

**BRIEFLY**

**Japan's FM leaves for Moscow:**

Japan's foreign minister, Michio Watanabe, left Tokyo Saturday for Moscow, where he is to meet President Boris Yeltsin and other Russian leaders, AP reports from Tokyo.

Watanabe is expected to discuss a longstanding territorial dispute with Yeltsin in preparation for the president's visit to Tokyo next month. He is to return to Tokyo on Sept 4.

The Japanese are hoping Russia's dire economic situation will persuade Yeltsin to compromise, possibly by recognizing Tokyo's rights over some of the islands both countries claim in the southern Kuriles off Japan's northern coast.

The Soviet Union seized the islands — known in Japan as Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai islets — at the end of World War II.

**British citizen arrested in India:**

A British citizen of Indian origin was arrested on Friday with 1.67 kilograms of fine quality heroin seized from his possession, Xinhua reports from New Delhi.

Acting on a tip-off, officers of the Narcotics Control Bureau found the contraband from a leather briefcase and inner sole of a sneaker in the hotel room of the 55-year-old Gurmeet Singh.

The English daily (The Hindustan Times) today reported that Singh had been arrested in Britain some years ago in connection with a major heroin haul. He came to India four months ago.

**8 killed in Peruvian plane crash:**

At least eight people were killed and three injured in the crash of a Peruvian air force hydroplane, the wreckage of which was discovered Friday in a remote Amazon region, police said, AFP reports from Lima.

The twin other plane carrying 40 people disappeared Thursday during a flight between Iquitos in eastern Peru and El Estrecho on the Colombian border.

The wreckage was found near the Algodon river, authorities said.

**UN to send 3,000 more troops to Somalia:**

The UN Security Council approved unanimously Friday a plan to send 3,000 additional troops to Somalia to help alleviate suffering in the famine-stricken African country, reports AFP from United Nations.

The Mogadishu government had already authorised the development of 500 UN peacekeeping troops to Somalia, where 1.5 million people are at risk of starvation.

UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali proposed Wednesday stationing another 3,000 troops to protect relief distribution and consolidate a ceasefire in Somalia.

**LTTE kills 10 soldiers:**

Tamil guerrillas Saturday claimed to have killed more than 10 soldiers for the loss of four of their own men in northern Sri Lanka in surprise attacks on army posts in the embattled region, reports AFP from Colombo.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a statement received here that its special forces launched sudden attacks on nine army posts in the Jaffna peninsula on Friday, killing over 10 Sri Lankan soldiers.

The statement from the LTTE's London office said that four of their cadres were killed and that the rebels seized several weapons including two LMG, seven AK-47 rifles and two pistols from the dead troops.

**US wants to sell Patriot missiles to South Korea**

SEOUL (South Korea), Aug 29: The US government is waging a public campaign to sell millions of dollars worth of Patriot missiles and other military hardware to its long-time ally South Korea, reports AP.

Ahn Byung-ha, a researcher at the Korea Institute for Defence Analysis. He said the Korean government is now evaluating a wide range of foreign missiles for its next-generation air defence system.

He said the Patriot system is on the list, but there are many other alternatives, such as Exoset missiles developed by Aerospatiale of France. Price, combat capability and technology transfer are major factors determining such deals.

Hundreds of government officials, national lawmakers, Korean military officers and journalists have been invited to see the first Patriot systems exhibited in South Korea during a joint military exercise, which ends on Sunday.

Two Patriot launchers and associated radar and fire control equipment have been on display along with a miniature pilotless plane and test equipment for an over-the-horizon-targeting system.

Access to new weaponry has been restricted in the past because of both governments' sensitivity to the possibility of aggression from Communist North Korea and a correspondent need for confidentiality.

But early this year, the Korean Ministry of Defence signed a 185-million dollar contract to buy Mistral anti-aircraft missiles from Matra DA of France. Korean officials said it was a move to diversify its reliance on American-made weapons.

South Korean defence officials have since visited Russia, France, Spain, Italy, and Great Britain in pursuit of military technologies which are affordable and suitable to Korea's rugged mountainous terrain.

