Off the Record

Auction for homeless

the Beatles hit "she's leaving home" has auctioned Thursday

for 41,000 pounds (80,000 dollars) at a charity sale of pop

which belonged to singer Madonna went for 9,000 pounds

Sinead O'conner were snapped up for 682 pounds (1,300

the late Elvis Presley which was put up for sale at 100,000

For ladies only

between Britain's Princess Diana and a male friend, thanks to

a Singaporean businessman who has dubbed the tape into

he was offering both the original recording and a Cantonese

inquisitive. Hong Kong ladies in particular are known to be

Armed with condoms?

arm its troops with condoms when they go to Cambodia as

United Nations peace-keepers, a defence agency spokesman

was seen as a potential hazard facing Japanese troops serving

abroad for the first time since World War Two.

troops a basic AIDS education course instead

keeping corps to be in Cambodia by early October.

the deadly disease, the spokesman said.

TOKYO: After much debate Japan has rejected a scheme to

Along with land mines and Khmer Rouge guerilla, AIDS

The defence agency studied possible anti-AIDS measures.

It finally abandoned the idea, however, preferring to give

"It is after all, up to each individual what he does, the

The defence agency expects most of its 600-strong peace-

spokesman said." It is a private matter, not a workplace issue.

Pigs on way to a

leaner society

DURHAM: The secret to staying slim is not acting like a

Well, guess who's the role model in a fitness study. That's

These healthy porkers can make exercise flends look bad.

"They really like it," said Gale Carey, who is conducting the

Carey, an assistant professor in animal and nutritional

"The incidence of obesity in kids is on the rise," Carey

They run 4 1/2 miles (7.2 kilometers) a day, five days a week,

without fail, without excuses. They just get on their treadmills

university of New Hampshire study. 'We get them going six

science, is studying the pig athletes to learn how people, and

children in particular, burn fat. Her hope is to eventually

said. There are striking statistics that are mostly attributed

to an increase in inactivity compounded by poor eating

miles (9.7 kilometers) an hour for 45 minutes a day".

such as distributing free condoms, to prevent infection from

version to satisfy the British colony's passion for scandal.

Robert Chua, self-styled broadcasting pioneer, told Reuter

It will be for the ladies, because they are always the most

HONG KONG: Hong Kong can hear for itself a taperecording claimed to be an intimate telephone conversation

music memorabilia, report's APP.

18,000 dollars)

pounds (200,000 dollars).

very gosstpy," he said Friday.

said Friday, reports Reuter.

pig, right?

habits."

right, pigs, reports AP.

dollars).

and children.

LONDON: A manuscript handwritten by Paul McCartney of

A gold lame waistcoat designed by Jean-Paul Gaultier

A pair of Doc Marten shoes belonging to Irish Singer

However there were no buyers for a rolls royce owned by

The proceeds of the sale will go to aid homeless people

## BRIFILY

Libya iterates support for Iraq: President Saddam Hussein has sent message to Libyan leader Moamar Gaddafi warning of the dangerous situation in the

Gulf region following the imposition of an air-exclusion zone in southern Iraq by Western allies, Iraqi news agency INA reported Thursday, says AFP from Baghdad INA said Hussein's message was conveyed by the Iraqi Ambassador to Tripoli in a meeting with Libyan Foreign

Minister Ibrahim Al-Bishari The agency said Bishari retterated Libya's support for Iraq in the face of what he claimed was "another conspiracy" by

the West against Haghdad Libya warned Monday that any violation of Iraqi sovereignty as a result of the imposition of the exclusion zone would have

serious consequences for international security in the Gulf. The joint French. British and US ban on flights of Iraqi aircrafts below the 32nd parallel to protect Shi'ite Muslims went into force earlier Thursday.

Egypt accuses Sudan: Egypt publicly accused its southern neighbour Sudan on Thursday of training and sending guerilla to Egypt on bombing and sabotage missions, reports Reuter from Cairo.

Interior Minister Mohammed Abdel-Halim Moussa said security forces had arrested 62 well-armed and well-funded Egyptians and other Arabs who were planning acts of violence in Sudan and trained some of them, he told reporters.

He said the 62 came to Egypt in small groups on forged passports but gave no further details.

Egyptian officials have long said in private that the military rulers who came to power in Khartoum in 1989 were trying to export Islamic revolution by violence and to destabilise the region.

