BRIFFIY

Gorbachev fears dictatorship: Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Tuesday he feared a return to dictatorship in Russia if social upheavals brought the country's reforms to a halt, reports AFP from Jerusalem.

"The growing discontent is most likely to bring about a social explosion," he told Israeli Radio.

"The people are still holding out, with their last strength. but if it happens, it will be the end of the reforms and perhaps the re-establishment of dictatorship," he warned.

Gorbachev arrived in Israel on Sunday for a four-day stay On Tuesday, he visited the Vulcani Institute of Agricultural Research near Tel Aviv where the was presented with a new type of potato, named "Mikhail" in his honour.

Teenage drifter held in NY: Police arrested a teenage drifter and were questioning a second person Tuesday following a series of 11 hotel fires that rattled nerves in the tourist industry in New York, reports AFP from NY.

Raymond Dunford, 17, was arrested in connection with six fires at five hotels. He is from Philadelphia, unemployed and has no known address, said police spokeswoman Suzanne Trazoff.

No motive has been established. A guest and a firefighter suffered minor injuries in the latest fire Monday at a marriott hotel. No injuries were reported in the other ten suspicious

Still, the string of fires has worried the tourist industry. A trade council representing 25,000 hotel workers offered a 5,000 dollar reward for information leading to an arrest and conviction.

Dalai Lama in Chile: Tibet's extled spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, arrived in Chile on Tuesday bearing a message of goodwill and hope, reports Reuter from Santiago.

"My visit is cultural and spiritual," the Dalai Lama told people who received him at Santiago's Airport at the start of his four-day visit to Chile.

Reporters complained at the event's lack of organisation and also of the preferential treatment given to a television station which was allowed to talk to the Dalai Lama while other press was not

Miguel Serrano, leader of Chile's Nazi Party, managed to give the Dalai Lama a hearty handshake before being spirited away by the Dalai Lama's security personnel.

France changes constitution: The French Senate on Wednesday approved constitutional changes to bring France into line with the Maastricht Treaty of European Political and Monetary Union, the Speaker announced, reports Reuter from Paris.

The upper house voted 192-117 to adopt the changes after the government accepted a compromise watering down the wording of a provision allowing European Community citizens resident in France to vote in local elections.

The bill returns to the National Assembly for a second reading on Thursday and must then be approved by a threefifths majority of a congress of both houses later this month.

6 killed in Filipino violence: stx people have been killed in one explosion and two separate attacks by communist guerillas and criminals in southern

Philippines, officials said June 17, reports AFP from Philippines. A four-year-old boy was killed Tuesday and 10 were wounded when a homemade bomb exploded in Polloc port in

Maguindanao province, survivors said. Unidentified people booby-trapped a port gate. The bomb was set off by one of the victims who tripped on a wire at-

tached to the device, police said. In Kidapawan town near here, two paramilitary men were

killed Tuesday when communist New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas ambushed them and took their rifles, a village offi-

Canada will tighten immigration laws

those who would leave the

doors wide open," Bernard

Valcourt, Minister of

Employment and Immigration.

The conservative govern

ment proposed revamping the

1976 immigration act to favour

immediate relatives of people

already in Canada and in-

also call for fingerprinting and

photographing refugees to stop

criminals and other unwanted

immigrants from entering the

country. In addition they would

broaden authority to remove

The proposals made to par-

liament are meant to end an

enormous backlog of appli-

cants and improve manage-

ment of a flow of immigrants

that has trebled since 1984 to

an expected 250,000 people

this year, according to gov-

About 1 million people ap-

ply every year to live in

Canada, the country with the

highest quality of life in the

world, according to a recent

United Nations survey. A pro-

longed recession, however, has

brought calls from right-wing

groups to stem the flood of

immigrants and protect

give priority to the spouses

and children of existing immi-

grants, refugees defined as

such by the Geneva Convention

and investors who can con-

tribute to Canada's economic

Valcour's proposals would

The proposed amendments

told a news conference.

vestors, among others.

rejected claimants.

ernment statistics.

Canadian jobs.

growth.

OTTAWA, June 17: Canada moved on Tuesday to tighten its generous immigration laws by proposing stricter screening of applicants and tougher powers to deport unwanted people, reports Reuter.

The changes we have proposed will not appeal to those who would close doors to all newcomers, nor appeal to

Call to oust Myanmar rulers

SYDNEY, June 17: A leading Australian judge called on western states today to overthrow Myanmars rulers who had turned the country into what he described as "a mass poverty-stricken concentration camp," reports AFP.

