

Rabin survives first no-confidence vote

JERUSALEM, July 28: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin easily survived his first no-confidence vote in Parliament by 59 to 48 on Monday after opposition parties attacked his policy of freezing Jewish settlements on Arab lands, reports Reuter.

Rabin, who took office two weeks ago promising to advance Middle East peace talks, has cancelled the construction of nearly 7,000 houses in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Five opposition parties presented no-confidence motions over the settlement freeze, peace moves and other matters.

"We said before the elections ... instead of investing money in settlements in crowded Arab areas we are

Airport officials stop Imelda

MANILA, July 28: Philippine airport officials stopped former first lady Imelda Marcos from travelling to Hong Kong today, saying she needed written clearance from immigration authorities before she could leave, reports Reuter.

Marcos was in an airport VIP lounge waiting to board her plane when aides told her she could not go.

going to change the national priorities," Rabin told parliament.

"We said we would divert the money to problems of the economy and society."

Parliament voted on all five no-confidence motions at once "the results are: 48 supported the motion, 59 were against. Therefore all the motions on no-confidence were rejected," declared Speaker Shevah Weiss.

The ministers of Finance and housing decided on Monday to halt the construction of 4,000 new houses inside Israel in addition to 3,000 cancelled last week.

On Sunday the Cabinet moved to rescuing benefits the previous hardline government gave Jews to settle in the occupied territories, including discounts on taxes, mortgages, roads, power and water.

Former hardline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir led a policy of pouring thousands of Jews into the occupied lands to strengthen his position against withdrawal. Some 100,000 Jews live there among 1.75 million Palestinians.

Five Arab members of parliament, who are not members of Rabin's Labour-led coalition, vowed with the government.

At full strength the coalition commands 62 of parliament's 120 votes.

UN Council body demarcates Iraq-Kuwait border

UNITED NATIONS, July 28: The UN Security Council commission demarcating the land boundary between Iraq and Kuwait has finalized its report despite Iraq's refusal to participate in the July 15-24

on the British map referred to in Security Council Resolution 687," the commission said in a press release.

The demarcation "leaves Umm Qasr port complex, including all the warehouses,

commission, as required by the 'cease-fire agreement (resolution 687) is of concern to the Security Council and influenced the council's decision to keep the wide-ranging sanctions against Baghdad in place.

boundary to the south of Safwan between 1923-39.

Meanwhile, Secretary of State Baker has agreed to meet with a delegation of Iraqi opposition figures later this week, Acting US spokesman Joseph Snyder said. The date and time of the meeting have not yet been set, but it will take place at the State Department and will be Baker's first with Iraqi opposition leaders.

"This delegation represents a broad range of Iraqi opposition groups," the acting spokesman said. "We strongly support the opposition's call for elections throughout Iraq so that the Iraqi people can freely choose their representatives in a government that reflects the pluralistic nature of Iraqi society." He pointed out that US officials meet regularly with representatives of the opposition.

Baker's meeting with them is a sign of the seriousness with which we take their cause," Snyder said. "We support their efforts, and the secretary of state meeting with them is one means of underlining that support."

The delegation is expected to include Jalal Talabani of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan; Massoud Barzani of the Kurdish Democratic party; Laila Kubba, a secular Shia intellectual; Mohammad Bahr al-Aloom, a Shia religious figure; Salah Shakhly, a secular Sunni nationalist; and Arif Abdul Razzak, a former prime minister and air force commander who led a failed coup in 1968.



Iraqis celebrating departure of UN weapon inspectors from Baghdad on Monday.

final review process, a UN announcement said July 27, reports USIS.

The boundaries as delineated by the commission reaffirmed the situation as it existed before Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent Persian Gulf War.

The oil wells in the fields between Safwan and the Batin, exploited in the past by Iraq, were already "in Kuwait according to the boundary shown

crane installations, deep-water anchorage and two wide berths as well as whole of Umm Qasr village, the navy hospital and the sulfur works within Iraqi territory," the commission also said. "With the port and the Khawr Zobeir in Iraq, the commission's decisions on this section of the land boundary affirm Iraq's access to the sea."

However, Iraq's refusal to participate in the work of the

The commission has repeatedly stressed that it is not reallocating territory between Kuwait and Iraq but is simply demarcating the precise coordinates of the international boundary between Kuwait and Iraq for the first time.

To demarcate the northern section of the boundary the commission investigated the position of a notice board, which was accepted by both countries as demarcating the

—Star TV photo

Mystery over killing of Boudiaf deepens

ALGIERS, July 28: The mystery of who killed Algerian head of state Mohamed Boudiaf has deepened with publication of an official report suggesting the assassination could have been a well-organised plot, reports Reuter.

The newspaper La Nation said on Monday that evidence released by a special commission investigating the murder suggested "complicity at the highest level of decision-making" and called for those responsible to be denounced however influential they were.

