

**BRIEFLY**

**Quake hits Indonesia :** An intense earthquake measuring 5.7 on the richter scale was recorded on Monday off the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, Hong Kong's Royal Observatory said, reports Reuter from Hong Kong. The epicentre was initially determined to be around the Talau islands, about 330 km (205 miles) northeast of Manado in Sulawesi. The quake was registered at 1945 gmt on Sunday.

**C'wealth team to visit S Africa :** A committee of commonwealth parliamentarians will visit South Africa soon to help advance the democratic process there, a spokesman said Sunday, Reuter from Port Louis says.

No date had been set for the visit, which was to have taken place last month but was postponed after all-race democracy talks broke down in June, he said after a regional conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA). CPA Secretary-General David Tonkin said: "We are not going to tell South Africans what to do, but we will offer them our advice if they want to take it."

AUN team led by former US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance recently ended a 10-day visit to South Africa to find ways in which the world body could help end township wars that claim an average 10 lives a day and to revive the democracy talks.

**30 feared dead in house collapse :** Thirty people were feared killed Monday when a house collapsed in an eastern Indian town, a news agency reported, AP says from New Delhi.

Police and fire brigade officials recovered 15 bodies from the debris of the three-storied house in Jamshepur, 1550 kilometers (961 miles) east of New Delhi. Press Trust of India reported quoting unnamed sources.

It said 10 people were hospitalized in serious condition. It was not immediately known how the building collapsed.

**Shi'ite scholar buried :** The world's highest-ranking Shi'ite Muslim scholar, grand Ayatollah Abolqasem Al-Khoi, was buried Sunday in the holy city of Najaf at a ceremony attended by a large crowd, the official Iraqi news agency IRNA reported, says Reuter from Baghdad.

The funeral was attended by Najaf Governor Karim Hassan Reda, officials from the Ministry of Endowments and Religious Affairs and a large crowd of clerics and followers," it said.

The Iranian-born Ayatollah died in the southern Iraqi town of Ofkafa on Saturday, two weeks after leaving Baghdad's Ibn Al-Nafis hospital following surgery to fit a pacemaker in his heart.

Iran's IRNA news agency had carried reports suggesting variously that Khoi was buried late on Saturday in a Private ceremony and that Iraq was preventing Shi'ites from turning out to mourn him.

**Akihito to visit China :** Japanese Emperor Akihito will make a state visit to China this Autumn, the Japanese news agency Kyodo reported Monday, reports Reuter from Tokyo.

Kyodo said Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa would notify the board of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) of his decision in a meeting later Monday.

The visit by Akihito, 58, the first by a Japanese monarch to China, would mark the 20th anniversary of normalised ties.



**SARAJEVO:** Bosnian militiamen are offered coffee by a friend in Sarajevo August 9. The British, French and US governments are "very close" to agreeing on a UN Resolution authorizing the use of force in Bosnia-Herzegovina according to the British Foreign Secretary. — AFP/UNB photo

**Worldwide support for resolution sought**

**Malaysia for UN military action against Serbs**

**KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 10:** Malaysia today called for the United Nations to take military action against Belgrade over its atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina and warned it might sever diplomatic ties, reports AFP. Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi said the Malaysian representative at the UN was lobbying for a Resolution to be moved at the Security Council for military action to halt the "massacre" of non-Serbian civilians in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "We have already informed the council of our effort and the UN must take immediate military action because its credibility is at stake," Abdullah told reporters here.

Abdullah said Malaysia was seeking worldwide support for the Resolution, including from countries of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said late Sunday that Kuala Lumpur might cut off diplomatic relations with Belgrade "if the Serbs continue killing and injuring innocent people." Malaysia last month downgraded its embassy in Belgrade to a chancery in protest against former Yugoslavia's defiance of UN sanctions and its continued aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mahathir said that Serbia could not be allowed to represent the rump Yugoslavia formed by Serbia and Montenegro at the Non-Aligned Movement summit in Jakarta later this month.

Abdullah said Monday that the UN Charter had enough provisions for it to take military action against the Serbian forces which, he said, had blatantly attacked UN peacekeepers. The warning came amid a call by the powerful youth wing of Mahathir's United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), the dominant party in the national front coalition government, asking Kuala Lumpur to take more severe action against Belgrade. The UMNO youth demanded that Malaysia suspend all contracts that had been awarded to Yugoslav firms because of "Belgrade's support for the Serbia militia in its brutal treatment of Muslims of Croatian origin in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Another report says: Iran's Red Crescent Society stepped up its aid effort to Bosnia-Herzegovina on Sunday, sending 15 trucks of food and medicine, according to its chief, Setfollah Vahid Dastjerdy, quoted by the irna news agency. The supplies come on top of 747 airplanes and three truckloads of supplies which accompanied Dastjerdy on a recent visit to the embattled former Yugoslav republic where Muslims, with 43 per cent of the population, form the largest minority. Last week Tehran sent two C-130 cargo planes full of medicines and food to Bosnia, along with a top-level delegation to visit refugee camps in the former Yugoslav republic. The announcement follows a recent visit by Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic to seek support for his country among Muslim countries.