In a report of an investigation of three Asian refugee trouble spots, judge Marcus Einfeld said 'there should be widespread outrage' at what is now happening in what was once the free and rich country of Myanmar.

He was commissioned to undertake the investigation on behalf of the Australian refugee aid organisation Austrare and the Australian branch of the International Commission of

Like Cambodia's Pol Pot he said Myanmar leader Ne Win and his cohorts have turned Myanmar into a backwater hell and disguised it all as a pan-

tomime of charming touristic folklore. If the world had done to Myanmar even a fraction of what it had done to South Africa the Yangon government

would not have been able to hold on, Einfeld said. Instead, the world has taken refugee in the withholding of officials aid while allowing the private sector to hone in on the opportunities thrown up by the desperate plight of a

regime whose priority is the repression and vandalising of peaceable and kind human be-

The active intervention of western and Asian countries would be needed to overthrow the regime which Einfeld charged was largely armed and supplied by China and financed by the drug trade, by democratic countries.

France wants task force with Russians, Egyptians

Sarajevo under heavy attack

PECHE-RASCAS. France tect Sarajevo Airports, reports Reuter.

"The goal is to avoid a genocide of the people of Sarajevo." Joxe told reporters attending a military exercise in southern France.

formed at the request of UN Secretary-General Boutros

The UN Security Council was due to meet shortly to discuss plans for a peace-keeping force in Sarajevo, where sporadic shooting broke a shaky cease-fire on Tuesday.

Joke said French the unit could be the size of a battalion.

have to fight Serb militiamen be sieging Sarajevo, Joxe said the idea was to negotiate.

France already has about 1,000 soldiers with the UN force in former Yugoslavia, most of them in Croatia.

Buoyed by the cease-fire. UN representatives negotiated on Tuesday to have Serb forces relinquish Sarajevo airport to

bombarded Sarajevo with tank and heavy-machine gun fire early Wednesday, shattering their cease-fire with Bosnian

throughout the city center at about 5 am (0300 gml). At least five buildings were set

ablaze, said Rasim Borcak, a

Serb gunners also opened fire from tanks near the city's airport. Serb fighters have kept the airport closed for the past 2 1/2 months, preventing relief flights from bringing

food to desperate residents. A United Nations convoy set out from Belgrade on Tuesday with 60 observers to look into the possibility of reopening the airport, but they had yet to arrive Wednesday morning.

The United Nations signed an agreement with Serb leaders almost two weeks ago to reopening the airport.

At least three Sarajevo suburbs were also under attack Milorad Filonija ari official of Bosnia's descrice force, said on Sarajevo radio.

The fighting shattered a

cease-fire between Serbs and Bosnian militiamen that was supposed to take force early

The shelling abated at around 8.30 am (0630 gmt) and residents attack ventured out to scrounge for food, but found little at the city market Stalls offered dandelton and nettle leaves, with one vendor touting re-dishes.

Trash that has piled up in city streets during the 2 1/2 month siege of Sarajevo burned in some spots.

Zeljko Visaha. 32. a worker at the gas company, said he

cease-fires have not worked." he said. "At the moment, there's obviously none."

Hassuna, Zarkut detained

JERUSALEM, June 17: 1sraeli authorities on Tuesday arrested two members of a team of advisors to the Palestinian delegation to Middle East peace talks, Palestinian sources said, reports AFP.

They said the two - Fares Hassuna and Walid Zarkut. both from the occupied Gaza strip - had been placed in administrative detention, an emergency regulation that allows for renewable terms of six months in jail without trial.

An army spôkesman confirmed the sentence against Zarkut 32, but said he had no information on the arrest of 33-year-old Hassuna.

Two other members of the Palestinian advisory team -Jamal Shobaki and Mohammad Harani - were also arrested earlier this year.

Arab League meet on July 4

CAIRO, June 17: Arab League Foreign Ministers will hold an emergency meeting next month to discuss Israeli military strikes in South Lebanon, Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Maguid told reporters on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Abdel-Maguid said the meeting, called by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez, would take place on July 4.

The meeting will discuss Israeli aggression... I will visit Syria and Lebanon before to consult with the authorities there." Abdel-Maguid told reporters at Cairo Airport.

Israel, which has declared a security zone along its border with Lebanon, has intensified attacks on Palestinian.

Mandela starts fresh campaign against Whites

SOWETO (South Africa) June 17: Black South Africans stayed away from work en masse Tuesday as ANC President Nelson Mandela used Soweto Day to launch a campaign to tighten the screws on the white minority government, reports AFP.

Mass action would escalate to an unprecedented level in July if the ANC did not get sat isfaction on demands for an interim government and a constituent assembly as a means to majority rule, Mandela warned.