Newspapers analysing the preliminary report published late on Saturday found little to suggest that the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had been involved in the plot, even though the assassin claimed he acted out of religious conviction.

One paper, El-Watan, suggested that Boudiaf was killed because he was determined to wage war against corruption and quoted the murdered leader's brother-in-law, Amine Benabderahmane, as saying, "Mohamed had a presentiment about those who were responsible for the political, economic and social stagnation of Algeria."

He wanted to neutralise them. It was a race against time. If he had three more months, many facts would have

changed, that was why he was struck down and that is the direction to look for those responsible."

Kamel Razzak Bara, reading a statement on behalf of all six members of the commission, said "Blameworthy and criminal instances of negligence" in Boudiaf's security arrangements had made it easy for him to be shot dead as he gave a speech at a cultural centre in the eastern town of Annaba on June 29.

Ramos wants amnesty to rebels

MANILA, July 28: President Fidel Ramos submitted on Monday amnesty proclamation to the congress and asked for its 'immediate concurrence' to grant amnesty to both leftist and Muslim rebels, reports Xinhua.

In his first state of nation address this afternoon, Ramos said peace and security are the first urgent problems facing the republic that suffered seven coup attempts in the previous administration of former President Corason Aquino.

BRIEFLY

Denmark to take 1000 refugees:

Denmark is to take in 1,000 refugees from the former Yugoslavia, its Prime Minister Poul Schluter announced Monday, AFP reports from Copenhagen.

This follows Germany's move to welcome 5,000 refugees who arrived there Sunday and Monday by train and an urgent call by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl for other European Community countries to follow suit.

In Denmark, priority will be given to children, women and old people.

UN specialized agencies will coordinate moves to bring the refugees to Denmark and the Danish government will ask local communities to provide accommodation.

Austria and Hungary have taken 50,000 refugees on a temporary basis.

8 Kurds killed in clash:

Six Kurdish insurgents and two soldiers were killed in a clash in this eastern province Tuesday, Anatolia news agency said, reports AP from Turkey.

The clash occurred near the town of Diyadin, when the guerrillas opened fire on troops on patrol, the agency said. Four soldiers also wounded in the clash, it added.

The guerrillas are from the Kurdish Labour Party, or PKK, fighting for self rule since 1984 in southeastern Turkey where about half of the country's 12 million Kurds live.

More than 4,100 insurgents, soldiers and civilians have died in the fighting.

Mafia investigator shot dead:

Gunmen riding motorcycles killed a top Mafia investigator Monday night as he drove home from work, police said. The attack appeared to defy a massive government crackdown on the mob, reports AP from Sicily.

A police officer at Cannizzaro hospital said Inspector Giovanni Lizzio, 46, was shot in the chest and head as he drove alone. Lizzio was dead when he was brought to the hospital, the officer said on condition of anonymity.

RAI state TV said Lizzio led Catania's investigation into widespread Mafia extortion of eastern Sicilian merchants and businessmen.

The soldiers were rushed into Sicily just two days earlier after the Italian cabinet decided to send in 7,000 troops to step up the state's war on the Mafia. A week earlier, Judge Paolo Borsellino, the country's leading anti-Mafia magistrate, and five of his police guards, were killed in a bomb attack outside his mother's house in Palermo.

HK woman held with heroine:

A 28-year-old Hong Kong woman was charged in court Tuesday with smuggling 5.5 kg (12 lb) of heroin at Singapore's Changi Airport on Sunday, Reuter from Singapore reports.

Isang Kai Mong had 22 packets of heroin in her luggage, the prosecution said.

No plea was taken. Tsang was remanded in custody for one week pending further investigation.

Customs officials alleged on Monday that Isang hid the heroin in the lining of two jackets in her bags.

They said the woman was believed to have brought the heroin, worth more than Singapore 5 million dollar (US 3.1 million dollars) from Bangkok to sell in Europe for Australia.

Pakistani gets Magsaysay Award:

Shoab Sultan Khan, General Manager of the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme in Pakistan, will receive the Ramon Magsaysay Award for community leadership, it was announced Tuesday, reports AP from Manila.

The award foundation cited Khan, 59, for "nurturing self-reliant development and bringing hope to the forgotten peoples" of Pakistan's mountain regions.

The award, named after a Philippine President who died in a plane crash in 1957, is the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize.

The citation said Khan was a believer in democratic institutions as the instruments of empowerment for the rural poor.

It said Khan helped develop mountain communities in Pakistan's northwest frontier and in Sri Lanka, where he lived in a forest village, before he joined the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme in 1982.

Queen celebrates accession to throne

LONDON, July 28: Queen Elizabeth II was wined and dined Monday evening by five of the prime ministers who shared weekly confidence with her during the 40 years of her reign, reports AP.