Pak medical aid for Afghanistan: Pakistan Thursday rushed a plane load of medical supplies and other relief goods for Afghanistan to the border city of Peshwar to be sent to the Afghan capital, state-run television reported, says AFP from Islamabad.

A C-130 of the Pakistan Air Force carried the consignment to Peshwar, bordering Afghanistan, from where the supplies would be transported overland to Kabul, the report

In Kabul, the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) said it had brought in 20 tonnes of medical supplies for the four hospitals in the city that are still operational. Intense rocket attacks on the city have forced the ICRC to

cut its staff in Kabul by 75 per cent despite the large number of casualties needing medical care.

Several ICRC facilities have been damaged by rockets while many hospitals in the city have been forced to close because of shortages of supplies and a lack of staff.

Hindus, Sikhs flee Kabul: some 3,100 Hindu and Sikh refugees fleeing the violence in Afghanistan have entered India and 70,000 more are trying to secure visas in Kabul, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Thursday, AFP says from New Delhi.

The refugees have been entering India since the Mujahideen took power in Kabul in April, but their numbers soared after warring rebel groups intensified their internecine battles in Afghanistan.

Indian officials said the refugees were entering India via Amritsar, a Punjab region which borders, Pakistan half the 3,100 arrivals since June 1 were women and children. Nearly 70,000 Hindus and Sikhs, who are Afghan nation-

als, were waiting to get Pakistani visas in Kabul to travel overland and reach India, the officials said

Several refugees on their way to India are also staying in Sikh shrines in Pakistan, PTI said. Amritsar's air link with Afghanistan has been snapped since the latest fighting put the Kabul Airport out of action.

Hindus and Sikhs in Kabul have accused the Mujahideen of extortion and harassment, sparking protest demonstrations in the Indian capital, which is the destination of most of the new arrivals.

### Parliamentary polls in Kuwait Oct 5: The Kuwait government has set October 5 for its first

parliamentary elections in seven years, the state-run Kuwait News Agency reported, reports AP. The agency said the Council of Ministers set the date

Thursday in an emergency meeting and referred it to the Emiri Court for approval. The emirate's last parliament was suspended in 1986 by

the Emir, Sheik al-Ahmed al-Sabah, for its harsh criticism of the government. More than 200 candidates are to compete for 50 legisla-

tive seats. There are an estimated voters in the country, which has a

population of about 650,000. Only 21-year-old male citizens who an trace their ancestry to 1920 can vote.

32 killed in road mishap in China: An overloaded truck carrying 65 officials to a meeting in southern China plunged into a ravine after one of its tires blew out, killing 32 passengers, a newspaper reported Friday. reports AFP from Beijing.

More than 30 people were injured, Shanghai's Wen Hui Bao said.

The accident occurred August 17 after the Communist Party and government cadres piled into a Dongfeng truck and set out for a meeting to increase forest cover on barren mountains in human province, the paper said.

Poor road conditions and too many passengers caused a tire to blow out and the truck overturned, diving down a ravine more than 20 meters (065 feet) deep.

Blast kills 8 in Algiers: A 15-year-old girl from France was among eight people killed by a bomb at Algiers Airport, the interior ministry said on Thursday. reports Reuter from Algiers.

Only three other victims have so far been identified - a middle-aged woman and two elderly men.

The ministry, revising the casualty figures, said the bomb blast on Wednesday wounded 124 people. Four were in serious condition.

Many of the injured were children torn by flying glass or burnt by the blast.

3 killed as bus plunges in Jerusalem: A bus taking families on an outing to the Dead Sea plunged down a ravine Friday, killing three people and injuring 65, police said. AP reports from Jerusalem.

The bus was headed from Jerusalem down a steep, curvy highway in the occupied West Bank when it rolled over the side after its brakes apparently failed, police said.

The passengers were Palestinians from the occupied Gaza Strip. The injured were brought to hospitals in Jerusalem where most were said to have suffered light to moderate in-

### Fierce fighting in Sarajevo continues: 10 killed

SARAJEVO, Aug 28: Serbian hours after a London peace conference, agreed to put the guns around Sarajevo under

Shrapnel raked the headquarters of the UN mission in Thursday (2000 GMT) and again at 4:30 a.m Friday (0230

The shrapnel shattered windows but no one was hurt. according to a UN military ofon condition of anonymity, said the building. Sarajevo's former central post office, was not hit directly but it was pretty The bitter fighting was

stark reminder of the difficulties faced by Western powers that want to seen an end to the protracted conflict in former Yugoslavia. Three hospitals reported 10 dead and 67 wounded. Two children were among the dead in the mainly Muslim old city, which has suffered the burnt of Serbian firepower.



