

**BRIEFLY**

**Iraq urges UN to lift embargo :**

Iraq Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz called for a lifting of the UN embargo against his country after talks with UN officials Tuesday, reports AFP from United Nations. He said he had constructive talks with the current President of the Security Council, Venezuelan Ambassador Diego Arria, and said he planned to put to the Security Council Wednesday Iraq's case that it had already fulfilled its obligations under UN resolutions. He said he was ready to ask the Security Council to respond by lifting sanctions against his country. The embargo was voted by the Security Council in August 1990 after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and has not been lifted since the end of the Gulf War because the council says Iraq has not fulfilled its side of the ceasefire conditions.

**Storms kill six in US :**

Powerful storms and tornadoes swept through the South-central United States Tuesday, killing six people and causing widespread damage, reports AP from Washington. The hardest hit areas were in Mississippi and Alabama, but the region affected by the storms included Texas, Arkansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming. Three women were killed and 42 people injured in Zero, Mississippi, when a tornado touched down in this small town near meridian. Four of the injured were listed in critical condition. In Hale county, Alabama, a child and an elderly woman were killed in the storms and a local hospital said nine people were treated for injuries. Another man was killed when his car crashed into a downed tree.

**Turkish air attack on Kurdish camp:**

Turkey launched air raids into northern Iraq for the second day in a row on Tuesday, hoping to blunt a predicted spring offensive by Kurdish separatists, reports Reuter from Ankara. Turkish commanders expect a round of guerrilla attacks around March 21, the Kurdish New Year. A military statement issued in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir said Tuesday's raid hit a Kurdish workers party (PAKK) camp of 13 tents nine km (six miles) inside Iraq. The camp was destroyed, it said, adding that no civilian habitations had been targeted. Turkish aircraft attacked two other PAKK camps in northern Iraq on Monday.

**US forces to leave Subic by Dec :**

The Pentagon will withdraw 5,900 military men and women and their families from Subic Bay naval base in the Philippines in a series of steps by December 1992, officials announced Tuesday, reports AP from Washington. Major phases of the plan include closing Department of Defense schools in June and transfer of most of the 3,900 family members over the summer. The next step includes relocation of a fleet logistics support squadron to Guam in August and closing a ship repair facility in September. Formal transfer of the base will take place in December, as requested by the Philippine government, a statement said.

**Atlantis to be launched Mar 23:**

A launch date of March 23 been scheduled for the next space shuttle mission, on which the crew of Atlantis is to conduct atmospheric research, NASA said Tuesday, reports AP from Cape Canaveral. The launch of the second shuttle flight of the year was set for 8:01 am (1301 GMT). Seven astronauts, including the first Belgian to fly in space, will spend eight days in orbit. Scientific instruments in the ship's cargo bay will examine regions of the Earth's atmosphere ranging from six miles (9.6 km) to more than 150 miles (250 kms) above the surface. Other instruments will measure solar energy and study celestial sources of ultraviolet radiation. Atlantis will be turned frequently in orbit — about 180 maneuvers are planned — to aim the instruments.

**Sikhs kill 17 Hindu workers:**

Sikh militants shot and killed 17 Hindu workers at a government-owned cotton spinning mill in Punjab, police said Wednesday, reports AP from Chandigarh. It was first major Sikh attack since a controversial election last month brought Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's Congress party to office in the state government. A police officer said seven militants raided the factory in the village of Ghabadan in Sangrur district late Tuesday night. The militants lined up the labourers and made them raise their hands and shot them from pointblank range, said the officer, Roshan Lal, quoting survivors. Fourteen people died immediately and three succumbed to their injuries in hospital.



