

**BRIEFLY**

**Mammal found in Vietnam:** A large unidentified mammal has been found in the forests of Vietnam, scientists announced Friday, reports Reuter.

The world wide fund for nature said a team of its scientists had discovered the large mammal in a nature reserve in Vietnam described as a "Lost world cut off from the rest of Indo-China."

Team leader Dr John McKinnon said: "We still don't know what the mammal is. The local people call it a forest goat but its horns are quite unlike other goats."

Three sets of the mystery animal's upper skull and horns were found in the Vu Quang nature reserve in northern Vietnam and specimens of skin and hair were being sent to the United States for DNA genetic fingerprinting tests.

**Clinton telephones Perot:** Democratic Presidential nominee Bill Clinton telephoned Ross Perot on Thursday after his stunning withdrawal from the presidential race and said he was "moved" by the billionaire businessman's campaign for change, reports Reuter from New York.

In a statement read to reporters by Clinton Communications Director George Stephanopoulos, Clinton appealed to the thousands of grass roots supporters of Perot.

"We have heard their message and shared their hopes," the Clinton statement said. "I asked them to give us a fair hearing, to read our plan for putting people first. I invite them to join us in our efforts to change our country and give our government back to the people."

Stephanopoulos said "The governor spoke to Perot a short while ago."

**Jyoti not concerned about son:** The West Bengal Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu Thursday said that the appointment of his son, Subhabrata (Chandan), to the board of Directors of the Indian Airlines is not my concern at all, reports PTI from Calcutta.

"Chandan is an adult citizen like any of you. I do not look after his business and appointments, he told newsmen at the Calcutta Airport.

Asked whether Chandan's inclusion in the IA board augured well for the eastern region currently witnessing a decrease in air traffic, he said, "I do not know anything about flights. I only travel by plane sometimes."

**Car blast kills 12 in Peru:** Leftist guerrillas detonated a tremendous car bomb Thursday night, killing at least 12 people on a busy residential street while they attacked four police stations outside the capital, reports AP from Lima.

The blast ripped the facade off 10-story buildings for a city block, killing people on the street and in their apartments above.

No one claimed responsibility for the attacks, but police suspected they were the work of the Maoist Shining Path, who have recently begun to use car bombs.

Police estimated 60 people were wounded by shattered glass and debris sent flying in the fashionable Miraflores neighbourhood. Severed hands and feet were lying in the street and police said the death toll could climb further.

Firemen fought two blazes in the buildings for about two hours, as others worked to free bodies buried in the debris.

**Japanese official in Bangkok:** A senior official from Japan's Foreign Ministry is currently on a visit to Bangkok for talks with Khmer Rouge leaders, reliable sources said Friday, AFP reports from Bangkok.

During his meeting with Khmer Rouge leaders, which was expected to take place later Friday, Sakutaro Tanino was most likely to try to persuade the radical guerrilla group to rejoin Cambodia's peace process.

Implementation of Cambodia's United Nations-brokered peace treaty signed last October in Paris has been blocked since the beginning of last month following the refusal by the Khmer Rouge to comply with a UN programme for disarming the country's rival factions.

**Thai police seize 42.35 kg heroin:** Thai police on Chiang Rai have seized 42.35 kilograms (93.2 pounds) of heroin worth about 16.9 million US dollar in the west following a shootout that left one officer wounded, police said Friday, Reports AFP from Bangkok.

Narcotics Suppression Bureau police arrested Lao Ta, 33, of Chiang Rai, following the gunbattle early Thursday in the jungle outside the northern tourist destination, said Bangkok Police Captain Rawat Kattitani.

Sergeant Major Sithisak Naka was shot in the ankle during the capture and was later flown by helicopter to hospital in Bangkok, Rawat said. The same helicopter brought Lao to the capital, where he is being detained pending trial on drug trafficking charges.

Police valued the heroin at 4.2 million baht (169,000 dollar) locally, but said it would bring 100 times that amount on the streets of a western city.

**Fresh move to oust Premadasa**

COLOMBO, July 17: A Sri Lankan opposition party said on Thursday it hoped to collect a million signatures in six weeks to oust President Ranasinghe Premadasa and his ruling United National Party (UNP) government, reports Reuter.

"We hope the petition will open up the president's eyes and ears and that he will give the people a chance to decide," said Lalith Athulathmudali, a leader of the Democratic United National Front (DUNF).

The DUNF hopes that a million-signature petition will force Premadasa to call new elections or resign.

The petition, which will be available around the country for people to sign, marks the first anniversary of an im-

peachment motion against Premadasa.

That motion was spearheaded by Athulathmudali, a former minister, and other members of the UNP who were dissatisfied with their leader's style of government. Many disgruntled UNP members went on to form the DUNF.

Despite being signed by both opposition and government members, the impeachment failed after some UNP members retracted their signatures.

