

**BRIEFLY**

**Typhoon hits Japan :** Typhoon Janis, with winds of 150 KPH (93 mph), slammed into southern Japan this morning toppling trees and causing flooding in which one person died, police and weather agency officials said. Reuter reports from Tokyo.

Six others were injured and more than 500 residents evacuated as the typhoon, the most powerful storm to hit Japan this year, dumped torrential rains on Kyushu, Japan's southern home island, according to regional authorities.

An estimated 45,000 domestic air passengers bound for Kyushu and the Okinawa islands further south were stranded at airports across the country today, the start of Japan's annual "o-bon" summer holidays.

Thousands of passengers bound for Kyushu on the super-express bullet train were stranded.

**India to ban export of children :** India said on Friday it would introduce a law banning the export of children to Gulf emirates where they are used as jockeys in camel races, a popular Arab sport, Reuter reports from New Delhi.

Minister of State for External Affairs R L Bhatia told the Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Parliament) that 20 Indian children had been rescued by Indian diplomats in the Gulf so far.

Indian police say young boys are strapped to the camels and their terrified shrieks prompt the beasts to run faster in the races. Their light weight is also an asset in the competitions, often patronised by members of the local royal families.

Bhatia said the police had been asked to investigate a network of child smugglers that exports the children to the Gulf.

**20 killed in Indian bus mishap :** At least 20 people were killed and five more injured when a bus crashed into a ravine Thursday in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said, AFP reports from New Delhi.

The accident occurred in Uttar Pradesh's mountainous Chamoli district, but details were not available yet, police were quoted as saying.

**Blast leaves 3 dead in Singapore :** Three people were killed and more than 30 injured in an explosive on Friday at a Singapore Shopping centre under construction, state-owned Singapore Broadcasting Corp said, Reuter reports from Singapore.

The blast was on the first floor of the low-rise Ginzza centre shopping complex in the Clementi residential district.

Thirty-two people were taken to hospital for treatment and one to a burns unit. The cause of the explosion was not known.

**Leading Haitian newsman held :** Soldiers arrested a leading Haitian journalist Friday on the Dominican Republic border and accused her of subversion, her family said, AP reports from Port Au Prince.

Liliane Pierre-Paul, an award-winning radio journalist who was tortured during the Duvalier dictatorship, had gone into hiding following the army coup in September that toppled elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Soldiers stopped a tour bus in the border town of Malpassee, arrested her and told other passengers there had been a terrorist on the bus, said a family member, quoting a witness. The family member, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Pierre-Paul was accused of subversion.

Pierre-Paul, who was a frequent critic of Aristide, was perhaps Haiti's most listened-to journalist before the coup. She also was an outspoken advocate of free speech and democracy among Haitian journalists, who have been victims of a post-coup military clampdown on the media.

**Violence leaves 5 dead in Algeria**

ALGIERS, Aug 8 : Five worshippers were killed after Friday prayers at one of the main mosques in Algiers when police tried to arrest a preacher for making a political speech, according to witnesses, reports AFP.

A police source quoted by Algerian radio did not confirm the reports, saying that four people had been wounded.

Eyewitnesses said that shots rang out after police began checking the identity of worshippers as they emerged from the Sunna mosque in the working class district of Bab-El-Oued.

The national APS news agency said the attempted arrest of the imam or religious leader, came after he delivered what was described as religious speech, came after he delivered what was described by a security force official as a political, virulent and security force official as a political, virulent and subversive address to the thousand of worshippers.

The Sunna mosque is a stronghold of the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front which was banned in March following the declaration of a state of emergency imposed in February to quell an outbreak of violent protests at the annulment of parliamentary elections.

The police identity checks had prompted the worshippers to chant political slogans and insult the police, witnesses said.

**Iran, Syria talk bilateral issues**

DAMASCUS, Aug 8 : Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad met Iranian vice president Hassan Habibi Friday and accepted an invitation to visit Tehran soon, reports AFP.