**JHAPA, Nepal** - A mother and child, refugee from Bhutan of Nepalese origin, live in destitute conditions in the Jhapa district, 390km east of Kathmandu. The Nepalese govt said that more than 20,000 refugees had arrived. — AFP/UNB photo

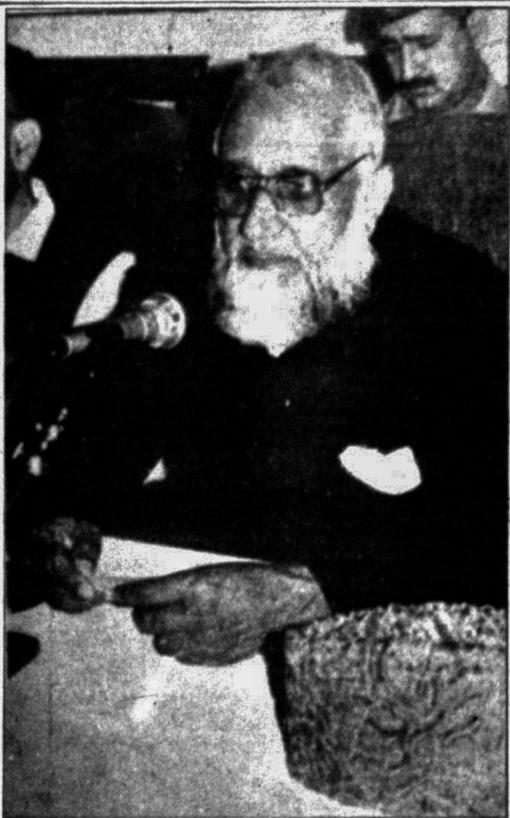
**India ready to sit with US to halt N-arms proliferation**

WASHINGTON, Mar 11: A top Indian foreign policy official said Tuesday his government has offered to talk with the United States on halting the spread of nuclear weapons, reports AP. "I have indicated to the government of the United States that we are ready to enter into a substantial dialogue to be responsive to its concerns on non-proliferation," said Foreign Secretary JN Dixit.

He met Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and other State Department officials Monday. He said his proposal for talks was accepted. The State Department said it would comment later. Dixit told disarmament and nuclear experts, journalists and congressional staff members that India continues to reject signing the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty because it discriminates in favour of advanced nuclear weapons powers and against those with less atomic prowess.

"We are serious about non-proliferation," he added, "and we have indicated to the government of the United States that in the context of our evolving trust in each other we would like to discuss these matters bilaterally and see if something can be achieved." Dixit is the senior career official under India's minister of external affairs. He is spending four days in Washington seeing leaders of President Bush's administration and members of Congress on foreign policy, trade and military matters. He predicted that defence cooperation between the United States and India would centre less on hardware and technology and more on ideas about training, education and strategy. Dixit's appointments included a meeting with Defence Undersecretary Paul Wolfowitz, identified in a published report as the official who supervised drafting a new Pentagon strategy to uphold the US role as the sole superpower of the

post-Soviet era. "I think the US is not adverse to multipolarity, and would like the new world order to be pluralistic and multipolar, without international stewards," Dixit commented. He indicated that US-Indian nuclear talks could help prepare five-power meetings proposed by Pakistan last year on regional nuclear control. They would include the United States and probably Russia as well as China, India, Pakistan and North Korea. "We would like to know more about what this conference is supposed to achieve... the terms of reference," he said.



**KARACHI**— Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan, Prime Minister of Pak administrated Kashmir, addressing a press conference on March 10 here. Qayyum said that only the United States in a position to play a mediatory role in resolving the Kashmir issue between Pakistan and India. — AFP/UNB photo

**Shevardnadze made chairman of Georgia's top state body**

MOSCOW, Mar 11: Former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze was appointed the chairman of a new top state body in the former Soviet republic of Georgia, according to a decree read on Georgian radio reports Reuter. Shevardnadze, who returned to his native Georgia last week after seven years in Moscow, is to head the state council, vested with executive and legislative power in the aftermath of a month-long civil war.

Local journalists said the decree was issued by Georgia's military council, which has ruled since the removal in January of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia. It named lost Joseliani, one of the top military commanders who led the rebellion against Gamsakhurdia, as Shevardnadze's deputy on the new state council. Also included since Gamsakhurdia's overthrow, and Tengiz Kitovani, head of Georgia's national guard. Members of the country's various minority groups, at odds with Tbilist during Gamsakhurdia's tenure, were also included.