Actor and raconteur Peter Ustinov provided the laughs.

The 66-year-old queen, her husband Prince Philip, and Prince Charles and his wife Diana joined the prime ministers at splendid Spencer House, once the London Town house of Diana's family, and now rented out by Lord Rothschild for a variety of grand occasions.

Enjoying the quail's eggs,



sea bass and Chateau Lafite-Rothschild 1952 were Lord

Callaghan, prime minister 1976-79; Lady Thatcher, 1979-90; Sir Edward Heath, 1970-74, and Lord Wilson, 1964-70 and 1974-76. And of course, Prime Minister John Major, the present resident of 10 Downing St.

The only absentee was 89-year-old Lord Home, prime minister from October 1963 to October 1964. He was not well enough to attend.

Lady Avon, whose late husband Sir, Anthony Eden was prime minister from 1955 to 1957, attended in his place.

The party to celebrate Elizabeth's 40 years on the throne finished with a surprise appearance by Ustinov.

he reportedly had them howling with laughter over an entertainment based on comments previous sovereigns had written about their prime ministers — and what the prime ministers had said about their sovereigns.

Prime ministers meet once each week with the queen to keep her apprised of government policy and occasionally to hear her advice. The talks are strictly private and little has leaked. But several government leaders were known to have enjoyed the tete-a-tete meetings very much — especially Sir Winston Churchill, prime minister when Elizabeth took the throne in 1952.

Muslims reject Serbs' new offers

LONDON, July 28: Serbian and Muslim representatives from Bosnia-Herzegovina remained as far apart as ever at the end of their first day of a second round of indirect peace talks in London Monday, reports AP.

Muslim delegate Haris Siladzic rejected new proposals put forward by the Serbs, including an international tribunal to monitor human rights and the division of the republic along ethnic lines.

Earlier, Nikola Koljevic, a member of the Serbian delegation, emerged from two hours of talks with European Community (EC) negotiator Jose Cutileiro, saying: "We are optimistic. There is a fresh approach — it's a new serious round of talks from a new starting point."

Koljevic said the Serbian side had proposed the setting up of an international tribunal to monitor human rights, working on the ground with the former Yugoslav republic's three rival ethnic groups, Serbs, Muslims and Croats.

He also spoke of the possibility of making arrangements for the constitution of Bosnia and he expressed optimism about getting all three sides around the negotiating table for face-to-face talks during the present round of talks, which may end as early as Tuesday.

Koljevic repeated the Serbian side's wish for Bosnia to

be divided up into "units" between the three ethnic communities, within one state.

Reuter from Bonn adds: the last of six trains carrying over 5,600 Bosnian refugees to safety reached Germany on Monday as Bonn stepped up pressure for Europe to shelter more Muslims fleeing a Serbian "ethnic cleansing" drive.

Like the others arriving

during the past two nights, the final train brought mostly Muslim women and children expelled by Serb militiamen from Bosanski Novi in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The German Red Cross, which had doctors on the trains and helpers around Germany to welcome the arriving Bosnians, said the railway rescue brought a total of 5,623

exhausted refugees from the Croatian frontline town of Karlovac.

While emotional scenes of arriving refugees dominated the television news, the government repeated its call for European states to work out a refugee burden-sharing agreement at a Yugoslav peace conference called in London next month.



GERMANY: A Bosnian family smiles as their train enters the station in the German town of Hanau, on Monday. Over 380 refugees arrived in Hanau after a 15-hour trip from Karlovac. —AFP/UNB photo

Senate orders to hand over files on Kennedy

WASHINGTON, July 28: The Senate passed a bill Monday ordering the government to hand over all its files on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, reports AFP.

Under the bill passed by a voice vote, officials must make the files public after reviewing them. Any documents that officials wish to keep classified would be passed on to an independent panel, appointed by the president with the Senate's consent, for a final decision.

Only those papers deemed critical to national security or to the protection of a person's privacy could continue to be withheld.

Humans not very far from their revolutionary cousins

SYDNEY, July 28: Infanticide, murder, racism, adultery, war, rape, genocide — far from being aberrant human traits, they are natural and shared with many other animals.

So says a new book by an American biologist which uncovers some uncomfortable facts about human nature and has been hailed by some scientists as ground-breaking.

"Murder goes a long way back" author professor Jared Diamond of the University of California told Reuters. "Chimps practise it. The only difference is that we do it a lot more efficiently. The murderous impulses themselves, they're something we inherit. The commonest cause of

death in male adult gorillas is to get murdered by another male gorilla. One of the commonest causes of death for a baby gorilla is to get murdered by a male gorilla that has just killed the father of the baby," he said.

Diamond's book suggests that humans have not evolved very far beyond the nasty traits of their distant evolutionary cousins.