The topic of discussion was not announced officially, but reliable Lebanese sources here said the two discussed legislative elections planned in Lebanon later this month and the head for "coordination" among anti-Israeli parties.

The Syrian-backed government in Beirut allows the pro-Iranian Hezbollah to remain armed and launch attacks against Israeli troops and their proxies in Israel-occupied south Lebanon.

Syrian spokesman Germane Kourie said meanwhile that Habibi informed Assad of the progress of the meeting.

**Malaysia opposes use of force to oust Saddam**

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 8 : Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad has said his predominantly-Muslim country opposes the use of force to oust Iraq's President Saddam Hussein, reports Reuter.

"We will not support any action to invade Iraq just to use at Saddam. Our stand is clear as we are against military aggression," Saturday's new Straits Times quoted him as saying.

Mahathir, speaking to reporters in Langkawi island off northern Kedah state on

Friday, said Iraq's neighbours could build up their defences with foreign help if they felt Baghdad threatened their sovereignty.

Malaysia supported the UN Security Council Resolution authorising the use of force against Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait. But Mahathir said Iraq had complied with the Gulf War ceasefire terms by allowing a UN team to inspect installations in the country.

"The results of the inspection should be accepted. Iraq has allowed the UN inspection team to check the buildings of

its Agriculture Ministry and we must believe the findings of the team," he said.

The ceasefire terms require Baghdad to open to UN inspectors any sites suspected of involvement in the production of weapons of mass destruction, which the United Nations is in the process of dismantling.

However, Iraq's Justice Minister said on Friday that Iraq would not allow UN inspectors into any more of its ministries.

Shibib Al Maliki told reporters in Quito, Ecuador, that Iraq had complied with UN

Resolutions to destroy weapons and was denying access to inspectors not because it is hiding weapons but as a symbol to protect its sovereignty.

AFP from Baghdad adds : Iraq accused the United States and the West Friday of "starving" the Iraqi people by refusing to remove a freeze on Baghdad's overseas assets.

The United States and its allies refuse to allow Iraq to buy food and medicine with its assets frozen in the United States and in European countries.

**Turkey for air strikes against Serbs**

BRUSSELS, Aug 8 : North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) diplomats said Friday the 16 member countries are likely to back a plan presented by senior diplomats Thursday to provide armed cover for aid deliveries to Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports AFP.

Diplomatic sources said the NATO plan provided for armed support of aid to Sarajevo via a land-based "humanitarian corridor" and by taking control of the Bosnian capital's airport.

Meanwhile in Ankara Friday, Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin said the NATO plan was not enough, describing it as a positive but insufficient step.

"The problem is not only a matter of humanitarian aid, you cannot give any help to murdered people," he told AFP.

"The swamp should be dried up, instead dealing with mosquitos," Cetin said.

He called for the United Nations to authorize Military air strikes against Serbian positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina to end the civil war there.

NATO countries have until Monday afternoon to confirm the agreement. If, as seems likely, member countries consent to the plan, NATO military officials will prepare the details. A mandate from the United Nations or the

Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and a new political decision is required before measures can be implemented.

Although no official figures have been released, military experts estimate 12,000 troops would be required to control the airport with a further 100,000 to protect a humanitarian land corridor.

The allies have prepared two further options, to reinforce the UN Naval embargo against Serbia and Montenegro, and to take control of heavy arms in Bosnia once any lasting ceasefire is in place.

**Violence follows attack on Kerala Muslim leader**

NEW DELHI, Aug 8 : Violence broke out in the southern Indian state of Kerala on Friday to protest the attack on a hardline Muslim leader that left him slightly injured, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, says AFP.

Agitating Muslim went on the rampage in three cities and six towns across coastal Kerala, attacking about 20 state-owned buses, the news agency said.



KARLOVAC, Croatia: Muslim refugees from Bosnia-Herzegovina reach for bread being handed out August 06 at a sport hall used to house refugees while they wait for Red Cross trains to take them to Germany. —AFP/UNB photo.