Shevardnadze, who was Georgia's communist party chief for 13 years, spent much of the weekend in talks with Georgian leaders to map out the future of the Transcaucasian state. His nomination caused little surprise in Tbilist, where it was seen as the planned culmination of talks he began holding in Moscow in January with top Georgian figures. He has said he will probably run for a seat in the Georgian parliament.

**Indonesian warships turn back Portuguese 'peace boat'**

LISBON, Mar 11: A Portuguese peace boatsailing to east Timor to protest against a massacre of civilians last year turned back on Tuesday after Indonesian frigates ordered it to leave Timorese waters, Portuguese reporters on board said, reports Reuter. You are entering Indonesian waters. Please leave, one of the frigates told the ferry Lusitania Expresso by radio. The ferry stopped in sight of east Timor then turned around and headed for Darwin. Wreaths meant for the cemetery in the Timorese capital, Dili, where the massacre took place, were cast into the ocean. Portugal radio said an Indonesian navy helicopter hovered above the ferry flaming the passengers on deck.

The confrontation ended weeks of speculation that Indonesian warships might board the ferry and imprison its passengers. The ferry captain said when he left Lisbon in January that he would not risk the lives of his passengers. On board the Lusitania Expresso, which sailed from Darwin on Monday, were 120 journalists students and personalities from around the world including Portuguese former President General Antonio Ramalho Eanes. The peace mission wanted to land in Dili and lay flowers in Santa Cruz cemetery where Indonesian troops killed 50 to 180 people at the burial of an independence activist on November 12. The ferry's voyage infuriated Jakarta which threatened to open fire if its forces were at-

**Lisbon condemns Indonesia**

LISBON, Mar 11: Lisbon condemned Indonesia today for sending warships to turn back a Portuguese 'peace boat' bound for the former colony of East Timor to protest at a massacre of civilians by troops last November, reports Reuter. The international community must condemn Indonesia's attitude for using force to block the passage of a peaceful ship carrying unarmed civilians of various nationalities a foreign ministry statement said. The ferry Lusitania Expresso was ordered to turn back by an Indonesian frigate when it was in sight of the East Timor coast. On board were journalists, students and personalities from around the world including former Portuguese President General Antonio Ramalho Eanes.

Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro said in Brussels earlier on Tuesday that the peace mission was an 'extraordinarily generous and courageous decision.'

**Tibetans hurl petrol bomb at Chinese embassy in Delhi**

NEW DELHI, Mar 11: Tibetan refugees hurled petrol bombs at the Chinese embassy Wednesday, but Indian police beat them back and threw a security cordon around the walled compound. The attack came on the 33rd anniversary of an abortive uprising against Chinese rule of Tibet the Himalayan region that covers one-fourth of the map of China. In a statement published Wednesday, the Dalai Lama, the spiritual leader of Tibetan Buddhists, also warned China that its Tibet policy was pushing itself to the brink of a bloody political struggle. Police and witnesses said nine Tibetans drove up to the embassy in two cars and rushed the iron gate, throwing at least 22 petrol bombs. The gate was in fire, but since it is made of iron, the blaze did not spread, said a police officer. "We wanted to burn the embassy and the Chinese inside, but they were saved by police," said Rither Choegyl, a Tibetan who led the attack. Worried Chinese diplomats came out of the embassy in the diplomatic district of New Delhi and repeatedly asked police for more protection. Some diplomats tried to

**Tigers kill 8 Lankan troops**

COLOMBO, (Sri Lanka) Mar 11: Tamil Tiger rebels shot and killed 8 Sinhalese soldiers in northern Sri Lanka and lost one of their comrades Wednesday, military officials said, reports AP. Seven soldiers were also injured when the rebels attacked army bunkers at Wettlakerni, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity. On Thursday, the rebels, campaigning for an independent Tamil homeland, ambushed and killed 17 soldiers near the same army camp. More than 8000 people have been killed since June 1990 when the rebels resumed their campaign to carve out the homeland. Tamils make up 18 per cent of the country's population of 17 million people.

