New Afghan cabinet by this month

KABUL, July 24: Afghanistan is to have a new cabinet this month, the second since the Mujahideen took over power in Kabul some three months ago, officials said Thursday, reports AFP.

It will replace the present 34 members who were appointed by former caretaker President Sibghatullah Mojaddedi in May, they said.

The top governing leadership council headed by President Burhanuddin Rabbani Thursday invited all nine Mujahideen parties to propose names for the new lineup.

According to a decision of the leadership of council, each Mujahideen party will propose six to nine names for the new cabinet.

benefit the entire world.

reports Reuter from Manila.

exploitation and pollution, it said.

Thursday, reports AFP from Ankara.

weeks.

ficials said.

not want to be repatriated

Iraqi-Saudi border.

permanent solution.

counterpart, Mircea Snegur.

"within two or three days."

Kishinev.

European Community peace envoy Lord Carrington has said he will negotiate no more cease-fires in Bosnia until the warlords there reach stalemate or exhaustion.

In an interview in Today Daily Telegraph, Carrington said he would waste no more the opposite.

Carrington was speaking after the collapse of the latest cease-fire arranged in London last Friday between leaders of Bosnia's Serb, Croat and Muslim factions.

much object in brokering an-

other cease-fire unless there is

You would be talking to the same people who ignored what was agreed last time," Carrington added.

Boutros-Ghali complained being asked to arrange for UN

troops to monitor the combatants in accordance with the

However Carrington said he was not about to abandon the peacemaking role he has carried out for nearly a year without success

Instead, The Telegraph said, he was changing tack to put the onus on Bosnian leaders to show good faith. He has told them that it is they who must decide if they wish to attend the next round of peace talks due to start in London on Monday

Carrington's office said a letter had been sent on

Alija Izetbegovic, a Muslim, Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Croat mate Boban.

"If they want to come, fine. If not, then we know where we stand," Carrington said.

Fighting between the three sides - Serbs opposed to independence from Yugoslavia pitted against pro-independence Muslims and Croats has cost more than 7,500 lives

The Telegraph said Carrington was also directing his energies to other parts of the former Yugoslavia where fighting was threatening to break out in at least six pockets of ethnic discord.



the country. The United States is one of nearly 50 countries imposing immigration restrictions on people with HIV (Human Immunodeficiecy Virus).

Off the Record

US govt too ignorant

too arrogant, too coward

restrictions on AIDS sufferers and kissed a man with the

killer disease who plans to challenge Washington's travel ban

this weekend, reports Reuter.

"The sad and terrible

truth is that the

on AIDS.

AMSTERDAM: Actress Elizabeth Taylor condemned US

"Travel restrictions are worse than pointless," Dr Michael Merson, head of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) global AIDS programme said in a statement.

"They can weaken AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) prevention campaigns and actually endanger the health of the public."

World's first sex swap

BEIJING: Chinese surgeons have performed what is believed to be the world's first direct sex swap, exchanging internal sexual organs between a man and a woman, a doctor on the operating team said on Thursday, reports Reuter.

Xia Zhao Ji told reporters a 22-year-old woman received the testicles of a 30-year-old man, who received her ovaries during operations which took place last week.

Doctors constructed a false penis for the woman from her stomach lining, Xia said. They removed the man's penis and

replaced it with a vagina made of leather. "I believe this could be the first (such operation) in the world," Xia said.

His Beijing number three hospital pioneered, China's first sex change operations in 1984.

Both patients are recovering well, but the ex-woman must take immuno suppressive drugs to overcome rejection of the new organs, the surgeon said.

Further operations will be necessary for the ex-woman to have a mal erection but Xia said he was confident the ex-man would be able to have a complete sex life.

Neither will be able to procreate, Xia said. Both are single and hope to find marriage partners.

TOKYO: A popular art magazine will on Saturday expose

This is art, not pornography

readers to some 90 pages of nude photographs that defy Japan's ban on portraying pubic hair, one of its editors said today, reports Reuter.

"This is art, not pornography," said an editor at the influential monthly magazine, the Getjutsu Shincho.

"We're not concerned about what the police will think." The magazine, put out by the Shinchosha publishing house, is devoting 89 of its 176 pages to pictures of totally nude male and female models contributed by 30 photographers based in

Japan and in other countries. Last year, the magazine printed three photographs of similarly exposed models in its May edition, only to receive a warning from the Tokyo metropolitan police section in

charge of pornographic material, nicknamed the Hair Squad. "I think it's time to test this restriction on depicting pubic Hair, particularly when it affects artistic expression," said the

Pubic Hair depiction is strictly banned in publications, films and other material for public use in Japan. However, scenes of sexual violence involving even children are readily

available in the form of comic books and video films.