**21 Tamils hacked to death in Lanka**

**COLOMBO, Aug 10:** Unidentified men stormed houses in an eastern Sri Lanka village and hacked to death at least 21 Tamil civilians, including women and children, military officials said Monday, reports AP. They said men armed with machetes and knives on Sunday walked into the houses at Milantenna village in Batticaloa district, about 210 kilometers (130 miles) east of Colombo. Snd officials at the Joint Operations Command. Ten people were injured in the attack, said the officials, who cannot be identified un-

der briefing rules. Many villagers fled into the jungles, they said. Details were sketchy. The attack appeared to be in retaliation to Saturday's land mine explosion that killed nine top military officers, including the northern region commander. The identity of the attackers was not immediately known. Shop owners in Colombo and other major towns put up shutters fearing violence Monday, hours before the funeral of officers, witnesses said. Police and military reinforcements were posted in most towns.

**Irangate may end in a whimper**

**WASHINGTON, Aug 10:** The Iran-Contra scandal that began with a bang nearly six years ago may end with a whimper — with few convictions, waning public anger and insufficient evidence to indict former U S President Ronald Reagan, reports Reuter. Even though ex-Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) spy-master Clair George is on trial, members of the office of independent counsel plan to end their inquiry within a matter of weeks. For their efforts — and for the more than dollar 32 million in federal money spent on the inquiry — the independent counsel's office, headed by Lawrence Walsh, has relatively little to show.

The scandal stemmed from a secret scheme run out of the White House — apparently without Reagan's knowledge — in 1985-86 to sell arms to Iran in an unsuccessful effort to win the freedom of the American hostages held in Lebanon. Millions of dollars in profits from the sales were funneled through secret Swiss bank accounts to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels fighting the leftist Sandinista government despite a Congressional ban on U S military aid. Walsh has defended the cost of the probe, saying the scandal undermined the government's system of checks and balances when Reagan aides lied in trying to hide the

affair from Congress. Now the prosecutors have told Reagan he is not a target, and the former President's lawyer says Reagan is unlikely to testify in any Iran-Contra case. "It confirms what we've felt has been the case all along that President Reagan is not being investigated by the Iran-Contra independent counsel on any allegations of criminal activity," Reagan lawyer Theodore Olson said last Tuesday. After nearly six years the problems that the Iran-contra plan sought to solve — the hostage crisis in Lebanon and the communist threat in Latin America — have abated. The last US hostages were freed in 1991, democratic

elections have been held in Nicaragua, and the threat of world communist domination seems more remote than ever. The world was far different in November 1986, when the Iran Contra scandal erupted in Washington. Reagan, one of the most popular of all 20th century presidents, appeared shaken as he appeared on national television to try to explain the deal had never been an arms-for-hostages swap and his aides later corrected that statement. Within days, Reagan had sacked U S Marine Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North.

**Off the Record**

**A flesh-pressing ordeal**  
SEVILLE, Spain : Canadian Scott Killen grabbed a world record by shaking hands with 25,289 people in eight hours at Seville's Expo 92 universal exhibition, Canadian Pavilion officials said, reports Reuter. Killen started his bid for the record books on Saturday evening and finished, blistered but beaming, in the early hours of Sunday. A Canadian Pavilion hostess kept score. The 30-year-old from Vancouver began his flesh-pressing ordeal with Canada's Expo Commissioner Luc Laviole and went down the queue of visitors waiting to tour the Canadian Pavilion before branching out to other pavilions and the streets of Expo. The Guinness Book of Record gives the current holder of the record as Rainer Vikstrom of Finland, who shook 19,592 hands in eight hours on 15 May 1988.

**Dogs, cats eat better than refugees**  
LONDON: Dogs and cats in western households at better than homeless people driven out of the world's troublespots, according to British scientists, reports Reuter. Their pet food is more nutritious in vitamins and mineral content than the typical rations given to refugees, say researchers in a letter to this week's Lancet Medical Journal. There is more riboflavin niacin, Vitamin A and iron in pet food than in a typical refugee ration, they said. A daily refugee ration was described as around 400g (14 oz) of cereals, 30g (1.058 oz) of lentils or legumes, 20 g (0.755 oz) of oil and a small quantity of sugar.