**West launches \$ 60m programme to employ ex-Soviet N-experts**

BRUSSELS, Mar 11: The West today launches a 60 million dollar programme to employ former Soviet nuclear scientists and stop them from selling their deadly know-how to the Third World, reports Reuter. US Secretary of State James Baker, Portuguese Foreign Minister Joao de Deus Pinheiro for the European Community and Japanese and Canadian envoys will open two days of debate by experts on how to create an International Science and Technology Centre (ISTC) somewhere in the former Soviet republics. Diplomats say the European Community will match Washington's pledge of 25 million dollar to enable the ISTC

to pay scientists to work there. Japan is expected to contribute 10 million dollar and Canada one million. The Western drive to prevent possible purchases or recruitment by Third World would be nuclear powers has taken on greater urgency after the arrest of two former Soviet citizens who tried to sell black-market uranium in Germany and following news reports that nuclear warheads had gone missing in Russia.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kosyrev, grilled by his German colleague Hans-Dietrich Genscher on the reports of missing warheads, gave a cautious denial yesterday.

**UN peace-keepers start arriving in Cambodia**

PHNOM PENH (Cambodia), Mar 11: The first contingent of United Nations troops arrived in Cambodia on Wednesday to begin the largest and costliest UN peacekeeping mission ever reports AP. The contingent of 250 Indonesian soldiers, which docked at the southern port city of Kompong Som, is the first of 22,000 UN troops and officials scheduled to pour into Cambodia in coming months, said Takahashi Kawakami, a senior UN official in Phnom Penh.

The soldiers are attached to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, which is directing the 1.9 billion mission of rebuilding the country after the devastation of a 13-year civil war. The four warring factions signed a UN-brokered peace accord in October. The transitional authority's director, Yasushi Akashi, will arrive Sunday to oversee the task of demobilizing more than 250,000 Cambodian soldiers, repatriating more than 350,000 refugees from Thailand, clearing thousands of land mines, rebuilding a shattered infrastructure and helping run the country until UN-conducted national elections in 1993. The authority will work with the Supreme National Council, a national reconciliation body composed of the four Cambodian factions.

**Sudan frees 5 Red Cross workers**

KHARTOUM, Mar 11: The Sudanese government has freed five Red Cross workers who fell into army hands when the town where they were working was captured from Southern rebels, reports Reuter. A foreign ministry statement said the five — three Kenyans, a Swiss woman and an Irish woman — had entered the country illegally but were released on Tuesday out of respect for the humanitarian work of the red cross.

**Off the Record**

**Albee exposed genital gently?**

MIAMI: Playwright Edward Albee pleaded innocent to a charge of indecent exposure after two police officers said they spotted him sitting naked on a beach frequented by nude sunbathers, AP says. Albee was not present at the hearing Monday, but his lawyer, Rhea P Grossman, asked Dade County Judge Calvin Mapp to dismiss the case without trial. She cited Florida Supreme Court and other appeals court decisions that genital exposure was not against the law unless done in a vulgar or indecent way. No ruling was made immediately. Two police officers patrolling Crandon Park beach in Key Biscayne on Jan 19 found Albee sitting alone on the secluded, narrow beach, which is surrounded by mangrove woods and technically off-limits to the public, police said in a report. Albee, who won a Tony Award for 'Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?' and two Pulitzer Prizes for other plays, was charged with exposure of sexual organs, a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a 1,000 dollar fine.

**Julie Christie shocked by restraints in West Bank**

JERUSALEM: British Actress Julie Christie said Tuesday that she was shocked by the restraints under which Palestinians live in the occupied West Bank, AP reports. "A whole people are under control and reduced to the same as children," she told reporters after a week long tour, which was sponsored by a Palestinian university. Christie, 51, said it was her first visit to the West Bank and added: "People have to ask permission for everything. It is the scope and immensity of it that I hadn't expected." Christie, who won an Academy Award for the film 'Darling,' was one of 10 British performers on the tour sponsored by Birzeit University, which has been closed by Israel for most of the four-year Palestinian uprising. The tour included visits to refugee camps and meetings with students and faculty.