'Serious shortcomings'

WASHINGTON: Through an accident of timing, President Bush is addressing POW-MIA families Friday, a day after reports cited "serious shortcomings" in American efforts to locate missing servicemen in Southeast Asia, reports AP.

The reports were found among thousands of documents released Thursday by the US Defence Department after Bush government agencies this week to open all such files. Friday's speech to the National League of Families of

American MIAs-POWs in Southeast Asia had been scheduled before the order was issued.

The documents were the first installment of a planned release of more than 1.3 million pages of papers - some dating to 1973 - that will be made available over the coming months. They deal with the 2,266 Americans still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

One evaluation in the files said investigators had "a mindset to debunk" information they received. Another 1986 report found "the strong possibility" of American prisoners still being alive in Laos and Vietnam, but nothing to show the US was covering up evidence about the missing Americans.

We support political independence of

BEIRUT, July 24: Secretary of State James Baker opened up two points of controversy in sectarian-divided Lebanon when he paid the first visit to the country by a top US official

ked a 1989 peace pact which ended Lebanon's 15 years of civil war between Muslims and Christians, pressed both for a partial Syrian military withdrawal and for general

He said the estimated

banon should soon redeploy under the terms of the Taif Peace Accord, which provided for political reforms followed two years later by a Syrian withdrawal to the Bekaa Valley near Syria's border.

political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon," Baker told a news conference on Thursday after three hours of talks with

"I think it's an important

an important time for the peace process to which Lebanon has committed itself."

His visit coincided with a one-day strike in Christian areas to protest against holding general elections, which would be the first in 20 years, before the Syrians pulled back to the

Christian opponents argued that elections held under Syrian military control would attract only candidates loyal to Damascus, which already orchestrates Lebanon's political, foreign and military policies under a brotherhood treaty

Baker said it was vital for elections to be free of any hint of "Intimidation or coercion." Syria says it wants to withdraw its forces as soon as possible and will not influence the

Baker's visit, aimed at reviving Arab Israeli peace talks, ended a nine-year-US boycott anti-western bombings, kid-

of Lebanon where a wave of napings and hijackings erupted in 1982.

SARAJEVO, July 24 Warring ethnic factions fought fierce battles in Sarajevo today with artillery, mortars and machineguns, cutting a trail of destruction through the

In the worst fighting in several days, intense battles between Muslims, Croats and Serbs could be heard in districts around the city, where 380,000 civilians are trapped.

Bosnian capital, reports

The heaviest fighting, with the sky lit up by tracers and exploding shells, was between 4 and 5 am. Then after tapering off, the battles were resumed later in the morning.

BDIF

Iranian paper blasts Mandela: An

Iranian newspaper today blasted African National Congress

Leader Nelson Mandela for suggesting negotiations between

and Tehran should "solve their differences through negotia-

tions," stressing that improved ties between the two foes will

Mandela's proposal in an editorial Thursday and saying such

an offer was "curious" coming from a man who had become a

"symbol of the struggle against racism and oppression."

But the pro-radical Jusmhuri-Islami newspaper criticised

The United States and Iran severed ties following the

November 1979 takeover of the US embassy in Tehran by

fundamentalist students, who held dozens of hostages for

Philippine ecologist who helped save his country's coral reefs

from destruction has won the annual Ramon Magsaysay Award

for public service, the Magsaysay Foundation said on Friday,

ing the Philippines' abundant marine resources from

clam and the Philippine crocodile to reproduce incaptivity.

award for government service. The former governor of

Bangkok led pro-democracy rallies in Thailand that led to the

downfall of Premier Suchinda Kraprayoon. The awards were

established in 1958 in memory of Philippine President

20 pc cut in Turkish army: The

Turkish army, the second largest in the North Atlantic Treaty

Organisation after the United States, is to be reduced by some 20 per cent in September, Turkish military source said

The high-ranking sources said the standing army of some

The plan would replace the regiment-division system by a

550,000 troops will be reduced to about 450,000 under the

battalion-brigade system, which suggests abolishment of all

regiments except training ones, and establishment of 13 in-

fantry, 14 armoured and 44 commando brigades, military of-

The Turkish government had reduced the 18 month obli-

gatory military service to 15 months in May, effective in

September, which is expected to cut conscripts by more than

30,000 Iraqis live in Saudi camps:

Some 30,000 Iraqi relugees, mostly Muslim Shi ite soldiers

and civilians - have been living in camps in the Saudi desert

for more than a year, the International Committee for the Red

refugees had fled southern Iraq to escape repression and did

meters (150 miles) northwest of Riyadh, and at Rasha on the

Scandivanian countries had agreed to accept a small number

of the refugees, but most were still awaiting a solution to their

plight. Saudi Arabia refuses to allow them to immigrate, but is

providing care and maintenance at the two camps pending a

3 killed in Moldovan clash: Moldovan

loyalists and Slavic separatists from the breakaway Trans-

Dniester region clashed overnight, leaving three people dead

and 21 wounded, officials said Thursday, reports AP from

lated a peace agreement reached two days ago in Moscow

between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and his Moldovan

Associated Press that Moldovan and Russian peacekeepers

would be deployed along the Dniester River conflict zone

Pinatubo erupts again: The Philippines'

mount Pinatubo volcano belched ash and steam in a mild

eruption on Thursday evening, showering powdery debris on

of the century's biggest eruptions and killed 700 people,

spewed an ash column up to 7,600 metres (25,000 feet) high

said rain coming into contact with hot volcanic debris de-

posited on the flanks of the peak sparked explosions.

Experts said the volcano, which exploded last year in one

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology

villages at its foot, Reuter reports from Manila.

Both sides blamed each other for the fighting, which vio-

Nicolae Chirtoaca, Snegur's military advisor, told The

ICRC delegates who visited the two camps said the

They said the camps were located at Artawiyeh, 250 kilo-

The ICRC said the United States, Iran and the

Cross (ICRC) said Thursday, AFP reports from Geneva.

Ramon Magsaysay, who died in an air crash in 1957.

reorganisation to go into effect by September 10.

Angel Alcala was selected because of his work in protect

It also praised Alcala for inducing the near-extinct giant

On Monday, it named Chamlong Srimuang as winner of the

Ramon Magsaysay Award

Mandela told a press conference Tuesday that Washington

Tehran and Washington, AFP reports from Tehran.

A London report adds:

words with leaders of Bosnia's three warring factions who promised one thing and did

"I do not think there is

Castro to attend

NAM summit

President Fidel Castro will at-

tend the Non-Aligned Move-

ment's summit in Jakarta in

September if there is no threat

to his country from the Untied

States, Cuban Ambassador to

Indonesia Jorge Cubiles said

does not depend on us. It will

depended on the dangers in

our region. This will only be

known by the government of

the United States," Cubiles

told reporters, adding that the

United States had been threat-

tion movement runs from

last summit in Belgrade.

Analysts wondered whether he

stayed away because of differ-

ences over the direction of the

movement, set up in the early

1960s to help the developing

world steer a middle path be-

said that era had ended with

the collapse of communist in

Eastern Europe and the Soviet

allies when most of the social-

ist countries have disappeared.

But the Cuban Ambassador

We cannot talk of natural

tween the two superpowers.

The summit of the 105 -na-

Castro did not attend the

ening Cuba for 32 years.

September 1 to 6.

Union.

"Really it (Castro's visit)

today, reports Reuter.

JAKARTA, July 24: Cuban

a radical change in circumstances," said the former British Foreign Secretary, and NATO Secretary General.

Fierce battle in Bosnia

EC envoy refuses to talk more truce

Carrington has clashed with United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali over arrangements for the latest Bosnian. peace initiative and his efforts on Tuesday to revive the cease-fire in Belgrade came to nothing.

he was not consulted before

Thursday to Bosnian President Mandela won't hold talks until demands

> fulfilled LONDON. July 24: South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) Leader Nelson Mandela said in London Thursday that the ANC would not resume talks with the government until its demands were met, reports AFP.

Speaking at London Airport on his arrival after a Middle East tour, the nationalist leader said: "We have submitted a list of demands to the (South African) regime and we insist that they should meet those demands before there can be any discussion between the ANC and the regime."

Meanwhile, UN special envoy Cyrus Vance was meeting South African President Frederik de Klerk, under the terms of last week's UN resolution, which urged both sides to resume negotiations.

Lady Chalker retterated the British government's view that both sides should resume talks as soon as possible, as this would help reduce tension and violence in South Africa.

Mandela defended the ANC's decision to hold a general strike next week, saying: "We have achieved a lot by mass action."