**Cockroaches invade PM's residence**

**TOKYO:** Cockroaches infest its dank rooms, rainwater seeps into the main hall and water from the tap has a rusty, reddish hue. It's not your average Tokyo home it's the Prime Minister's Official Residence, reports Reuter. This week preliminary work finally got under way on a new home fit for a premier, something hopefully on a par with 10 Downing Street or the White House. But government officials say they are not sure when, or even if, the building will get off the ground. "I'd like to give the Prime Minister a nice new place to live and work say, by the end of the century," said a senior official of the new Premier's residence preparation office. "But nothing is certain. When we can begin actual construction will depend on the state of government finances. The planning official described the current residence as unsuitable for a Prime Minister. The rooms are too small and there's not enough power to operate modern office and communications equipment," he said.



**Music that leads to life**

**OSWIECIM, Poland:** An Israeli rock group gave a controversial concert Sunday near the former Nazi death camp at Auschwitz saying that their music was a sign of Jewish survival, reports AP. The hard rock Durlax Sedlex band gave an outdoor performance at the Auschwitz International Youth Center, a German-sponsored conference hall founded to preserve the memory of more than 1.5 million people, most of them Jews, killed at Auschwitz by the Nazis. "When Jews were being brought to the camp a band played music that led them to death" said lead guitarist Ori Droomer. "Now we are playing music here that leads to life." Droomer said their concert was meant to symbolize Jewish survival and remind of the Holocaust. About 150 cheering and applauding fans attended the concert at the youth center, located less than a kilometer (about a half-mile) from the grounds of the preserved former death camp, now a museum and memorial. Durlax Sedlex shocked Holocaust survivors by announcing August 1 in Israel that the group wanted to perform at the gates of Auschwitz, where a Jewish band played as inmates entered the camp.

**US cancer specialist gets Russian citizenship**

**MOSCOW, Aug 10:** Russian President Boris Yeltsin has granted citizenship to a US medical researcher who defected to Moscow with his family in 1986 claiming he was being harassed for communist sympathies, reports Reuter. A decree signed by Yeltsin on August 6 and published by ITAR-TASS News Agency Sunday, said the President had granted a request by cancer specialist Arnold Lockshin for citizenship of the Russian federation. Lockshin, now 52, moved to Moscow while the cold war was still in progress in October 1986. He abandoned a job as a senior cancer researcher.

**Armenia blames Azerbaijan for launching "undeclared war"**

**MOSCOW, Aug 10:** Armenian president Levon Ter-Petrosian accused Azerbaijan on Sunday of launching "undeclared war" and appealed to CIS states to aid Armenia. ITAR-TASS news agency said Ter-Petrosian invoked a collective security pact signed in May by six members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. It obliges each to help the rest if attacked. "Aggression has been committed against a state which is a member of the CIS and the system of collective security," he said in a telegram to leaders of the other five states of the defence alliance. Ter-Petrosian called on the heads of state to "fulfill their obligations before the republic of Armenia by using political, military or other methods to

prevent a war." The appeal the first time a member state has invoked the security treaty was prompted by major military gains by Azerbaijan in the four-year conflict between the two former Soviet republics. Over 2,000 people have died in the fighting. Reports from both sides said Azerbaijan forces had captured Artavashen, a pocket of Armenian territory within western Azerbaijan. Azeri reports said the armed forces had "liberated" the town, destroying enemy tanks and weaponry and killing 300 Armenian "brigands". Armenian reports mentioned no dead but said 29 people were "missing without trace." Casualty claims in the conflicts have often been highly

exaggerated, but are hard to verify. Ter-Petrosian's telegram described the attack on Artavashen and the alleged Azeri bombing of Armenian territory as "the beginning of undeclared war." The conflict between Christian Armenia and Muslim Azerbaijan is the deadliest of the many ethnic disputes left behind by the collapse of the Soviet Union. Frequent peace missions have ended in deadlock, and members of the Commonwealth of Independent States are unlikely to greet the Armenian request with much enthusiasm. Six CIS members — Russia, Armenia and four central Asian republics created the defence union last May

**7 killed in S African violence**

**JOHANNESBURG, Aug 10:** At least seven people died in South African township violence at the weekend, one of them a man burned to death in a garbage bin, police said on Sunday, reports Reuter. A police spokesman said a man was forced to climb into a plastic garbage bin in Johannesburg's Alexandra township. She said the bin was sealed and set alight. In another attack in Alexandra, the township closest to Johannesburg's affluent white northern suburbs, a man was hacked to death with a spade. Five others were shot or hacked to death in separate attacks in townships around Johannesburg and a man was wounded in a shootout with police in eastern Pietermaritzburg.