Twenty-three people were killed around Johannesburg in the build-up to a protest many feared would trigger unbridled clashes between ANC supporters, their biter adversaries from the Zulu-based Inkatha Freedom Party and police.

Dube hostel in Soweto as three Soweto marches began, police

police and both sides fizzled in

Off the Record

'Mobutu in hell'

KINSHASA, Zaire: Two years ago, Zairian newspapers were barely allowed to mention President Mobutu Sese Seko's name. Today, they print banner headlines like, "Mobutu in Hell," reports AP.

Mobutu, who has ruled this Central African country for 27 years, freed the press as part of a pledge in 1990 to install multi-party democracy. Zaire now has more than 15 daily or weekly newspapers.

Although Mobutu has been able to slow the transition to democracy since his promise was made, the press remains unmuzzled

A national conference on democracy was convened, but Mobutu has ignored or adjourned it when it took action he did not like. Earlier this year, soldiers killed at least 32 demonstrators who demanded the conference be reopened.

'Straight Texas talk"

WASHINGTON: Ross Perot likes to call his blunt words "straight Texas talk" and says he fervently opposes discrimination of any kind. But increasingly, others see an insensitivity in some of his comments, reports AP.

On subjects ranging from women to ethnic groups, Perot's comments to interviewers have raised eyebrows with a number of activist groups.

When Perot is asked his views on women, he almost always says he believes women are smarter than men, but what he adds to that has at times angered women's groups

"Absolutely, women in my experience are more talented than men," he said on CBS' "Face the Nation" in late April. "So my biggest problem in my computer companies is they keep getting married and leaving me."

In a recent interview with TV Guide, Perot used the word "chick" in explaining why he would not knowingly hire an

"I want a person who's in a senior position busy serving the people, not chasing around at night, trying to toe-dance between his responsibilities to his family and his latest hot chick," Perot said.

Live from the Watergate

WASHINGTON: G Gordon Liddy has never been shy about promoting his Watergate connection; he's made a mint lecturing about it and tools around town in a car with "H20GATE" vanity plates, reports AP.

And today, on the 20th anniversary of the bungled burglary he's credited with masterminding, the burglary that ultimately drove a president from the White House, Liddy is returning to the scene of the crime.

For 4 1/2 hours, Liddy will broadcast his popular, ultraconservative radio talk show live from The Watergate Hotel, the building that lent its name to the nation's biggest political scandal. His guests are to include convicted Nixon White House aide Charles Colson and E Roland Martinez, one of the Cuban burglars he hired for the break-in.

serving more than four years for organizing the burglary and wiretapping of the Democratic National Committee's headquarters at The Watergate, and for later refusing to testify The former FBI agent and prosecutor stuck to his unbend-

It's been 15 years since Liddy walked out of prison after

ing code of loyalty from the start, and even offered to stand on a street corner and be shot if it would help President

Today, at 61, he retains the soldier's physique, intimidating glare and moustache that earned him the reputation among many as Watergate's most evil henchman. He remains a martial arts and weapons expert, and still likes to test his physical endurance.

But he seems to have mellowed from his early days, when he boasted of having eaten a rat and held his hand over a flame to conquer his fears.

Germany receives two hostages was a precondition for further

BEIRUT, June 17: The last two Westerners held hostage in Lebanon were handed over to a German envoy Wednesday in the presence of reporters, reports AP.

It was the last formal step in the release of the two German hostages, ending an eightyear saga in which nearly 100 foreigners were kidnapped, most of them by pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim groups. The handover of Heinrich

Struebig and Thomas Kemptner took place in the office of Prime Minister Rashid Solh at 11:50 am (0850 GMT). "The release of the two German hostages closes the

dark chapter of hostage-taking in Lebanon for ever," Solh said. *My heart-felt congratulations at this moment go to the freed hostages and my thanks to all those who exerted efforts

to win this release, especially sister Syria and its security departments." Solh expressed his hope that Lebanon would be able now "to open a new era of cooperation with Germany, the

European Community and the rest of the world." The Lebanese government, gripped by an acute economic crisis, has been eager to close the hostage issue and get financial assistance from Germany and Europe to repair the destruction of the 1975-1990

European governments have said several times that an lending of the hostage crisis

economic aid to Lebanon. It was the first time that

Lebanese leaders have been so directly involved in the release of Western hostages in Lebanon. In many of the previous cases, the hostages were released to Syrian officials in Beirut, then handed over to their governments after being driven to the Syrian capital, Damascus.