AIDS hospital

to be built

in Bombay

Bombay Mayor Chandrakant

Handore announced here that

a modern hospital will soon

come up in the city exclusively

with money from the World

Bank loan.

AMSTERDAM, July 24:



MANILA: Former First Lady Imelda Marcos (L) talks to her lawyer Renato Dilag (R) before posting bail here allowing her to leave the country. - AFP/UNB photo

1.32 lakh refugees will get entry into US next year

WASHINGTON, July 24: President George Bush plans to let 132,000 of the world's 16 million refugees enter the United States next year, the bulk of them from East Asia and the former Soviet Union, Deputy US Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said on

Thursday, reports Reuter Bush's funding plan falls 10,000 short of the number of refugees budgeted for this financial year, which ends in September, but makes up for the shortfall by allowing 10,000 privately funded refugees to

enter the country. "The United States has and will continue to play an active role, both financially and politically, in promoting refugees repatriation," Eagleburger told a UJMS. Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and Refugee Affairs. "However a significant level of international cooperation and support must be

forthcoming. The United States makes repatriation its top priority but considers for admission anyone, on humanitarian grounds, who can establish persecution or a well-founded fear of persecution due to race, religion, nationality, social group or politics.

Bush plans to admit 52,000 refugees from East Asia: 50,000 from the former Soviet Union, 7,000 from the near East and South Asia, another 7,000 from Africa, 1,500 Eastern Europeans and just 3,500 refugees from America's nearest neighbours, Latin America and the Caribbean from which thousands of Haitian boat people, seeking asylum after last September's coup, have sought

to enter the United States. Another 1,000 refugee places would remain in reserve under the Bush plan.

The Bush administration committee said. has come under fierce criti- "If we want other governcism for welcoming refugees fleeing communist Cuba while it has repeatedly turned back ricket boats loaded with Haitians.

In May, Bush issued an executive order permitting the US coast guard to send Haitians home, a policy widely criticised by democratic law-

makers. "America's historic com-

passion for the world's refugees must continue," Senator Edward Kennedy, a democrat from Massachusetts and Chairman of the Judiciary Sub-

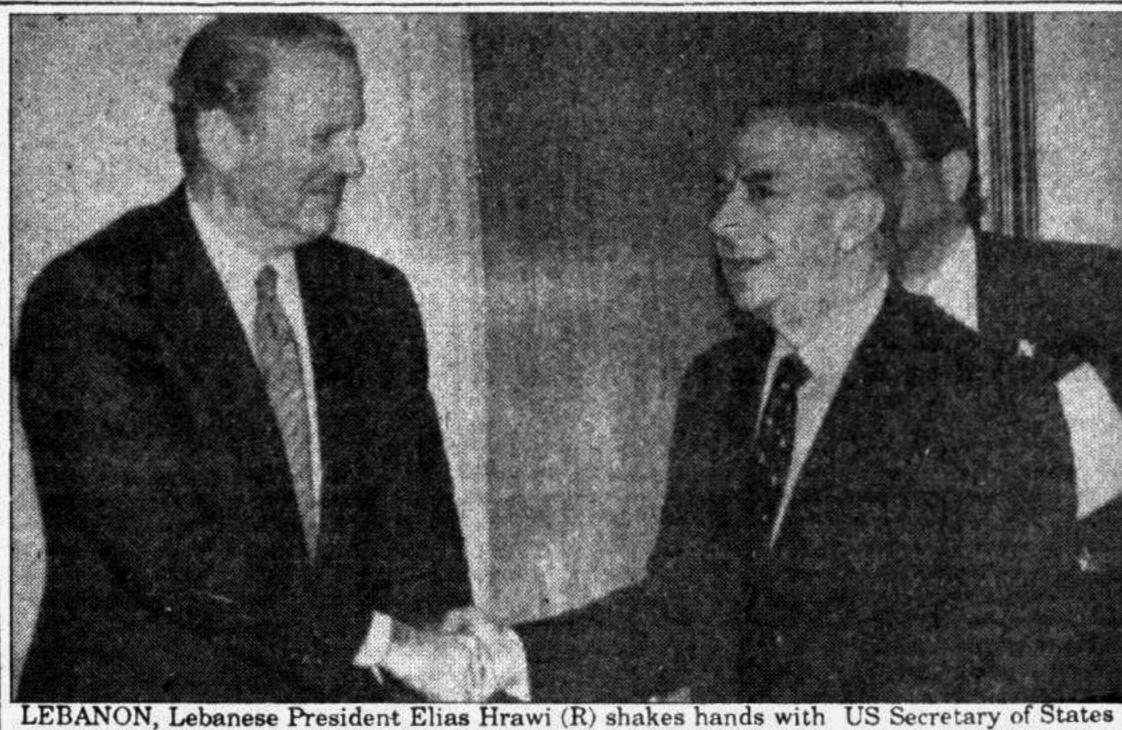
ments to respect the needs of all refugees ... we cannot protect refugees from Cuba but reject those from Haiti," he

