

BRIEFLY

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 Volcani Institute of Agricultural Research near Tel Aviv where he 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 Traouf.

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 fires.

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 exiled 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 three-fifths majority of a congress of both houses later this month.

6 killed in Filipino violence: Six people have been killed in one explosion and two separate attacks by communist guerrillas 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 attached 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 official said.

Canada will tighten immigration laws

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

those who would leave the doors wide open," Bernard Valcourt, Minister of Employment and Immigration, told a news conference.

The conservative government proposed revamping the 1976 immigration act to favour immediate relatives of people already in Canada and investors, among others.

The proposed amendments 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 rejected claimants.

The proposals made to parliament are meant to end an enormous backlog of applicants and improve management of a flow of immigrants that has trebled since 1984 to an expected 250,000 people this year, according to government statistics.

About 1 million people apply 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 prolonged recession, however, has brought calls from right-wing groups to stem the flood of immigrants and protect Canadian jobs.

Valcourt's proposals would give priority to the spouses and children of existing immigrants, refugees defined as such by the Geneva Convention and investors who can contribute to Canada's economic growth.

Call to oust Myanmar rulers

SYDNEY, June 17: A leading Australian judge called on western states today to overthrow Myanmar 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 Austcare and the Australian branch of the International Commission of Jurists.

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 pantomime of charming tourist 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 refuge 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 beings."

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 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 protect 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.

He said the force was being formed at the request of UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.

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.

Joxe said French the unit could be the size of a battalion,

which in the French army means about 1,000 men. Asked whether they would have to fight Serb militiamen besieging 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 peace-keeping troops.

AP adds: Serb gunners bombarded Sarajevo with tank and heavy-machine gun fire early Wednesday, shattering their cease-fire with Bosnian militiamen.

Artillery shells thundered throughout the city center at about 5 am (0300 GMT). At least five buildings were set

ablaze, said Rasim Borcak, a journalist for Bosnian TV. 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 Pilonija an official of Bosnia's defence force, said on Sarajevo radio.

The fighting shattered a cease-fire between Serbs and Bosnian militiamen that was supposed to take force early Monday.

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 dandelion 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 had little faith in the cease-fire.

"There have been cease-fires too many times here, and cease-fires have not worked," he said. "At the moment, there's obviously none."

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 adulterer.

"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.

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

The former FBI agent and prosecutor stuck to his unbending code of loyalty from the start, and even offered to stand on a street corner and be shot if it would help President Nixon's cause.

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.

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 populist, ultra-conservative 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.

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

The former FBI agent and prosecutor stuck to his unbending code of loyalty from the start, and even offered to stand on a street corner and be shot if it would help President Nixon's cause.

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.



KHANKYLAR, 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.

Azeris take over more towns

YEREVAN, (Armenia), June 17: Armenian officials said Azeri forces captured more towns in the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh on Tuesday in the fifth day of a major offensive, reports Reuter.

A spokesman for the Karabakh committee, the main organisation representing defenders in the mountainous enclave, said Azeri forces were thought to have killed around 400 fleeing refugees. The report could not be confirmed.

The Armenian foreign ministry and the Karabakh committee said the Azeris had launched an overnight attack from the Shaumyan district of northern Karabakh.

"They moved into northern Mardakert district, taking the towns of Chahli and Talish," said Vladimir Pogosyan, the committee's press officer.

Its offer of mediation in the undeclared war, the Iranian news agency Irna reported.

But suspicion of the Iranians runs deep among the newly-elected Azerbaijani leadership and it was not clear whether the offer would be accepted.

Talks in Tehran last month produced a signed agreement but a simultaneous Armenian offensive threw the Azeris out of Nagorno-Karabakh altogether, leading to last week's counter-attack.

Peace talks in Rome, under the auspices of the conference 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 news agency Irna reported.

But suspicion of the Iranians runs deep among the newly-elected Azerbaijani leadership and it was not clear whether the offer would be accepted.

Talks in Tehran last month produced a signed agreement but a simultaneous Armenian offensive threw the Azeris out of Nagorno-Karabakh altogether, leading to last week's counter-attack.

Peace talks in Rome, under the auspices of the conference 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.

Hassuna, Zarkut detained

JERUSALEM, June 17: Israeli 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 spokesman 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.

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 adulterer.

"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.

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

The former FBI agent and prosecutor stuck to his unbending code of loyalty from the start, and even offered to stand on a street corner and be shot if it would help President Nixon's cause.

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.

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 populist, ultra-conservative 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.

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

The former FBI agent and prosecutor stuck to his unbending code of loyalty from the start, and even offered to stand on a street corner and be shot if it would help President Nixon's cause.

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.

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 populist, ultra-conservative 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.

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

The former FBI agent and prosecutor stuck to his unbending code of loyalty from the start, and even offered to stand on a street corner and be shot if it would help President Nixon's cause.

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.

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.

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 unmythical.

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 adulterer.

"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.

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

The former FBI agent and prosecutor stuck to his unbending code of loyalty from the start, and even offered to stand on a street corner and be shot if it would help President Nixon's cause.

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.

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 populist, ultra-conservative 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.

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

The former FBI agent and prosecutor stuck to his unbending code of loyalty from the start, and even offered to stand on a street corner and be shot if it would help President Nixon's cause.

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.

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 populist, ultra-conservative 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.

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

The former FBI agent and prosecutor stuck to his unbending code of loyalty from the start, and even offered to stand on a street corner and be shot if it would help President Nixon's cause.

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.

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 populist, ultra-conservative 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.

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

The former FBI agent and prosecutor stuck to his unbending code of loyalty from the start, and even offered to stand on a street corner and be shot if it would help President Nixon's cause.

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.

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 populist, ultra-conservative 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.

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

Canada will tighten immigration laws

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