a recent shooting by Indian Security Forces showed Kaufman his blood-stained clothes.

About 3,600 people have been killed in the campaign to make Kashmir independent or reunify it with Pakistan.

Kaufman is expected to visit today areas near the border with Pakistan, where some of the bloodiest battles between militants and Indian Security Forces have taken place.

Several secessionist groups expressed dismay over Kaufman's failure to visit sites where civilian demonstrators were fired on by Indian Security Forces. They said his schedule was designed to stop him seeing the huge scale of security forces deployed in Srinagar.

The state government is investigating two instances in May and June when security forces fired on funeral procession, killing dozens of people.

International Human Rights Organisations have said both the militants and the Indian Security Forces have been guilty of atrocities against civilians.

Iraq rejects UN approval of limited oil sale

NICOSIA, Aug 10: Iraqi Prime Minister Saddam Hammadi repeated Friday that his country "categorically rejected" a UN plan authorising the limited sale of Iraqi oil for humanitarian reasons, reports AFP.

"Let everybody know clearly that the Iraqi government categorically rejects this plan in its present form, whatever the current circumstances are," Hammadi said as quoted by the Iraqi news agency INA, monitored in Cyprus.

This plan does not provide the minimum capital to cover the basic needs of the Iraqi people, especially food, medi-

cal products and basic equipment, he said.

The plan harms national sovereignty and places the resources of Iraq under the control of foreigners, he said, according to INA.

What's even more serious is that this plan grants to these countries the right to distribute within Iraq the purchased products, under the false pretext that they intend to distribute them equally, Hammadi added.

Turkish forces engaged in an offensive against Kurdish rebels based in northern Iraq will withdraw "in the next few days," Turkish Prime Minister

Mesut Yilmaz said late Friday.

Turkish land forces had encircled a rebel training camp in northern Iraq and were cleaning up in the region, the semi-official Anatolia news agency quoted him as saying.

It will all be over in the next few days and then the Turkish troops will withdraw, Yilmaz said, giving no specific date.

"Our forces will leave after they have broken local resistance in this camp and taken the necessary steps, he said without elaborating.

Irwin dead

GLENWOOD SPRINGS (Colorado), Aug 10: Former astronaut James Irwin, who became a devout Christian after walking on the moon in 1971 died of an apparent heart attack. He was 61, reports AFP.

Irwin died at Valley View Hospital on Thursday night, a hospital spokeswoman said he was on a speaking tour of Christian groups in Colorado when he suffered the attack.

Irwin was the first to die of the 12 men who walked on the moon. After travelling to the moon aboard Apollo 15 in July-August, 1971 Irwin founded the non-profit High Flight Foundation, a Christian evangelist organisation based in Colorado.

He said the foundation's main goal was to share the love of Jesus Christ.

4 held for trying to smuggle arms to Yugoslavia

Four men planning to smuggle millions of dollars of sophisticated arms to Yugoslavia were captured in an undercover operation and held without bail in Miami on Friday, according to US law enforcement sources and local television, reports Reuter from Florida.

The four men, one American and three Croatians, made a down payment of an undercover agent for a 12 million dollar arms purchase, according to the sources.

Customs officials in Miami and Washington had no comment on the case, saying it was still unfolding. The initial report was aired on local television.

Soviet honeymoon in Indochina over?

MOSCOW, August 10: The Soviet Union's policy in South-East Asia had for decades been distinctly two-fold. Firstly and more importantly, practically unconditional support for Vietnam. Secondly and complementarily, search for points of contact with other countries in the region, says IAN.

As a result, the Soviet Union found itself in opposition to a powerful and rather strong coalition which shaped the Vietnamese operations in Cambodia. The coalition included China, countries of ASEAN, Japan, the United States, EEC and other countries, to say nothing of the "Cambodian resistance" forces. They believe abroad that the Soviet Union received in return the naval and air base at Cam Ranh. Anyhow, minding the tremendous military, financial and economic aid to Vietnam, as well as the diplomatic losses, the Soviet Union has paid two and even three times the price of the possible military gain.

In conditions of confrontation with the United States and strained relations with China, the arguments of the "Vietnam lobby" in Moscow appeared convincing and the ideological colouring made them irresistible. Automatic support for Vietnam's any steps in Indochina was guaranteed.