"We have a choice," said

**Tigers steal naval vessel**

COLOMBO, Aug 29: Tamil Tiger rebels Saturday stole a small naval vessel from a northern island controlled by government troops, navy officials in Colombo said, reports AP.

The rebels took the vessel from the pier at Mandaitivu island, west of rebel-held Jaffna peninsula, they said.

Mandaitivu, about 290 kilometres (180 miles) north of Colombo, and a few other islands are controlled by government troops.

The type of the boat and how the rebels managed to steal it were not immediately known but initial reports indicated it was a small vessel capable of carrying 4-5 persons, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Tigers have a number of armed power boats from which they launch sporadic attacks on naval crafts patrolling the Jaffna coast.

**NAM foreign ministers' meeting opens**  
**Indonesia asks Pakistan not to raise Kashmir issue at summit**

JAKARTA, Aug 29: The NAM foreign ministers' meeting opened here today with chairman Indonesia calling upon member states to avoid raising bilateral issues as the movement faced more pressing international problems, reports PTL.

The Indonesian Foreign Minister, Ali Alatas suggested members not to treat NAM as the United Nations and asked them to address bilateral issues at some other appropriate forum.

Indonesia repeated its stand on Kashmir and asked Pakistan not to raise the Kashmir issue at the summit and said it must tackle it bilaterally with India.

Alatas was also critical of the Western move to link human rights with economic and social development.

In his opening remarks, he emphasised that the issues of independence, peace and stability, disarmament, international security and the protection of environment could not be compartmentalised and addressed separately.

"A person deprived of his food or adequate clothing and shelter is deprived of his basic human rights. That, too, is true of nations," he stressed.

The foreign ministers' two-day meeting adopted the preparatory report of the senior officials who met here yesterday.

India became one of the eight vice-presidents in the NAM Coordinating Bureau from Asia. The others include Afghanistan, Iran, North Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Palestine and Syria.

Meanwhile, India today expressed deep concern at the suffering of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina but said it would go by consensus on the controversial question of continuing NAM membership of one of its founders, Yugoslavia.

Talking to press persons just before the start of the NAM ministerial-level preparatory meeting, the minister of state, Eduardo Faleiro, said the NAM convention was to go by consensus and "that's how the question will be dealt with at the ministerial and summit levels."

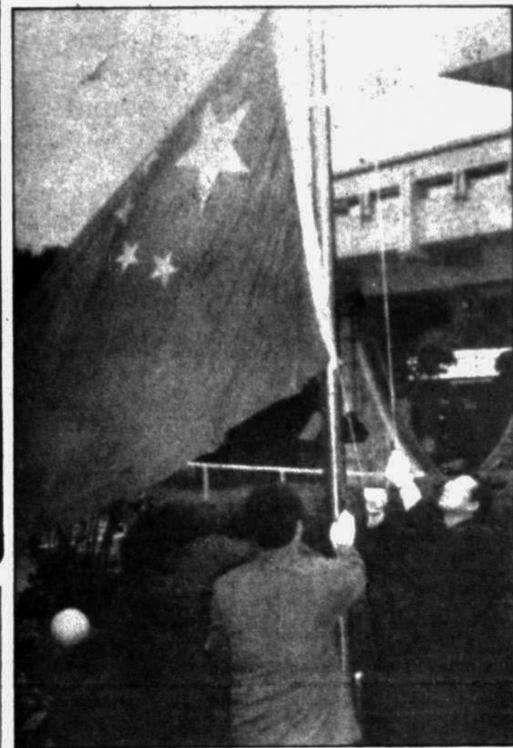
Faleiro indicated that the membership of Yugoslavia was not an issue listed on the agenda though the Islamic member-states had refused to accept Serbia and Montenegro as the successor state of Yugoslavia.

He welcomed the manner in which Yugoslavia had transferred the chairmanship of the movement to host Indonesia well ahead of the summit starting here on September 1.

The Islamic member-states of NAM had threatened to boycott the inaugural session of the summit in case Yugoslavia took up the chair as the outgoing NAM chairman.

Replying to questions, Faleiro said India was opposed to the use of force by any country unless authorised by the United Nations.