**Sikhs kill 25 relatives of policemen in Punjab**

**CHANDIGARH, India, Aug 10:** Sikh militants killed 25 relatives of policemen in retaliatory strikes across Punjab to avenge recent slayings of top rebel leaders in security crackdowns, police and officials said today, reports AFP. Police in the Punjab state capital, Chandigarh, said Sikh militants fired assault rifles killing 14 relatives of two officers in Sangrur district's Mehna area in a pre-dawn attack today. The militants stormed two houses and killed men, women and children. "They wiped out everybody," an officer said adding that the rebels escaped in a car after the attack on the homes of a Police Sub-Inspector and a constable. Militants struck in Sangrur after the raid in Mehna, killing six relatives of another po-

**Texas voters favour Clinton**

**HOUSTON, Aug 10:** Texas voters, a week before the Republican National Convention, favour Democratic nominee Bill Clinton over President Bush 43 percent to 29 percent, according to a Houston Chronicle poll published Sunday, reports AP. Texas is Bush's adopted home state, and the Republic convention will be held in Houston. A national poll of 600 voters conducted for the Boston Globe found that the Democratic ticket would beat the Republican ticket 56 per cent to 32 per cent if the general election were held now. In the Texas state poll, the University of Houston Center for Public Policy surveyed 835 registered voters across the state between July 31 and Aug 5.

**Suharto defends army presence in legislature**

**JAKARTA, Aug 10:** Indonesian President Suharto has defended the military presence in the country's legislature as a consequence of history, the Antara news agency said here Monday, reports AFP. Suharto told would be MPs from the military who visited his branch in Tapol near here Sunday, that it was no longer possible for the military "to return to their stall only to executive their role in defence and security." The stressed that under Indonesian laws, the military were accorded a dual role, one in the defence of the country and another in political life. This dual function appeared

not because of the armed forces "selfishness but because of demand of times." Addressing the would-be MPs as "my fellow officers," Suharto spoke of the role played by the Indonesian armed forces in the country's recent history, from the struggle for independence in the late 1940s to averting the danger of communism in the 1960s. The military's presence in the legislature was not only to voice the interest of the armed forces but also to perform their socio-political duties as stipulated by the law, Suharto said.

**Police storm two Seoul varsity campuses: 80 students held**

**SEOUL, Aug 10:** Thousands of South Korean riot police firing tear gas stormed two Seoul University campuses before dawn today and arrested about 80 students planning outlawed pro-unification rallies, police said, reports Reuter. A police officer said about 3,500 riot police stormed Chungang University and nearby Soongsil University. Witnesses said hundreds of students at Chungang fought back, hurling petrol bombs and stones from the roof of a building. There were no clashes at Suongsil but police fired tear

gas as they charged in. Police seized about 80 stu-dents, several of them wanted for leading illegal anti-government protests, and said they were being questioned. Most were arrested at Chungang, due to be the venue for a series of planned rallies by students from all over the country from August 12 to 17. The rallies will mark the 47th anniversary on August 15 of Korea's liberation from 35 years of Japanese colonial rule. North Korean students had announced they would stage simultaneous demonstration and a march to Panmunjom to

meet up with their South Korean counterparts. The Seoul government calls the proposed rallies, sponsored by the radical student coalition Chondachyop, a North Korean plot to cause unrest in the South. It has pledged to stop South Korean students and dissidents marching on Panmunjom, the sole crossing point on the heavily fortified demilitarised zone. No reports of injuries in the police raids were immediately available. Police withdrew from the campuses after about five

hours, taking with them about 7,500 petrol bombs, around 200 four-gallon (20-litre) drums of inflammable paint thinner, hundreds of iron pipes and a mountain of placards, leaflets and other demonstration paraphernalia, a police officer said. The two Koreas are still technically at war following the 1950-53 Korean conflict. Defying government warnings thousands of radical students have staged small marches in recent days, including clashes with police in Seoul and provincial cities.

**Grenade hurled at army truck in Lima: 5 killed**

**LIMA (Peru), Aug 10:** Five soldiers died when a rocket-propelled grenade fired from a multi-storied building ripped their truck apart in central Lima on Sunday night, witnesses and television news reports said, according to Reuter. The grenade was fired from a floor of the building under construction in the wealthy Miraflores suburb, site of Lima's worst-ever guerrilla bombing attack last month. Army and police spokesmen declined to release information on the attack, but television news reports and witnesses said five of the soldiers died and seven were wounded. The grenade hit one of two

trucks in an army convoy, tearing it in half. Part of the truck was blown over a parapet and down a steep embankment, just missing a busy coast road. The attack was the worst in Lima since a wave of bombings by Maoist Shining Path guerrillas last month which killed around 40 people. Shining Path, whose 12-year battle to turn Peru into an INCA-style farming economy has cost more than 26,000 lives, have brought their fight to Lima since President Alberto Fujimori seized wide powers in April. But residents near Sunday's attack told reporters they found leaflets at the scene.