Logically, alongside im-



proved relations with China and rapprochement with ASEAN Nations, Vietnam is seeking brisker contacts with the United States and Japan. Thus, the old model of Soviet-Vietnamese relations (both actually suffered from them) becomes outmoded. Deideologisation and commercialisation are invading Soviet-Vietnamese relations. There is evidently neither opportunity, nor need for Moscow now to vie for supremacy in Indochina. The goal is to promote on a sensible basis the emergence of multilateral alignment of forces in the region.

On the hand, the US-Philippine talks on the future of the American bases shows that American military presence phasedown in the region is inevitable. It only remains for Washington and Manila to agree on its rate, scope, timeframe and conditions. In turn, the Soviet Union is numerically cutting its forces on the Eastern flank and removing part of its air units from Cam Ranh. Thus, the level of two superpowers' military confrontation, if at all, is falling.

Strengthening Soviet-US partnership towards universal peace, stability and progress, as the Moscow summit

BRRIEFLY

Italy for EC meet on refugees: Italy on Friday called for an urgent meeting of European Community interior ministers to discuss ways of preventing further waves of Albanian refugees pouring into Europe, reports Reuter from Rome.

"It's an extremely urgent problem both for Italy and all Europe and for that reason I have called for a meeting," said Interior Minister Vincenzo Scotti on state television.

Some 10,000 refugees sailed into the southeastern port of Bari on Thursday in a repeat of last March's exodus when 25,000 made the Adriatic crossing in a flotilla of small ships.

Italy has said it will send all the newcomers back and has pressed other EC countries to do more to help Albania's desperate economic plight.

Kaifu leaves for China: Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu left Tokyo Saturday for a four-day official visit to China, the first visit by a leader of the Group of Seven (G7) industrialised nations since the 1989 Tiananmen Square military crackdown, reports AFP from Tokyo.

During his stay in Beijing, Kaifu is expected to tell Chinese leaders that Japan wants to play larger role in world politics.

He is scheduled to meet Chinese Premier Li Peng Saturday afternoon shortly after his arrival in the Chinese capital. He will also meet with communist party leader Jiang Zemin and President Yang Shangkun during his stay.

Lithuanians start 48-hour sit-in: Several hundred Lithuanians set up tents outside Soviet military barracks in Vilnius on Friday, at the start of a 48-hour sit-in to demand the troops' withdrawal from the Baltic republic, reliable sources said, reports AFP from Moscow.

The action was organised by supporters of the Lithuanian independence movement Sajudis which wants the Soviet interior ministry special forces to leave the republic.

The Lithuanian Parliament, where Sajudis has a majority, voted a week ago for the pullout of the Soviet "black berets" who are suspected to be responsible for the attack on a border post last week in which seven Lithuanian police and customs officers died.

Five killed in S Africa: At least five people died and 54 were hurt late Friday when police battled white right wingers attacking blacks and trying to disrupt a meeting in Ventersdorp, where President Frederik de Klerk was to speak, police and correspondents said, reports AFP from S Africa.

Three of those killed were members of the neo-fascist Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) and the other two were black men who were attracted by a mob of right wingers.

During the violent gunbattles between police and AWB members, at least 36 right wingers and six policemen were hurt. Around 12 black people were injured when AWB members stoned their cars, police said.

Quayle visits Haiti: US Vice President Dan Quayle Friday reaffirmed Washington's supports for Haitian democracy and for this country's efforts to pull itself out of poverty through free-market economics, reports AFP from Port-Au-Prince.

Quayle stopped here for a seven-hour visit on the last stop of a tour that also took him to Venezuela, Argentina and Brazil.

He and Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide looked on as officials of their two countries signed a pair of bilateral agreements — one worth nine million dollars in technical aid to the Haitian government and another for 250,000 dollars in anti-drug assistance.

US army doctor jailed: A US-army reserve doctor was sentenced Friday to 2 and half years in prison for refusing to report for duty during the Gulf War, reports AFP from Missouri.

The doctor, captain Yolanda Huet-Vaughn, was also court-martialed and lost her army pay and allowances.

She reneged on her promises, said Captain David Harney, a prosecutor. "Her conduct is inexcusable when duty called, she deserted."

Huet-Vaughn, a 40 year old mother of three, testified that she did not report for duty as a way of calling attention to her concerns about the death and destruction of war.

Israel, USSR to restore ties: Israel and the Soviet Union will restore full diplomatic relations in one month, Israeli television reported Friday, reports AFP from Jerusalem.

The announcement of the restoration of ties at ambassador level will follow the meeting in New York between Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and his Soviet counterpart Alexandre Bessmertnykh, the television said.