There was no official explanation of why the Lebanese authorities were more involved in the process this time. But it was believed to be an attempt by Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, to give greater credibility to the Lebanese government.

Moldova to end conflict with Russians

MOLDOVA, June 17: The Moldovan parliament adopted a resolution on Tuesday to end a bloody conflict with the republic's ethnic Russian separatist minority, reports Reuter.

The 13-point plan, which calls for a cease fire and the disarming of all armed groups, was worked out by deputies from the ethnic Romanian majority and the Russianspeakers, who have set up their own republic on the east bank of the river Dnestr.

But the Dnestr deputies then abstained, saying they disagreed with four of the points, and the Dnestr region's leadership later condemned the plan as unworkable.

More than 150 people have been killed since Marchin fighting between the two sides. All previous cease-fire agreements have failed.

"Today's decision is balanced and reasonable. Now, as never before, we are close to a peaceful solution of the conflict," Moldovan President Mircea Snegur said after the

"We have shown the whole world that reason prevails in our republics," he said.

The resolution said the Dnestr region's national guard should be absorbed into Moldova's armed forces, called for new national elections and said a government of national unity should be formed.

Indian diplomat attacked in Karachi

YEREVAN, (Armenia), June

17: Armenian officials said Az-

eri forces captured more

towns in the disputed enclave

of Nagorno-Karabakh on Tues-

day in the fifth day of a major

Karabakh committee, the main

organisation representing de-

fenders in the mountainous

enclave, said Azeri forces were

thought to have killed around

400 fleeing refugees. The re-

istry and the Karabakh com-

mittee said the Azeris had

launched an overnight attack

from the Shaumyan district of

Mardakert district, taking the

towns of Chailu and Talish,"

said Vladimir Pogosyan, the

committee's press officer.

"They moved into northern

northern Karabakh.

The Armenian foreign min-

port could not be confirmed.

A spokesman for the

offensive, reports Reuter.

ISLAMABAD, June 17: An Indian diplomat in the Karachi consulate DP Shrivastava, was yesterday attacked by an unidentified person while he was returning home for lunch. a spokesman of the Indian High Commission said here

yesterday, reports PTI. The spokesman said that the car of Shrivastava was blocked by another car near his residence and an armed man tried to open the car door. However, he did not succeed due to central locking

system of the vehicle. He said Shrivastava managed to drive past and entered a nearby lane but was chased. The diplomat, soon after the incident, went to a police station and lodged a first information report.

A similar incident involving Shrivastava had taken place in Karachi on June seven.

The Indian High Commissioner. S K Lambah has lodged a protest with the acting Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Khalid Saleem.

Marri back home after 14-year self-exile

QUETTA, June 17: Thousands of people, defying a ban on public gatherings, cheered a powerful Baluch tribal leader on his return home Tuesday from Kabul after 14 years self

exile, reports AFP. An old passerby was killed and a child was injured in celebratory firing as the tribal leader was taken in a procession through Quetta streets police sources said.

On hand to Great Marri at the airport were Baluchistan Chief Minister, Taj Mohammad Jamali, and his ministers. The arrival of Khair Buksh

Marri, 65, coincided with a row over the alleged desecration of the Pakistan flag during a Baluch rally at the Quetta Airport.

Airport General Manager Yaqub Satti, in a report to the police, said the national flag was torn from the building and substituted with a Baluch nationalist emblem.

The incident occurred Monday as thousands gathered to Great Marri whose arriva

Some reports attributed the

incident to crowd disappointment, but Interior Minister Chuadhury Shujaat Hussain condemned the 'disgracing of

they had registered a case against unnamed people over the incident. Marri's son Gazeen, vowing

Marri, chieftain of an estimated 250,000 tribesmen. migrated to Kabul in 1978 after a long detention linked to a Baluch insurgency for greater

His return was prompted by the government which. sources here said, wanted to use his clout to open up the 8,500 square kilometre (3,300 square mile) Marri tribe's region in Baluchistan to oil ex-

The region, almost inaccessible because of traditional tribal resistance to outside influence, is believed to contain large unexplored oil deposits, sources said.

the national flag." Police sources here said

allegiance to Pakistan, denied the incident and said "We will repair damage caused to the airport building Monday."

regional autonomy.

ploration.

Aidid has opposed the plan to send in UN troops, but Sahnoun said the faction now "seems willing to accept the idea" following recent incidents of looting of medical aid and food intended for starving children in the capital.

lence," said Sahnoun. "The problem is small bands of gunmen who

are hungry themselves. Boys as young as 14 are carrying guns. The violence would die down if we could only get enough food in."

calm, but fighting was still raging in the southwest along the Kenyan and Ethiopian borders between Aidid's forces and supporters of ousted ruler Mohamed Stad Barre.

arid horn of Africa country was engulfed in clan-based factional fighting, while prolonged drought caused a terrible famine.