The petition says the government has done nothing about the disappearance of several thousand Sri Lankans during a government crackdown against leftwing rebels five years ago.

**UN Council will send fact-finding mission to South Africa**

UNITED NATIONS, July 17: The Security Council has decided to send a fact-finding mission to South Africa to explore what role the United Nations can play in solving the country's mounting political crisis, reports Reuter.

As violence grew in Black townships and talks on a future non-racial government reached stalemate, Nelson Mandela and his African National Congress (ANC) appealed to the United Nations to intervene.

South African Foreign Minister Pik Botha on Thursday suggested UN Envoys could help curb political violence but said South Africans must solve their problems themselves.

After two days of debate and hours of negotiations between council members representing the ANC and the government's interests, the council adopted a compromise which seeks to strike a balance between con-

flicting demands.

Meanwhile: The Security Council on Thursday asked Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali to send a special representative to South Africa and called for the resumption of peace talks on a multi-racial constitution.

The resolution as adopted unanimously by a 15-0 vote.

After two days of debate with more than 60 speakers, including 11 African foreign ministers, the resolution seeks to find a middle ground between Nelson Mandela's African National Congress and the government of President FW de Klerk.

The document calls on Boutros-Ghali to appoint urgently a special representative to recommend measures that would help bring an end to the country's violence and create conditions under with negotiations towards a non-racial gov-

ernment can be resumed.

It "condemns the escalating violence" in Black townships, in particular the June 17 massacre at Boipatong township in which 43 people died.

But the resolution also urges South African authorities to take immediate measures to end the violence and bring those responsible to justice as well as appeal to all factions to combat violence.

In addition the resolution underlines the importance of all parties to resume negotiations for a new constitution as soon as possible.

Another report adds: Amy turned around suddenly in the back seat of the car. "That's him, that's one of them," she whispered to the AFP journalists in the front seat.

She pointed at a South African Army soldier standing guard on the other side of road, 10 meters (yards) from

throng of mourners making their way towards another Black township funeral.

The soldier, a fat, bearded White man who looked an archetypal rightwinger, had, Amy alleged, gained infamy for conducting a number of raids on township houses in Vosloorus.

"They come into our houses asking for weapons, and when they don't find any they beat up our men," Amy told AFP.

Amy was catching a lift to the graveyard in this Black township 30 kilometres (18 miles) south of Johannesburg, where African National Congress (ANC) activist George Mashels, killed during a police raid on his house on July 7, was buried Thursday, watched by a crowd of several thousand.

Police say Mashels killed himself during the raid, the ANC says he was killed by policemen.



NEW DELHI: Prime Minister P V Narashimha Rao (C) offers a bouquet of flowers to president elect Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma (L) on Thursday while his wife Vimala Sharma (R) looks on in their home shortly after Sharma was declared elected as India's ninth president. Sharma, 74, a nominee of Ruling Congress(I) party, will succeed President Ramaswamy Venkataraman who retires July 25. — AFP/UNB photo

**Jyoti ready to attend talks on Gurkhaland**

CALCUTTA, July 17: The West Bengal Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu, yesterday expressed willingness to participate in any 'talk' related to the 'Gorkhaland' issue, but said that his government was yet to receive such a proposal, reports PTI.

Talking to newsmen at Calcutta Airport before leaving for Delhi to participate in the CPI (M) Politburo and central committee meetings, Basu said that he had invited Ghising for talks, who declined to attend, saying that he would be away in Delhi. "Anybody can make demands of Gorkhaland, like Ghising, but should such demands be conceded?" he asked.

On being asked about the GNLFT threat to burn copies of the hill accord on July 22, Basu said that his government was keeping a close watch on the developments.

**Clinton accepts nomination**

**Perot's withdrawal angers supporters**

NEW YORK, July 17: The Democratic National convention ended just before midnight on Thursday after Arkansas Governor Bill Clinton formally accepted his party's Presidential nomination, reports Reuter.

Earlier in the evening, the convention formally nominated Tennessee Senator Al Gore as Clinton's Vice Presidential running mate.

The four-day convention began on Monday.

Meanwhile: The rich little man from Texas tried to buck one of the world's most complex political systems but the system bucked him.

Ross Perot's withdrawal from the presidential race on Thursday angered and shocked his more than four million vol-

unteers and threw the race into a two-man contest that might prove to be one of the most brutal in American history.

In the space of two months, Perot had created a formidable grassroots organisation to get his name on the presidential ballot and had managed to take an almost overnight lead in the polls for the presidency.

He looked like he was going to beat the system and run the most successful independent bid for the presidency in American history, but then the system started fighting back.

Soon offhand comments about blacks and homosexuals became major issues and his ratings in the polls began a downwards spiral.