Asked to comment on host Indonesia's advice to Pakistan to refrain from raising the Kashmir issue at the summit, he said it would be unfortunate if Islamabad still brought up a bilateral issue before the NAM forum.



SEOUL: Chinese charge d'affaires Pei Jiayi (R) hoists the Chinese national flag at their temporary embassy in Itaiwon, Seoul, August 27. South Korea has established diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China, severing ties with its former Cold War ally Taiwan. —AFP/UNB photo

**Police baton-charge MQM women demonstrators**

KARACHI, Aug 29: Police in Karachi fired tear gas and baton-charged women demonstrators protesting the arrest of Mohajir youths during a clean-up operation by the army and paramilitary rangers, officials said, reports AFP.

Several hundred women supporters of the urban-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), a party which represents Urdu-speaking migrants from India, had gathered in central Karachi Friday for what they claimed was a prayer and Quran-reciting session.

Their assembly was declared unlawful by a local magistrate, who asked the women to disperse. They refused, and instead formed a procession that was joined by some male miscreants, an official statement released late Friday said.

The statement said the women were tear-gassed and baton-charged after they became "more aggressive" and starting throwing stones at passing vehicles.

Police took into custody eight vehicles used for transporting the women to the demonstration venue in Nazimabad district, officials said.

According to newspaper reports, about 100 women

demonstrators were arrested but police refused to confirm their numbers.

Troops were rushed to Sindh in late May to try and stamp out widespread banditry, kidnapping and politically motivated murders. The operation was later widened when troops launched combing missions in June in Karachi and detained hundreds of MQM activists.

No official figures on the number of arrests was available, but MQM chairman Azeem Tariq has said the army and police have arrested more than 4,000 MQM workers.

A similar demonstration by MQM women supporters was dispersed Friday.

**Venkataraman to bring out his memoirs**

MADRAS, Aug 29: The former president, R Venkataraman, has decided to bring out his memoirs, reports PTL.

Venkataraman, who has now settled here after laying down office, has designated Dr K Venkatasubramanian, former Vice-Chancellor of the Pondicherry University as his honorary special assistant for preparation of the memoirs.

**Action against Iraq positive: Ghali**

NEW YORK, Aug 29: UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Friday said he approved of the US-initiated no-fly zone over southern Iraq because it would help international humanitarian relief efforts in the country, reports Reuter.

He also told a television interviewer that the United Nations Security Council had given the United States and its allies a mandate for their action, a point of contention among some diplomats as the relevant Council Resolution did not call for use of force.

The UN chief was speaking on the Cable News Network from London following the conclusion of an international conference on Yugoslavia which he co-chaired with British Prime Minister John Major.

He was asked if he endorsed the no-fly zone set up by the United States, Britain and France, with the approval of Russia, that bars Iraq from flying any aircraft below the 32nd parallel where Shi'ite dissidents have been attacked by Baghdad government forces.

In reply, Boutros-Ghali said, "we don't need to endorse it

because the four member states who have done this have already received a mandate from the Security Council. They are acting on the basis of the mandate which they have already received."

Asked if he thought the action was a positive one, he said, "I believe this is something positive because in the past few weeks our humanitar-



ian assistance has been complicated and we have had difficulty in assisting the people in Iraq through the different non-governmental organisations."

UN spokesmen have hedged for several days in an-

swering queries from reporters on whether the allied action fell under UN Resolutions.

But Security Council members have not challenged the move, with several saying privately that Iraq had too few friends for anyone to mount an open challenge to the major powers.

Boutros-Ghali also said he did not believe that the allied mission would lead to the partition of Iraq.

"The international community is against partition and we believe that partition is not in the interests neither of the Iraqi people nor of the inter-Arab community nor in the interests of the region of the Middle East," he said.

On Yugoslavia, he said the London peace conference which he co-chaired this week had made him optimistic about the chances for a peaceful settlement to the civil war.

One reason, he said, was that "for the first time" there was "a better" cooperation between the European Community and the United Nation, an apparent reference to his criticism last month that the EC was making political decisions

involving UN peacekeepers.

"Secondly, there is a political will among the members of the international community to do something and among the protagonists of the dispute in Yugoslavia to accept a dialogue," he said.