The United Nations says 4.2 million Somalis need urgent food and medical aid, a million of them in Mogadishu alone. The international committee of the Red Cross describes it as "the world's greatest humanitarian tragedy." "The world seems to have put Somalia on a

Nations, the ICRC and Saudi Arabia have recently delivered some 18,000 tonnes of food aid to the capital, but people are starving throughout the desert nation," he said. David Bassiouni of the UN children's fund

appealed to donors to pledge more food aid to Somalia, saying there was "a shortfall of 35,000 tonnes.

Famine and war claim 5000 children daily in Somalia Somalia was plunged into anarchy after Siad warring factions led by General Mohamed there are no felephone or communications, no NAIROBI, June 17: Much of Somalia, Barre was ousted in January 1991. Much of the Farah Aidid and interim President Ali Mahdi medical services except for a handful of voluntrapped in a vicious cycle of war and famine, is

Mohamed.

teer doctors working in appalling conditions. getting little or no food aid while up to 5,000 and garbage is left to rot in the streets," he children are dying daily. UN special representative Mohamed Sahnoun said Tuesday, reports Sahnoun said food was starting to reach the capital Mogadishu, where a UN -brokered

factional warfare. "Despite relative stability in most of Somalia except for factional fighting in the southwest, vast areas of the country have seen to significant aid," he said, appealing for "a much greater effort by the international community." "Somalia is the worst situation I have ever

ceasefire has improve security after months of

seen." said Sahnoun, who witnessed the 1984-1985 Ethiopian famine. There is no administration, there is no

"Between four and five thousand children are estimated to be dying each day of malnutrition or related diseases," Sahnoun told journalists here. "In Yugoslavia and Cambodia, governments control at least part of the country and there are basic services like electricity."

Sahnoun, in Nairobi after visiting Somalia last week, said the United Nations was still negotiating with the warring factions in Magadishu to persuade them to accept a 500strong armed UN force to guard deliveries of food and medical supplies. In May the United Nations reopened

was delayed.

"In Somalia, famine and hunger breed vio-

Sahnoun said most of Somalia was now

vote.

electricity, water supplies have collapsed.

June 17: Defence Minister Pierre Joxe said on Tuesday that France was ready to send extra troops to Yugoslavia to form a task force with Russian and Egyptian soldiers to pro-

He said the force was being

Boutros-Ghali

means about 1,000 men. Asked whether they would

AP adds: Serb gunners

Artillery shells thundered

KHANKYLNAR, Azerbaijan: Women from this village in Azerbaijan cry on Tuesday over the death of a 13-year old girl killed by shelling on Monday. Azeri forces fought to recapture two villages previously seized by Armenian forces who continue to shell Azeri settlements in the Kazakh region on the Armenian border. - AFP/UNB photo

Azeris take over more towns

Itar-Tass news agency said

Azert forces, backed by tanks, had also captured the towns of Tonashen and Matagis. Azerbaijan says it launched the offensive last Friday to silence gun positions inside Karabakh which had been shelling western Azeri towns

for months.

dominantly Armenian enclave, located in and administered by Azerbaijan. Itar-Tass reported bloody clashes near the centre of

Around 2,000 people have

been killed in more than four

years of fighting over the pre-

held by the Armenians. Reports from both sides suggest hundreds have died during the latest fighting.

town in northern Karabakh

Iran on Tuesday renewed

the auspices of the conference Mardakert, another major on security and cooperation in Europe, hit a sour note on Tuesday with Armenians accusing Moscow and Washington of not putting enough pressure on Azerbaijan to stop its offensive.

its offer of mediation in the

undeclared war, the Iranian

ans runs deep among the

newly-elected Azerbaijani

leadership and it was not clear

whether the offer would be ac-

But suspicion of the Irani-

Talks in Tehran last month

produced a signed agreement

but a simultaneous Armenian

offensive threw the Azeris out

of Nagorno-Karabakh alto-

counter-attack.

gether, leading to last week's

Peace talks in Rome, under

news agency Irna reported.

Two more men were stabbed and burnt to death outside the IFP stronghold of

Brief showdowns between

owil war.

back-burner," Sahnoun said. The United

Mogadishu Port, which had been closed since November by fighting between the capital's two

which in the French army

peace-keeping troops.

journalist for Bosnian TV.

Monday.

had little faith in the cease-There have been cease fires too many times here, and