ate Committee: "As is evident, our programme will continue in the near term to address many of the residual human problems created by commu-

for the treatment of AIDS patients, reports PTI. This will be the first AIDS hospital in the country. He said his municipality has decided to donate land on which the hospital will be built

Ebagleburger told the Sen-

Handore was one of the five mayors from cities in developing countries invited by the AIDS congress to discuss the AIDS situation in their cities and they are coping with it in a round table session moderated by actress Elizabeth Taylor.



James Baker during their press conference on July 23 in the village of Zahle in the Bekka - AFP /UNB Photo

Beijing holding over 10m in forced-labour camps camps) of China?" Wu asked

WASHINGTON, July 24: Beijing is holding more than 10 million Chinese — including at least 1 million political prisoners - in forced-labour camps that produce goods for domestic and foreign markets, says a Chinese-American who spent 19 years in the gulag, reports AP.

Harry Wu, a research fellow with the Stanford Universitybased Hoover Institution, said China continues to make big profits from prison-made products and has no intention of abiding by promises to the United States to curtail exports of such goods.

"We condemned Stalin's gulag. We condemned Hitler's concentration camps. How can we hold different standards for the "laogai" (forced-labour

Thursday in a speech to the Heritage Foundation. Wu, sometimes disguised as

a businessman seeking contracts, visited 20 labour camps in China last year in an expose Press. on prison labour goods shown on CBS-TV's "60 Minutes" programme. He later testified to Congress on his findings.

Wu said the numbers of Chinese jailed for political reasons declined after Deng Xiaoping took power in 1979, but has been on the rise since 1987, when Beijing's conservative leaders began to crackdown on the rising number of Chinese willing to speak their

Thousands were sent to prisons and re-education camps after the 1989 military

democracy movement, although "the numbers are small compared to the total over the past 40 year," Wu said in an interview with The Associated

suppression of the Tiananmen

"We can't just talk about Tiananmen," he said, adding that the human rights issue in China must address what he estimated were the 50 million who have disappeared in labour camps since 1949 and the 10 million still imprisoned today. He cited Chinese figures in concluding that at least 10 per cent of those in camps today are being held for political

"The laogat is the foundation of China's totalitarianism," he said in his speech. "It is a political machine of violence

used to crush the individual spirit and advance class strug-Wu said he had collected

data on about 1,000 laogai camps, and said all were required to pay their own way. In the 1950s and '60s, most were engaged in farming; now many have moved into manufacturing, with some 40 per cent of their products destined for export, he said.

"Never before has a nation created a prison system so extensive that it pervades all aspects of national production," he said. China has denied to the

prison facilities.

United States that it exports

some members of Congress have focused on the prisonlabour issue in pressing for a reversal of the Bush administration's policy of extending trade benefits to China. Wu held out little hope that China would give up export

Human rights groups and

revenues from prison goods he estimated at 100 million dollar a year. He said China, the world's largest seller of tea, relies on prison labour for 33 per cent of its tea exports. Among other prison exports are farm products, textiles, steel pipes, valves and hides. He said the camps use

other countries to process prison-made products to help prison-made goods, and last month indicated it would allow escape detection overseas. on-site inspections of some These modern-day slaves play a critical role in China's

Wu left China in 1985 and businessman.

socialist construction. The vast laogai system ... comprises such full-scale production planning and financial structure that it has been placed under the Bureau of Production," he said.

We was a 20-year-old student in Beijing in 1956 when he was branded a "rightist" for criticizing the Soviet invasion of Hungary. He was arrested in 1960 and served 19 years in forced-labour camps, including nine years in a coal mine run by a "reform-through-labour" detachment in Shanxi pro-

later became a US citizen. He visited the mine last year, this time as a prosperous American

Lebanon: Baker

in nine years, reports Reuter. Baker, whose country bac-

elections. 40,000 Syrian troops in Le-

"We strongly support the Lebanese leaders.

time for this region. I think it's