**Myanmar students urge Thailand**

**'Take tougher line with junta'**

BANGKOK, Aug 8 : Myanmar's main dissident student group urged Thailand today to take a tougher line with the military government in Yangon and push it towards democracy, reports Reuter.

It made the appeal in a letter to interim Prime Minister Anand Panyarachon on the fourth anniversary of a pro-democracy uprising in Myanmar.

The military crushed the revolt, killing hundreds of people, and has ruled Myanmar with an iron grip since.

The all-Myanmar students' Democratic Front asked Thailand to reconsider its so-called constructive engagement policy and take steps to encourage Democracy and Human Rights.

It also asked the govern-

ment to open up an official dialogue with the opposition.

The group said international relief organisations should be allowed to operate along the border, where thousands of people have fled fighting between Myanmar government troops and ethnic rebels.

Dissidents in exile in Thailand should be given official status, it added.

**Clinton says White House is run by 'negative people'**

LA CROSSE, Wisconsin, Aug 8 : Democratic Presidential Candidate Bill Clinton said on Friday the White House was run by "negative people" whose sole talent lay in running a negative campaign, reports Reuter.

"These people make their break and butter running down their opponents", he told reporters here.

"These are really negative people. This is how they run the White House. They do not know how to do anything else. All I tell you is I won't be surprised by anything they say or do, the Arkansas Governor said.

Clinton and his Vice-presidential Running Mate, Tennessee senator Al Gore, were on the final day of a bus tour through five states along the Mississippi river.

President George Bush, in a news conference at the White House, accused the Democrats too of using negative tactics saying they had used the primary campaign to attempt to define him and his record before he had the chance to define himself.

"I'm not going to permit the Democratic Party and the Democratic National Committee and the Democratic nominee to ill define it", Bush said, referring to his record.

"What I'm going to do is join the fray and go after him, and define his record—and that's going to be fun. I'm looking forward to it," Bush told reporters.

Clinton leads Bush in the opinion polls but the President hopes to have his day in Houston when his party meet in 10 days to renominate him.

Republicans are predicting their national convention in Texas will give Bush a "bounce" in the polls that will propel him into the autumn campaign.

Even members of his own party have been saying that Bush has turned voters against him by attacking Clinton while failing to set out his own goals for a second term.

Bush, Vice President Dan Quayle and White House and campaign aides have relied extensively on negative attacks on Clinton so far this election year, accusing him of being a closet liberal and tax-and-spend Democrat and raising questions about his moral values and his avoidance of military service during the Vietnam War.

Use of the tactics peaked last week when Bush's deputy campaign manager, released daily memos

**JKLF tells non-Kashmiris to quit valley soon**

NEW DELHI, Aug 8 : Muslim militants on Friday urged non-Kashmiris working in the troubled Himalayan state to quit the valley before they launch a civil disobedience movement against Indian rule there, a news agency said, reports Reuter.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted a spokesman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) as also asking all Kashmiris to stop

paying taxes to the government.

PTI reported that JKLF's Publicity Chief Shabir Ahmed Siddiqui told non-Kashmiris to leave immediately.

Locals resent India posting a large number of non-Kashmiri civil servants and technical staff to government institutions in the state.

"All non-Kashmiri employees are directed to leave the valley immediately."



COLOMBO: Sri Lankan photographer of the Sunday Times newspaper, Lalith Welivittigoda nurses his arm August 07 after being stabbed while covering an opposition campaign demanding President Ranasinghe Premadasa's resignation. The opposition has accused pro-Premadasa supporters of leading the attack which was focused on photographers and journalists covering the campaign. —AFP/UNB photo

**Off the Record**

**Love's labour levied**

LONDON : British travellers turned a blind eye when a couple had sex in public on a crowded train but their patience snapped when the lovers rounded off their performance with a cigarette in a non-smoking compartment, reports Reuter.