The two foreign ministers are to meet on the sidelines of the United Nations general assembly annual session.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry would not immediately confirm the television report and a ministry spokesman would only say that such a meeting would take place as it does every year.

The Soviet Union broke ties with Israel after the Arab-Israeli war of June 1967.

Shapur killed while receiving three Iranian visitors

SURRESNES (France), Aug 10: An autopsy on the body of former Iranian Premier Shapur Bakhtiar shows that he was probably killed while receiving three Iranian visitors on Tuesday, reliable sources said Friday, reports AFP.

Three men, who spent several hours with the premier, left his home in this western Paris at 6.00 PM (1800 GMT).

One of the Iranians knew Bakhtiar well. He was identified as Farouq Doyar Ahmadi, a resident of Reims in northern France, and not Vakili Rad, as sources had earlier said.

Rad was one of the two other visitors and held a passport with a French entry visa dating from late July.

The third man who entered Bakhtiar's guarded village at Surrenes in Paris suburbs presented identity papers with the name Azadi Mohammad, the sources said.

The official said one of the three men had won the trust of Bakhtiar's son, who decided which visitors should be allowed into the house, and the 76-year-old former premier had been expecting their visit.

The official said the killers probably used knives from the kitchen to murder Bakhtiar and Katibeh as they had been searched before entering.

Police guarding the house round the clock did not notice anything wrong when they left.

provement of relations with China and rapprochement with ASEAN Nations, Vietnam is seeking brisker contacts with the United States and Japan. Thus, the old model of Soviet-Vietnamese relations (both actually suffered from them) becomes outmoded. Deideologisation and commercialisation are invading Soviet-Vietnamese relations. There is evidently neither opportunity, nor need for Moscow now to vie for supremacy in Indochina. The goal is to promote on a sensible basis the emergence of multilateral alignment of forces in the region.

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We are now in Brussels," he said in a call to an international news agency in Paris. He also said more killings were being planned.

Former Iranian President Abol Hassan Bani Sadr, another prominent Iranian exile in Paris, has said he believed an Iranian hit squad was in Paris and he felt under threat.

French President Francois Mitterrand, who is due to visit Teheran in October, voiced shock at the killing.

"Everything will be done to find out the truth," he said.

Reuter from Paris adds: French police investigating the murder of Shapur Bakhtiar and his Secretary are looking for a farmer who once looked after his land in Iran, police sources said today.

They suspect the farmer, who had won Bakhtiar's trust, may have acted as a "Trojan Horse" by introducing Bakhtiar to the men who knifed him at his Paris home on Tuesday evening.

Bakhtiar was the last prime minister of Iran before the Shah was swept from power in the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The sources said the 30-year-old farmer had been living in Reims, eastern France, since 1984. His landlady told police who searched his rooms that she had not seen him for several days.

Investigators are also looking for two other Iranians who flew into France from Tehran in July.



BARI (Italy): Exhausted refugees lie on the ground as thousands of Albanians have been given refuge for the night in the Bari football stadium. Reports indicate that some 11,000 desperate Albanians reached the Italian coast by August 8.

McCarthy was deprived of sunlight, proper food for 5 yrs

LYNEHAM, England, Aug 10: Released British hostage John McCarthy is in "excellent shape" after his five and a quarter years in captivity in Beirut, an RAF doctor said Friday, reports AFP.

He spent two hours assessing him physically doing the appropriate blood tests. And my assessment is that he is physically in excellent shape," Group Captain Fredson Amrolowalia said.

The 34-year-old television journalist suffers from "tummy and a few of the things you would expect in somebody who has been deprived of sunlight for five years, fresh air, proper food," Amrolowalia said.

But a few days of good food, rest and loving care and attention and we expect the physical side of his recovery to be quick, he said.

On the psychiatric side, he

added: "on first glance it appears to be very encouraging."

McCarthy, who is to meet the UN Secretary General the American captives tried to escape. Amrolowalia said.

The incident happened some time ago and no long-term effects were experienced, he said.

In the early days of his captivity, breakfast was a monotonous regime of pitta bread and processed cheese. Lunch, McCarthy said, was rice and curried garbage. Supper was more pitta bread and cheese.

However, clean water was always available and in the final year of captivity, slabs and plenty of fruit improved the quality of meals.