A DIFFERENT LOOK: Azerbaijani soldiers look over an Armenian tank recently (no date given), after it was destroyed by their forces in the Mardakert region of Nagorno-Karabakh The situation remains tense in the highland region of Nagorno-Karabakh and adjacent districts of Azerbaijan as military clashes between the two forces continue.

- AFP/UNB photo

# Jaffna

COLOMBO, Aug 28 : Srt. Lankan Tamil rebels attacked the army's front line in the rebel-held northern Jaffna peninsula early today and killed five soldiers a military spokesman said, reports

5 soldiers

killed in

He said troops had killed about 10 rebels in repulsing the attack.

Last month troops sealed off the land route between mainland and the peninsula after a battle in which more than 500 rebels and 37 soldiers were killed, according to official fig-

On Thursday, a military spokesman told reporters that troops had killed at least 12 rebels in the peninsula near Madagal, a guerrilla sea base captured last week.

About 20 separatists had attacked the military's front lines there, the spokesman

## Rabin warns Iraq against striking at Israel

JERUSALEM. Aug 28: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. reacting to Israeli unease. warned Iraq against striking at Israel in reprisal for the western allies' imposition of a nofly zone over southern Iraq. reports Reuter.

But his warning did little to calm Israelis' renewed Gulf War litters over the possibility that Iraq would again fire Scud missiles at the Jewish state.

"As of today. Iraq is not poised for an aggressive operation against us," Rabin, who is also Defence Minister, said in a speech to graduates of the Army Staff College. "But, if the Iraqis decide

they should know that we have in our hands a range of possibilities for response." The United States, Britain and France imposed the no-fly zone on Thursday to protect

differently and act against us

attack by the forces of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. Irad fired 39 Scud missiles at Israel during the Gulf War. causing heavy damage but few

MOMBASA, Kenya, Aug 28:

The United States began flying

food directly to Somalia on

Friday to feed hundreds of

thousands of starving Somalis.

a military official said, reports

Libutti said Thursday the first

of six C-130s aircraft would

take off before dawn Friday for

Belet Huen, 670 miles (1,070

kilometers) northeast of this

"Our mission, simply stated.

is the deliver food to the

needy." Libutti said. " I'm ab-

solutely confident we've done

Mombasa, the base of the US

relief operation, said the first

A military spokesman in

Kenyan port.

our homework."

Marine Brig. Gen. Frank

dissident Shi'ite Muslims from

Washington put strong

casualties.

pressure on Israel not to respond militarily to the Scuds fearing Israeli action might undermine the US-led alliance against Iraq.

Elias Freij. Mayor of the occupied West Bank city of Bethlehem, said the no-fly measure had enraged Palestinians and was imposed to bolster US President George Bush's uphill re-election cam-

Freil, a member of past Palestinian delegations to Middle East peace talks, said Palestinians saw a "double standard" in western pledges to protect Iraq's Shi'ites "while (the allies) let Serbs slaughter Muslims in former Yugoslavia

Rabin said he believed and hoped there would be no Iraqi strike at Israel, but the Israeli press recalled the Scud strikes which forced Israelis almost nightly into sealed rooms wearing gas masks in case the missiles had chemical war-"Give them (gas) masks'

was the headline over the editorial in Yedioth Ahronoth. Israel's biggest-selling daily newspaper, which printed a

US military begins Somalia airlift

C-130 cargo plane left at

shortly past 5 am (0200 GMT)

1/2 metric tons of rice, beans

and cooking oil, landed about 2

1/2 hours later in the village

on Ethiopia's border, 200

miles (324 kilometers) north

A total of four C-130s carry-

ing a total of 34 metric tons

are planned to Belet Huen on

Friday, said the spokesman,

who spoke on condition of

Friday, eight C-130 Hercules

and four C-141 Starlifters have

delivered some 841 metric

Since US flights began last

of Somalia's capital. Mog

The plane, carrying about 8

for Belet Huen.

anonymity.

picture of a 1991 gas mask drill over the large caption "remember?"

Israeli Radio and Television stations quoted defence sources as saying that, if necessary, gas masks would be given to the estimated halfmillion Israelis who lacked

"We are very afraid that they'll bomb us again - in Israel you don't know what will happen tomorrow," said Galit Yosian, one of several shoppers interviewed who expressed concern.