Prosecution lawyer Nazir Afzal told a London court on Thursday that passengers had been stunned to see John Henderson, 29, and Zoe d'Arcy, 19, "apparently having oral sex" in the train.

"In due course, they finished and lit up a cigarette each," he added.

Afzal said that until that point nobody complained. "It was only on their action in lighting up the cigarettes that the witnesses actually came up to them and complained about their behaviour."

Passengers found a guard who radioed ahead for police to meet the couple at London's Victoria station.

Henderson and d'Arcy admitted committing an indecent act.

They also admitted lighting cigarettes in a no-smoking carriage and were each fined 50 pounds (95 dollars).

**Birthday in captivity**

NEW YORK : Some 1000 whale fans turned out Friday for a rousing rendition of "happy birthday" for Hudson and Casey, the only baby Belugas to reach their first birthday in captivity, reports AFP.

The pups swam up to the window of their tank to watch the celebration at New York's aquarium for wildlife conservation, said spokesman Jeffrey Wexler.

The two baby Belugas also got a fish cake topped with a single candle and a giant birthday card.

Hudson, now about 1.8 meters (six feet) long and 158 kilograms (350 pounds) was born a year ago Friday and his younger half-brother, Casey, will turn one on August 14.

Casey is 2.1 metres (seven feet) long and weighs 204 kilos (450 pounds).

**Permanent injunction on overseas abortion service**

DUBLIN : A court granted a permanent injunction Friday to prevent students from circulating information on overseas abortion services, reports AP.

Abortion is banned in Ireland, except to save the life of the mother.

Dublin High Court Justice Frederick Morris also referred the case to the public prosecutor to consider criminal charges against 14 students who defied a three-year-old temporary injunction.

"We will not stop," said Maxine Brady, leader of the Union of Students in Ireland. "It is the mandate of our membership."

"Unfortunately and regrettably, it will be against the law. But we have no option. The law is unworkable. I am prepared to take the risk of prosecution."

More than 4,000 women travel from the Irish Republic each year to Britain for abortions.

Brady said the students—who have published information about abortion services in Britain in pamphlets and magazines—were considering an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Mary Lucey, president of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Children (SPUC), said she was pleased that "the law of Ireland has been upheld and the constitutional protection of unborn life has again been guaranteed."

**8 killed as trains collide in Mexico**

MEXICO CITY, Aug 8 : A passenger train collided with a freight train near the southwest Mexican coast Friday afternoon, killing at least eight people and injuring more than 270, officials said, reports AP.

Estrada, the deputy shift director, said by telephone. He said one person had arrived dead and 17 had been hospitalized.

Two other local hospitals also reported receiving the wounded.

The national railway said the accident occurred in a remote area near the Pacific port city of Lazaro Cardenas, about 220 miles (362 km) southwest of Mexico City. It involved a major passenger train from Mexico City, the Purepecha, but the railway did not say how the collision occurred.

The government news agency Notimex said the passenger train carried about 300 passengers.

Because the site was located near the La Villita reservoir, rescue workers had to remove many of the wounded by boat, said the newspaper El Diario in the Michoacan state capital of Morelia. Natimex said helicopters were also aiding in the search and rescue.

The National Railways of Mexico said investigators were headed toward the scene.

The railway said at least five people were killed. El Diario quoted doctors and rescue workers as saying at least eight died.

Hospital officials in Lazaro Cardenas said late Friday they had treated more than 270 people.

The Social Security Hospital alone treated 190 people, most for light injuries, Dr Joel

**Iraq, Azerbaijan set up ties**

BAGHDAD, Aug 8 : Iraq and the former Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan have established diplomatic relations, a Russian diplomat said here Friday, reports AFP.

Azerbaijan, the only country besides Russia in the Commonwealth of Independent States to have established ties with Iraq, which it did last week, the diplomat said.

The Iraqi consulate in Baku, opened in the early 1980s when Azerbaijan was part of the Soviet Union, now serves as an embassy. While an Azerbaijani diplomat in the Russian embassy will soon open the Azerbaijani embassy here.