Amrolowalia said McCarthy told how the first time the prisoners were given a bowl Javier Perez de Cuellar on Sunday to hand him a letter from his former captors, has made no public statement since his arrival from Damascus late Thursday.

But he told the medical team treating him that he and the hostages he was with were beaten when one of cherries, it was "the first touch of colour they saw in the black and grey" world they had lived in for more than four years.

They looked at them for the best part of a day before consuming them, he said.

Earlier, McCarthy's friend Jill Morrell spoke of her joy at the "overwhelming moment" of seeing him again but said talk of their future together was too soon.

"He wants to see his friends, he desperately wants to be in touch with all of them, but he has to take it slowly," said Morrell, who spearheaded the friends of John McCarthy group which campaigned for his release.



UN Secretary General the American captives tried

Off the Record

A case of shoplifting every five seconds

BONN: According to the Cologne-based association there is a case of shoplifting somewhere in Germany every five seconds, says German Tribune.

More than 370,000 cases in the old federal states were reported to the police in 1989. The trade estimates that the loss amounts to between DM 2.5bn and DM3bn annually. This is about one half per cent of turnover.

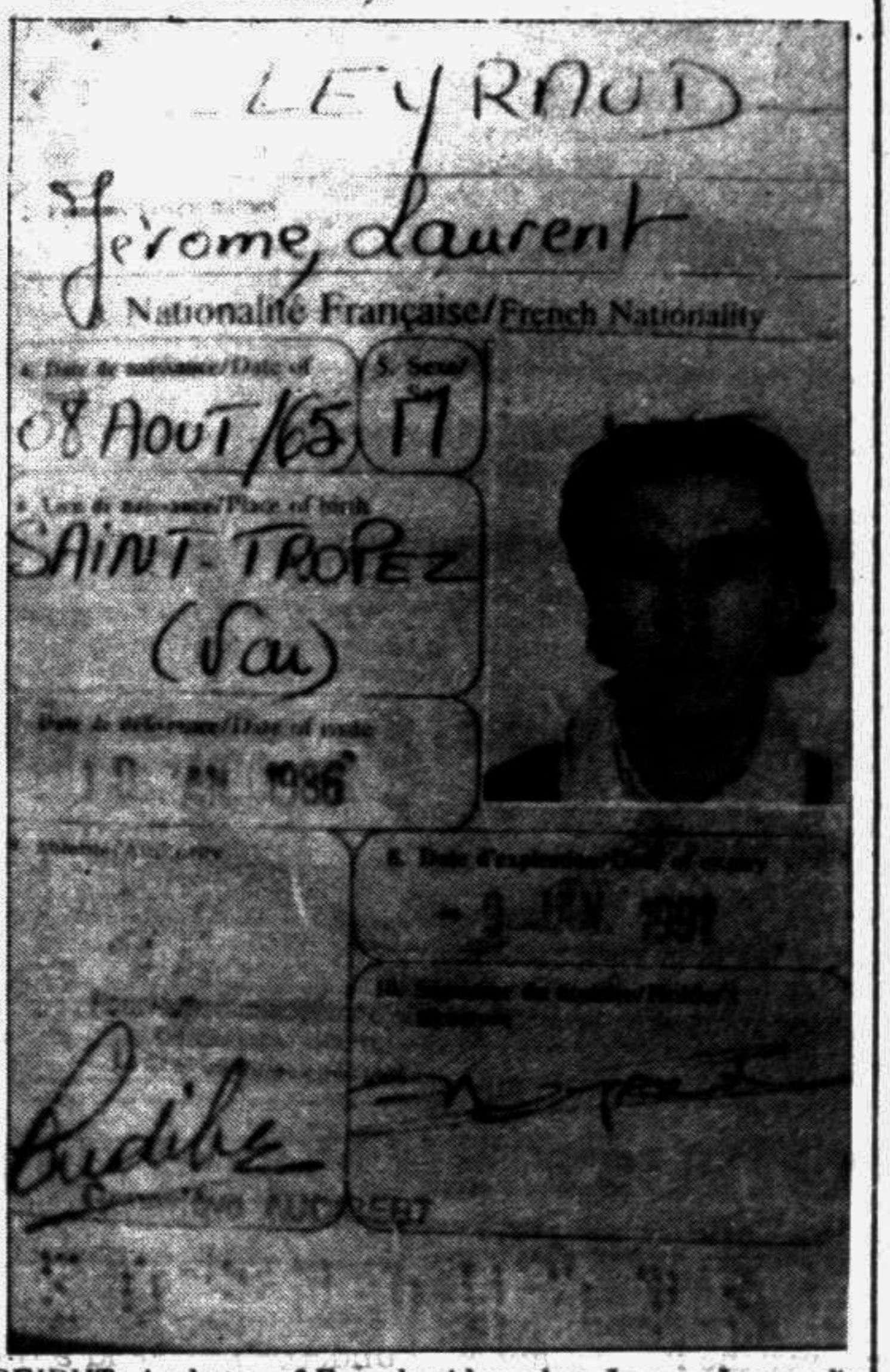
But this loss is not reflected in profits: It is covered in the price of goods and in this way made a "social matter" for everyone pays for the thefts.