The book says a visitor from outer space would conclude humans are a slightly different form of chimpanzee. Hence the name of the book — "The Rise and Fall of the Third Chimpanzee" which won this year's Rhone-Poulenc science book of the year award in Britain.

Like Desmond Morris and his "The Naked Ape" best-seller of the 1960s 54-year-old Diamond studies humans as animals to gain insights which our culture and human "common sense" have obscured.

"What he's done with his book is pull together an overview of humanity, wars and all, (especially) relying on the huge advances of the last five years," said Dr Tim Flannery, the Australian museum's senior research biologist, who was full of praise for the book and its author.

The book says war, rape, infanticide racism and genocide are all parts of our past that were practised often.

"Rape is common in Orangutans and ducks. Groups of

male ducks gang-rape a female, often injuring the female in the process. Among orangutans, sex is either consensual or rape sex" Diamond told Reuters.

In mammals, the bigger the male compared with the female, the more polygamous he is, whereas if both are the same size monogamy rules.

The slightly larger frame and body muscle of men compared with women suggests humans are largely monogamous but have a tendency toward extramarital sex, the book says.

Percentage studies of babies in Britain and the United States back this up — surprising 10 to 30 per cent of births looked at were of blood

groups that could not have resulted from anything but adultery, the book says.

War is also common in the animal world his research shows, almost any animal species that has the physical capabilities to murder does it. Not just murder but mass murder — there's war between prides of lion's packs of wolves and neighbouring troops of chimpanzees" Diamond said.

"It's inefficient — they didn't have rockets, atomic bombs or spears. The only way they could kill was for six chimpanzees to jump on a single Chimp and beat him for half an hour. Those are the animal precedents for human war," Diamond said.

Studies also show humans

tend to mate with those most similar to themselves — not just in religious, political and cultural ways, but in physical attributes such as eye and lip shapes. He argues that by acknowledging the origins of our darker selves, we better learn to deal with them. We are much less barbaric now than we ever have been, he says.

"You can say war is in our genes but like murder, rape and infanticide, it's something society can choose to suppress," he told Reuters.

"In traditional societies, murder is widespread. But in the 20th century, despite two World Wars, far fewer people have died violent deaths than regularly as a result of murder in traditional societies."

Atlantis to be launched Friday

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, July 28: The space shuttle Atlantis is set for launch on Friday with a team of astronauts who aim to use a 200-year-old electrifying experiment with a kite as a model for developing cheaper power sources for space, reports Reuter.

Instead of the kite American founding father, diplomat and inventor Benjamin Franklin used 200 years ago, the international crew will try to generate power with a satellite that will remain tethered to the shuttle by a 12-mile-long (19-kms) spaghetti-thin cable.

Off the Record

It's not Clinton or Perot it's 'Dave'

WASHINGTON: Hold onto your popcorn and Goobers — there's but to be a new man in the White House Oval Office, and it's not Bill Clinton or Ross Perot. It's "Dave," reports AP.

The Warner Brothers movie "Dave" is being shot this week in Washington and is slated for release next spring.

The basic plot is that the president suffers a stroke and is completely incapacitated. Rather than admit this, White House operatives hire a look alike, played by Kevin Kline to pretend to be the president. Kline as Dave, gets seduced by the power and begins proposing sweeping changes in government.

Screenwriter Gary Ross, who also wrote the movie "Big" wrote in cameo parts for US Sens. Al D Amato of New York, Lloyd Bentsen of Texas and Alan Simpson of Wyoming.



Lewin's paintings are fake?

SYDNEY: Christie's auction house, just hours before it was due to sell off part of Alan Bond's famous art collection, questioned today whether the paintings were what they purported to be — the work of English painter John William Lewin, reports AFP.

The Birds, depicted in nine watercolours supposedly painted by Lewin in the early 1800s after he came to Australia, have been revealed as having somewhat dicky legs and feet.

They are likely to be described at the sale today night as being "In the Manner of John Lewin."

Christie's managing director Roger McIlroy told AFP, "We are not necessarily convinced that they are not Lewins, but we have people of eminence whom we respect raising doubts about them."

Libel suit against Mirror

LONDON: Attorneys for Michael Jackson filed suits for libel and breach of contract Monday against the Daily Mirror because of a photograph it published from his current tour and articles claiming he has been disfigured by plastic surgery, reports AP.

The libel suit against the Daily Mirror and editor Richard Stott sought unspecified damages for a series of articles published since June 24, said Julia Plaa, a London attorney who is representing Jackson and his touring company.

The second suit against the Daily Mirror and photographer Ken Lennox alleges that they violated an agreement not to sell any photographs taken during Jackson's performance and not to publish any photograph more than once. A statement released in London by Jackson's "Dangerous" tour said the Mirror falsely claimed "that Jackson is a scarred phantom whose face is covered with scar tissues, with a hole in his nose, one cheek higher than the other and an oddly sagging chin."