The new Azerbaijani ambassador, whose name was not given, returned to his country shortly after two Azerbaijani women were shot dead, the Russian diplomat said.

One of the victims is the wife of a Russian diplomat in Baghdad, while the other is the daughter of an employee of Russian company who was visiting Iraq.

**KGB thought Kennedy's killer was a western spy**

MOSCOW, Aug 8 : The Soviet KGB never recruited the assassin of President John F. Kennedy, but watched him believing he was a Western spy, a newspaper reported Friday, reports AP.

Lee Harvey Oswald was kept under constant watch while he lived in Minsk from 1959 to 1962, and might have been drugged to make him talkative in open conversation, the newspaper Ivestia reported.

Oswald, who married a Soviet woman, worked in a Minsk factory and returned to the United States a few months before Kennedy's 1963 assassination.

The Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination, concluded that Oswald, acting alone, killed Kennedy, and found no evidence of

Soviet complicity. But questions remain.

Ivestia reported that Oswald arrived in the Soviet Union on Oct 15, 1959, and asked the Soviet authorities the following day for political asylum. His request was denied and on the afternoon of Oct 21, when he was due to leave, Oswald tried to commit suicide by cutting his wrist, Ivestia said.

After numerous asylum requests, Soviet authorities in November allowed Oswald to stay temporarily and he was ordered to settle in Minsk, where KGB surveillance would be easier, the newspaper said.

In the interim, the KGB watched him and he was given the code name, "Nalim," the Russian word for the burbot fish.

The KGB likely bugged Oswald's apartment, and sent agents who offered Oswald secret information or engaged him in anti-Soviet discussions, Ivestia said. In Minsk, the KGB used a new code name to report on Oswald, "Likhoy"—which both means "the dashing one" in Russian and is an acronym of Oswald's name.

The KGB also interrogated Pavel Golovachev, Oswald's colleague from the Horizon radio factory in Minsk who was 18 at the time, and ordered him to supply information on Oswald, Ivestia reported. It was not clear whether Golovachev agreed, the newspaper said.

Ivestia also quoted a high-ranking Belarussian security official as saying only one or two people in the state KGB knew full details about the surveillance operation, which involved about 20 agents.

ing to them.

In the end, the KGB concluded that Oswald was not a spy. Its representatives also deny that he was recruited as a Soviet agent, Ivestia reported.

It said this information could not be verified, but cited "experts" as saying Oswald's KGB dossier No. 31451 was too bulky agents' dossier usually consisted of one thin folder.

The newspaper said Oswald apparently disliked the Soviet authorities, and upon leaving for the United States told a neighbour: "You can build your Communism yourself! You cannot even smile like human beings!"

Friday's report was the second in Ivestia's three-part expose on the Oswald case. In its previous report,

ing to them.

In the end, the KGB concluded that Oswald was not a spy. Its representatives also deny that he was recruited as a Soviet agent, Ivestia reported.

It said this information could not be verified, but cited "experts" as saying Oswald's KGB dossier No. 31451 was too bulky agents' dossier usually consisted of one thin folder.

The newspaper said Oswald apparently disliked the Soviet authorities, and upon leaving for the United States told a neighbour: "You can build your Communism yourself! You cannot even smile like human beings!"

Friday's report was the second in Ivestia's three-part expose on the Oswald case. In its previous report,

**Fresh evidences of Ram temple found, claims BJP**

NEW DELHI, Aug 8 : The BJP today claimed that there were fresh archaeological evidences to confirm that a Hindu temple belonging to medieval period, eleventh century, existed at the Ram Jambhoomi site at Ayodhya, reports PTI.

The BJP President, Dr Murli Manohar Joshi, presented some photographs and findings of an archaeological team, which carried out the investigations in the sculpture, a fragmentary image of Vishnu showing 'chakrapurusha' was found besides figures of 'balrama and parashurama and amalaka'.

This, he said went to show that the temple evidently was a vaisnavite one.