This also applies to the expensive security equipment which owners of supermarkets and department stores and the security industry have thought up.

But despite all the expenditure shoplifting is on the increase. Nationwide the increase is estimated at ten per cent. This is also the consequence of the activities of organised gangs, who go out shoplifting to order.

Hubertus Tesser said: "Twenty per cent of all shoplifting cases are done by gangs."

This drives many sales people to go along with the "drastic action" taken by their store detectives. As one salesman put it: "You can't make an omelette without breaking eggs." But the police, consumer protection agencies, experts in matters involving shoplifting and private detective agencies do not see things quite so dramatically.



BEIRUT: A photo of French aid worker Jerome Leyraud's passport August 9 which was found in his car after his kidnapping in West Beirut, shows that he was taken on his 26th birthday by the Organisation for the Defence of Prisoners' Rights.

Chinese peasants raid 2,000-yr old tombs

BEIJING: Local villagers stole dozens of artifacts from 2,000-year-old tombs in northwest China before a dispute over dividing the spoils brought the raids to police attention, a report said Friday, says AP.

Police have recovered 129 of the artifacts stolen from the Han Dynasty tombs near present-day Zhangqichang in the Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, the official China Daily newspaper said. The area is about 880 kilometers (550 miles) west of Beijing.

It said the stolen objects included ceramics and pieces of copperware. It gave no estimate of their value.

The Han Dynasty ruled from 206 B.C. to 24 A.D. The tombs were located at the site of a former Han city, the reports said.

It said at least 27 villagers joined in 11 raids on the tombs before some of them, disappointed over their share of the spoils, went to police.

Grave-robbing is a major problem for Chinese archaeologists, who say many sites are plundered before they can be studied. Hong Kong is a major market for smuggled Chinese artifacts.

And now quiet cars!

BONN: The day is ever coming closer when the car of the future, exhaust-free and silent, may well plug in to tank up. In Bonn recently, Heinz Riesenhuber tried out an electric automobile which can drive up to 200 kilometers without a battery recharge, reports INF.

Thanks to a powerful battery, which can be filled up in a couple of hours by tapping into the favorable rates of so-called "night power," the electric car has become a viable option for in-town or short-distance travel. Mass production of the new battery is scheduled to begin in 1995. Funding support to develop the sodiumsulphur battery was provided by the Research Ministry. A conventional lead battery with comparable performance would have to be four times as heavy and twice as bulky to achieve the same level of performance.

The new electric vehicle, with Volkswagen and BMW unveiling models in Bonn, is chock full of electronics and high technology. Work is continuing on extending the battery's lifespan. Top vehicle speeds currently come to about 120 kilometers per hour (ca. 75 mph). (Na).

Sharif, Rao talk bilateral issues

ISLAMABAD, Aug 10: Pakistan and India will try to improve troubled relations during high-level talks in New Delhi next week, a government spokesman said Saturday, reports AP.

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Shahryar M. Khan, the No. 2 man in the Foreign Ministry, will meet his Indian counterpart, Muchkund Dubey, on August 19, the spokesman, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, told a news conference.

The issues which are expected to come up at the New Delhi talks include the dispute over Jammu and Kashmir and the nuclear question," Ahmed said.

"Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has twice or thrice talked on the telephone to his Indian counterpart VP Narasimha Rao in the last one week to solve the outstanding issues," Ahmed said. "The two prime ministers are keen to get ahead in solving these longstanding problems, and to put their two countries on the path to peace and prosperity."

Pakistan's Islamic conservative government also ratified two outstanding agreements with India, said Ahmed. One agreement promises advance warning of military exercises, troop movement and prohibits military maneuvers within five kilometers (three miles) of the border.

The other agreement promises each country will respect the other's airspace.