"We've got our gas masks from two years ago and if the government tells us to use them we will use them." she

Moshe Arens, Israeli Defence Minister during the Gulf War said none of Saddam's mobile Scud launchers had been destroyed in the war adding: "I think it has to be as sumed he has both Scud misstles and launchers."

But Freij dismissed the threat. "Iraq is not in a position to attack anybody and Mr Rabin and all the Israelis know this," he said.

tons (925 tons) to Somali

refugees and drought-stricken

Kenyans in northern Kenya.

but no flights have reached

Southern Somalia fell into

chaos after the rebel coalition

that fought to oust dictator

Mohammed Stad Barre in

January 1991 disintegrated

ity in Somali, and teen-age

gunmen often raid food ship-

quirements of the Intern-

ational Committee of the Red

Cross which will distribute

food in the chaotic country.

have delayed the US airlift.

There is no central author

Logistics, security and re-

Somalia itself until Friday.

into clan warfare.

### funeral plans for her husband

Marcos announced Friday she was canceling funeral plans next week for her husband, former President Ferdinand Marcos, and rejected a Cabinet member's suggestion that she bring home Marcos' remains on a military plane, reports AP.

"I am not asking anything from this government," Mrs Marcos said in a statement. " will not allow my husband to be subjected to the indignity of being brought home on board a cargo plane.\*

Mrs Marcos said she would announced new funeral arrangements next week.

But President Fidel Ramos refused state honours for Marcos, saying only rites for a World War II veteran would be prepared.

inand honour him."

# Imelda cancels

MANILA. Aug 28: Imelda

Mrs Marcos and the gov

ernment earlier agreed that Marcos' body would be brought directly to Laoag City, capital of Marcos' home province of Ilocos Norte, next Tuesday and be buried there after a nineday wake.

"I don't care if the govern-

ment does not accord him any official honour." Mrs Marcos said. "Let those who love Ferd-

ANC rejects govt

bid to rid police

of racism

Nelson Mandela's African

National Congress has rejected

government initiatives to rid

the South African police of

racism and to continue multi-

party talks about a federal

on Thursday the government

was trying to restructure South

African society unilaterally

ahead of a proposed transition

from white rule to multi-racial

Hernus Kriel told a news con-

ference in Pretoria that 13 po-

lice generals would retire early

partyly to make way for the

country's first black police

be implemented to restore the

credibility of the police and to

heighten its effectiveness, " he

of committing atrocities dur-

ing 40 years of apartheid and

of bias towards whites and the

conservative Inkatha Freedom

Party, its main black rival for

were slow to adapt to the fact

that the ANC, the "enemy"

until President FW De Klerk

launched his reform drive in

to do to change the hearts and

minds... to sensitive all serving

members on an urgent basis

about the changed environ-

head a new independent

commission with 35 officials

including lawyers and foreign

experts to investigate serious

allegations of police miscon-

Kriel said a judge would

"We still have a lot of work

1990, was now legitimate.

ment," he said.

Kriel said some policemen

The ANC accuses the police

Sweeping initiatives are to

Law and order minister

democracy.

generals.

The ANC said in statements

democracy, reports Reuter.

CAPE TOWN. Aug 28:

## Lebanon rejects Israeli offer to co-administer

WASHINGTON, Aug 28: Arabs have ended a week of Middle East peace talks frustrated that a change of government in Israel has produced few, if any, concessions at the negotiating table, reports Reuter.

learn how to avoid childhood obesity.

But none of the parallel negotiations between Israel and Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians looked in danger of breaking down and some ideas for eventual compromises had begun to surface. Syria's chief delegate,

Mouwafaq Al-Allaf, told reporters the atmosphere at the talks had been good "but unfortunately, after four days we cannot say, except for that very nice atmosphere and ambiance, that we can report to you any real change on substantive issues." Palestinian negotiators left

the last session of the week at the state department looking subdued. Their spokeswoman. Han-

nan Ashrawi, told reporters earlier that Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party was offering much the same limited form of selfrule for the Palestinians as the hardline Likud Party which it defeated in elections in June. The gap is very legal and

political and both sides are aware of it. They don't want us to start on the track of statehood and we don't want them to close the door to statehood", she said. Lebanon's chief delegate,

Soheil Shammas, said his team had rejected an Israeli offer to co-administer an Israel-held enclave in the South of their country because this would legitimise Israeli occupation. Jordan's spokesman, Mar-

wan Muasher, reported that

with the israelis over the wording of an agenda. It was clear, however, that

his delegation was still arguing

or returned forthers for no

all sides were presenting maximum positions in what is the first round or Middle East peace talks to tackle issues or substance.