People who rejected both

President George Bush and Democratic nominee Bill Clinton were drawn to Perot because he was not a politician and then they began to lose interest because he could not take the blows that ordinary politicians are subjected to daily.

"Running for the presidency is not for the faint of heart," said failed Democratic presidential hopeful Jerry Brown when he heard of the Perot withdrawal.

House republican leader Bob Michel of Illinois said, "Perot proved to be a shrinking violet under the summer heat of a presidential campaign."

Or as Harry Truman said years ago, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the

kitchen."

Perot, who sounded great making the case that things were falling apart in the United States, could not produce the detailed plans that people expect of their political leaders.

His boast that he would revise the tax system by starting with a blank piece of paper began to look silly. His attacks on Bush were met with counter-attacks and soon he found himself on the defensive.

A media that was adoring at the start began to zero in on "his dark side" and suddenly readers and television viewers were subjected to daily tales of how odd and authoritarian the businessman was in his business and personal dealings.

**Pope's condition improves**

ROME, July 17: Pope John Paul today appeared to be making an exceptional recovery from major surgery to remove a benign tumour from his intestine earlier this week, reports Reuter.

Cardiologist Attilio Maseri painted a glowing portrait of the 71-year-old pontiff's condition after checking his heart functions on Thursday evening. "He is doing really fine. He got out of bed twice today. He heard mass while sitting down. His heart and blood pressure are fine," Maseri said.

"There is no problem. This is remarkable for a man his age only a day after major surgery". The Pope made a spectacular recovery from emergency surgery 11 years ago after a Turkish gunman shot and almost killed him.

He was off on a gruelling tip to equatorial Africa within a year and has maintained a punishing schedule ever since.

**Mediators hopeful of accord to stop war in Bosnia**

LONDON, July 17: EC-brokered peace talks on Bosnia-Herzegovina entered their third day today with a glimmer of hope of an agreement to silence the big guns in the republic's civil war and bring more aid to its victims.

Bosnia's foreign minister said one of the European Community (EC) mediators in the talks, Jose Cutileiro, had told him he had the agreement of the three warring factions on a plan to hand over heavy weapon to international control.

EC officials were not immediately available for comment.

Harris Silajdzic, speaking to Reuters early today after a second day of talks, said his government understood the United Nations was about to

press for a second front in the international humanitarian effort to Bosnia. This could take aid to the Serb-controlled eastern region.

"There is a little optimism on my side. Cutileiro told me we all agreed to put heavy weaponry, including aircraft, under international control," Silajdzic said.

The latest events could prove to be a turning point in the talks which had appeared to make little tangible progress since opening on Wednesday.

Silajdzic, who said he had spoken earlier by telephone to Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, said the UN Security Council would soon decide how to take control of heavy weapons.

Meanwhile another report

adds: Serb shelling and mortar fire set houses ablaze in Sarajevo today before a visit to the Bosnian capital by British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

Sarajevo radio reported that a heavy artillery bombardment on the city's old quarter and an area near the television station began soon after midnight and lasted until 3 am (0100 GMT), hour before peace talks were set to resume in London.

Hurd was due to arrive in Sarajevo today morning to inspect the ravages of three months of conflict between Muslims, Croats and Serbs and meet Muslim President Alija Izetbegovic.

The sources said gunfire was heard during the night in the centre of Sarajevo.

**Off the Record**

**Man, stripped to the waist, in palace**

LONDON: Police were questioning a man who entered Buckingham palace Thursday while Queen Elizabeth was in residence, Scotland Yard said, reports AFP.



The unarmed 21-year-old man, stripped to the waist, ran up a staircase leading to the Queen's private apartments inside the palace, before being arrested by police.

He had climbed over a perimeter wall, crossed the grounds and entered the building through open French windows.

But he did not reach the ring of extra security around the Queen's private apartments and had not endangered the royal family, police sources said. He was arrested on the first floor, just metres from the royal apartments after setting off security alarms.

In the most notorious incident in 1982, Michael Fagan broke into the Queen's bedroom and chatted to her for half an hour before being detained. He was later jailed.

**Deadline is biological not legal**

WASHINGTON: A pregnant 29-year-old woman waits without much hope to learn whether Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas will rule in favour of her legal attack on the US ban on the French abortion pill RU486, reports AP.

Friday was the third day Thomas had the test case before him.

The only deadline on his decision is biological, not legal. Leona Bente's lawyers said she must begin taking the pill by Saturday, or she will have to have a surgical abortion that she doesn't want.

On Thursday, the Bush administration argued that federal judges don't have the power to overturn the US ban on importation of the pill.

In a 13-page brief filed with the Supreme Court, the Justice Department said the Food and Drug Administration's decision to enforce the "concededly valid statute against an unmistakably clear violation is not the proper subject of judicial review."

As the justice responsible for emergency cases arising in New York, Thomas had requested the brief.