**Saxe, Little & videotape**

LAS VEGAS: Comedian Rich Little is seeking to dismiss a lawsuit filed by his former lover, magician Melinda Saxe, AP says. Saxe, 28, who performs on the Las Vegas Strip as 'The First Lady of Magic,' filed suit against Little in December for allegedly making a secret videotape of them having sex in a room at a Las Vegas resort in 1988. In a motion filed Monday in US District Court, Little's attorney said Saxe took the videotape from Little and gave it to her mother for safekeeping. If she wants the tape back, all she has to do is ask her mother for it, attorney Thea Marie Sankiewicz said. Little and Saxe were engaged until she broke off the relationship last year. She is suing him on charges of invasion of privacy and international infliction of emotional distress. Little, 53, contends the videotape was not public knowledge until Saxe revealed its existence on the television tabloid show 'Hard Copy' in December. He said Saxe raised the issue to further her career.

**She becomes mom 12 hours after roof collapse**

MILLVALE, Pa.: A woman who was hurt when the roof of a bank collapsed, gave birth to a healthy boy less than 12 hours later, reports AP. "I guess the shock kind of woke the baby up and he said, 'It's my time,' said Alex P Kline Sr, the father. He said his wife, Ellen, and the baby, Alex Jr, were doing well. Police in the Pittsburgh suburb of Millvale said the Monday morning collapse was caused by rainwater that accumulated during the weekend. Ceiling beams, insulation and other debris fell onto the employees and customers. All of the injured were treated at hospitals and released, except Mrs Kline, who remained at the hospital and gave birth late in the day.

**US, EC talk recognition of breakaway Y'slav republics**

BRUSSELS (Belgium), Mar 11: The United States on Tuesday promised to quickly recognize Slovenia and Croatia as independent nations but will hold off recognizing other breakaway Yugoslav republics, reports AP. A joint US-European Community statement also said the EC and the United States will "coordinate their approach to Serbia and Montenegro which have expressed the wish to form a common state." US Secretary of State James A Baker III requested Tuesday's meeting with EC foreign ministers and indica-

tions from US officials that the United States was re-assessing its policy on recognizing the republics. In the joint statement issued after the meeting, Baker said "the United States will give rapid and positive consideration to the requests for recognition by Croatia and Slovenia." The statement did not give a specific deadline for recognition. The statement said the EC and United States also agreed to give "positive consideration" to the requests for recognition of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Macedonia, but no date was set for such action. Officials said the EC and United States will discuss that issue again in early April. The 12 EC nations already have recognized Slovenia and Croatia, and recognition by the United States would cement their standing in the international community and could give them access to more international aid. The EC is considering lifting sanctions against Serbia to reward it for cooperating with the EC-sponsored peace conference and for agreeing to the deployment for U N peace-

keeping forces. EC officials said the arrival Sunday in Belgrade of the military commanders of a 14,400-member U N peacekeeping force for Croatia had prompted the United States to move toward recognition. An advance peacekeeping team of 20 Swedes flew to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina, on Tuesday to take up positions there, the Belgrade-based Tanjug news agency said. Sarajevo will be the mission's headquarters. A dozen Norwegians were deployed in Belgrade, and the Yugoslav federal capital, and a

third group, led by Kenyan Brig Gen Arab Rob reached Knin, the heart of Serb resistance against Croatian independence, Tanjug said. The bulk of the force is to be deployed starting next week. A shaky cease-fire has been in force since early January in Croatia, where thousands have died in fighting between Serbs and Croats since the republic declared independence along with Slovenia in June. Under a U N peace plan, the Yugoslav army with its Serbian commanders and the Croatian national guard are to withdraw from contested areas of Croatia. While the Bush administration held back, Germany led Europe in recognizing Slovenia and Croatia — hastening the breakup of Yugoslavia. Serbs, Croats and Slavic Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina moved closer to an agreement on an independent state Monday, but on Tuesday expressed dissatisfaction with an EC plan for a confederated state that would give each ethnic group veto power.