Five previous rounds held since the Unites States maneuvered Arabs and Israelis to a breakthrough conference in Madrid last October were spent in ill-tempered procedural disputes and exchange of rhetoric.

Likud's leader, Yitzhak Shamir, admitted after his election defeat that he had intended to drag the talks out

The most obvious compromise Israel offered this week was to Syria. It conceded that the principles of exchanging land for peace enshrined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 applied to the Golan Heights it seized from Syria in 1967 Middle East war.

The Syrian delegation declared itself unimpressed by the hint of a territorial compromise and continued to insist on a total Israeli withdrawal from the Heights.

But Allaf made clear that Syria was ready, in return, to discuss "all matters concerning security" - Israel's main interest in the Heights, which was used by Syrian artillery to bombard Israeli settlements.

Another report adds: The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said today Israel's latest proposals on Palestinian selfrule were unimpressive and the Middle East negotiations in Washington were deadlocked.

## Plight of Muslims in Bosnia worse than apartheid

ZAGREB, Aug 28: A United Nations official on Thursday described the plight of Muslims in northern Bosnia as worse than apartheid, reports

Reuter. Serb authorities in an area near Banja Luka northwest Bosnia last month placed Muslims under curfew, banned them from travelling, eating in restaurants or swimming in

One page names 32 men

and their wives who are "not allowed to establish any contact with their neighbours or walk outdoors." At any time of the day unless called up for work.

"This is probably worse than apartheid. It is very serious," Peter Kessler, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees(UNHCR) in Zagreb

A general curfew applied to an estimated 1,500 non-Serbs in an area populated by more than 18,000 people from 4 pm to 6 am they are not allowed to drive, own weapons or gather in groups of more than three, the documents say.

non-Serbs to leave the town "provided their relocation is organised and is the relocation of the entire family." "These regulations are be-

But the decree does allow

ing enforced to create second class citizens and to make it difficult to live there." Kessler said, and described the policy as subtler form of "ethnic Celinac Mayor Sveto

Koracevic said the decree aimed at protecting Muslims as Serbs in the area had been provoked by Muslim extremist Trouble was caused by ex-

tremists. The restrictions

clashes," he told Sky televi-Houses have been demolished in fighting in the town

were created because of ethnic

and the mosque badly damaged. Kessler said. Army commanders in the town said a group of Muslim guerillas wearing sashes bear-

ing the words of the Koran were responsible for the at-Some relief workers say the Celinac decree is an example of what has been happening in many small towns in war-torn

people.

lieved to have placed restrictions on Serb citizens in the few areas they control such as near Bihac on Bosnia's western border with Croatia. But the Bosnia since last March when Curbs are not believed to be on pro-independence Muslims and Croats began fighting the same scale as in Celinac.

against Serbs who opposed the split with Yugoslavia. Kessler said life would be

become so bad for non-Serbs that they would join more than a million other Bosnians who have fled the country or have been forced out of areas by Serbs who want the area to be populated only by their own

But Muslims are also be-

### Earthquake hits Baluchistan: 3 killed ISLAMABAD, Aug 28: A se-

vere earthquake rocked Pakistan's southern Baluchistan province early today, killing at least three people, the staterun APP news agency said reports Reuter Among the worst hit areas

100 km (60 miles) south of the provincial capital Quetta, APP said. It did not give the magnitude of the earthquake.

was the town of Johan, about

"Several houses in Johan

have collapsed, killing three persons and injuring several others."

#### ficial. The official, who spoke mortars and rockets again rained down on Sarajevo Thursday night and Friday morning. killing at least 10 people. damn close."

UN control, reports AP. Sarajevo twice- at 10 p.m

Official documents from the town of Celinac showed a list of orders issued by the local war council outlining Curbs on the non-Serb population, most of which is Muslim.

COW HIDES FOR NUTRITION: Fartuma Hassano tries to give her son Kulo (5 years) a mixture of salt and water at the UNICEF feeding centre at Bardera Thursday. Kulo died shortly after this photo was taken. 30 to 40 people die each day at Bardera which got its first supply of food from the UN a few days ago, before that people chewed cow hides for nutrition. - AFP/UNB photo