Ms Bente, who brought RU486 from England on July 1, is nearly eight weeks pregnant.

Customs officials seized the pills when she arrived at New York's Kennedy International Airport. They still have them, and Ms Bente has sued to get them back.

**Bequeathing my body "As an act of love"**

ARGENTINA: Argentine President Carlos Menem announced on Thursday he had decided to donate all his organs for transplants upon his death, reports Reuter.

The high-living president, who at 62 still plays soccer and love to drive fast cars, said he was bequeathing his body "as an act of love" and an example for others to follow.

"I want many Argentines and many people in the world who are constantly talking about love to help humanity in this way," he told a reporter from the private radio mitre station.

Menem said he was moved to donate his organs by the call of a young Argentine mother who recently gave part of her liver to her terminally ill two-year-old daughter.

To allow the mother to undergo the publicised operation, Menem signed special legislation allowing organ transplants from live donors.

**"Perot's people will end up being with me"**

JACKSON, Wyo: US President Bush is ending a Rocky Mountain fishing vacation, buoyed by Ross Perot's abandoned White House campaign and convinced that the independent's supporters will come his way, reports AP.

Bush's two-day stay with Secretary of State James A Baker III and their sons was interrupted by the political bulletin from Dallas on Thursday that the Texas billionaire was quitting the race.

At a hastily called news conference at a small Air Force research facility near Baker's Boulder, Wyo, ranch, the president said, "I think we have a fertile field in which to hunt for more support."

He predicted "the legions of conservative people" who flocked to Perot's cause "will end up being with me."

"They share the same values that I speak about... the same desire to change this economy and to get things moving again," said Bush.

He said he telephoned Perot to congratulate him on the way he had "energized an awful lot of people" — and to seek his support. Perot was non-committal, but Bush said he'd probably try again.

The Republican president boasted that he had neither watched nor heard one word from the Democrats' doings in Madison Square Garden.

No phone call to the victorious nominee?

"Congratulate Clinton? On what? Oh, no I forget to do that," Bush replied with a touch of sarcasm. "But maybe I can do that now. He fought hard and he won his party's nomination."



**US demands release of Suu Kyi**

WASHINGTON, July 17: The United States Thursday urged Myanmar military government to release all its political prisoners, including the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, Aung San Suu Kyi, and to install a democratically elected civilian government, reports AFP.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher praised Aung San Suu Kyi for "her courage and indomitable spirit in defence of human rights and democracy," which he stressed "has won the admiration of the world".

**Watanabe urges Yeltsin not to come empty-handed to Tokyo**

TOKYO, July 17: Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe urged Russian President Boris Yeltsin not to come to Tokyo empty-handed in September, reports Reuter.

"It is no good if President Yeltsin's visit in September turns out to be the same as that of former Soviet Union president Mikhail Gorbachev in April last year," a Japanese Foreign Ministry official quoted Watanabe as telling visiting Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgy Kunadze.

"Yeltsin must step forward," Watanabe said. "No progress was made over the long-running territorial dispute when Gorbachev visited Japan last year — the first-ever visit to Japan by a leader of the then Soviet Union."

The issue is expected to dominate a visit to Tokyo by President Yeltsin in mid-September. Tokyo insists that any major Japanese aid

for Russian's foundering economy depends on resolution of its claim to four islands seized by the Soviet army in 1945.

The islands dispute has prevented Tokyo and Moscow from signing a World War Two peace treaty. Without such a pact, Japan insists there can be no large-scale economic aid.

Foreign Minister Watanabe said: "we are not demanding Russia return the Northern Islands immediately. What we are saying is that nothing would move forward if there was no clear direction."

Watanabe urged Russia to recognise Japan's sovereignty over the disputed islands. "We offered 2.5 billion US dollar in economic assistance despite domestic criticism. I would lose face if (Yeltsin) continues to criticise," Watanabe said.

A war of words has erupted over the long-running dispute, just two months ahead of

Yeltsin's visit. "Japan is the only country which has not contributed a penny, a half a dollar or even half a yen to Russian," Yeltsin complained earlier this month.

"The other six countries (of the Group of Seven industrial democracies) are contributing, some more, some less, most of all Germany," he said. "But Japan (gives) nothing. What kind of an attitude is that?"

A group of Russian communist and nationalist deputies told Yeltsin on Tuesday he risked unleashing World War Three if he returned the disputed islands, which lie off the coast of Hokkaido, northern Japan.

**1 lakh Afghans returned home last week**

ISLAMABAD, July 17: A record 100,000 Afghan refugees returned home from camps in Pakistan last week, increasing pressure on scarce United Nations resources, reports Reuter.

"If the repatriation continues at this pace, more than one million people will have been repatriated by the end of August," said UN official Pierce Gerety in a statement.

The UN appealed last month for 180 million dollar to help rehabilitate Afghanistan after 14 years of savage civil war.