"And the third element is that you have created a new peace process which would work on a continuous process in Geneva," Boutros-Ghali said. "For the first time you have a whole institution the purpose of which will be to find a political solution to the Yugoslav problem."

He was referring to a joint UN-EC diplomatic body to be set up in Geneva.

**7 drowned in Arabian sea**

KARACHI, Aug 29: Seven youths were drowned while bathing in the Arabian sea at a beach near here Friday, police said, reports AFP.

Youths were at paradise point, a dangerous area at sandspit beach, some 15 miles (33 kilometres) from Karachi, when a huge wave swept them into the sea.

**Off the Record**

**Whisky ad on text book**

NEW DELHI: Authorities in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh have begun a probe to find out how a whisky advertisement found its way onto the cover of a government-printed textbook, press reports said Saturday, says AFP.

"Good morning after great evenings," reads the advertisement on the front cover of the mathematics textbook prescribed for second-grade school students, the United News of India said in the report published by newspapers here.

One million copies of the textbook were printed 850,000 sold. A state government spokesman attributed the incident to 'mischief.'

Mukesh Naya, president of the state chapter of the Congress (I) party, charged that the 'highly objectionable' advertisement was an example of the 'new culture' the state's ruling Hindu right-wingers were promoting.

**He forced me for oral sex**

Texas: A reservist accused of sexually assaulting a woman in his unit during the Gulf war will face a court-martial on sex charges, army officials said Friday, reports AP.

Sgt. 1st Class David J Martinez had been charged with one count of forcible sodomy, one count of indecent assault and four counts of making false official statements, Fort Bliss spokesman Tony Cucinello said.

Reserve Spec. Jacqueline Ortiz accused Martinez of sexually assaulting her while the two were stationed in Saudi Arabia. She said he summoned her to his tent and forced her to perform oral sex.

Martinez has denied the charges and said he was coerced into signing a statement admitting the sexual assault.

Friday's hearing was to decide if the charges filed July 2 are valid and worthy of going to a court-martial — and if so, what kind. An army judicial panel chose a general court martial, the highest form of hearing, but did not schedule a date.

Martinez will not be jailed or forced to post bail while awaiting the court-martial, Cucinello said.

If convicted, Martinez could receive up to 40 years in prison, a demotion and dishonourable discharge.

The army initially concluded the sexual acts were consensual and reprimanded both soldiers. But it reopened the case earlier this year at the urging of Congressman Bill Richardson.

Ms. Ortiz was among a group of women who testified this summer before a Senate panel about alleged sexual attacks. Ms. Ortiz said in the hearing that she immediately reported the attack but officers ignored her complaint.

She remains in the reserves but is seeking a medical discharge, her attorney said.

**Lake Victoria is dying**

NAIROBI: A marine scientist has warned that lake Victoria, the second largest fresh water lake in the world, is dying as a result of increasing industrial pollution and over fishing, reports Xinhua.

Briefing the press here on Thursday, Peter Ochumba, a senior researcher in the Kenya Marine and Fisheries Research Institute, said that in view of the graveness of pollution in the lake, only quick measures by the Kenyan government could help.

"Tourism, irrigation, recreation and fishing cannot take place at a meaningful rate, at the moment as the lake potential has been reduced by 80 per cent," he said.

Earlier, managing director of the lake basin development authority Dr Okeyo Owuor said that catch in lake Victoria is showing clear signs of depletion, thus raising fears that the fish stock in the lake is rapidly declining.

**Looking for snorers**

LONDON: A hotel in Gatedesh, northern England, is looking for particularly loud snorers to test its new sound-proofing, reports AFP.

The manager of the swallow hotel is offering those selected a free night in a 100-pound (200-dollar) a-night room, plus as much port as they can drink, to make sure they sleep soundly.

They will be chosen on the basis of reports by spouses or other victims, plus a tape-recording.

**Township violence takes 6,200 lives in South Africa**

JOHANNESBURG, Aug 29: A South African human rights group said on Friday 6,200 people had been killed and 11,900 wounded in the last two years of township violence, reports Reuter.

The Human Rights Commission (HRC), which is sympathetic to the African National Congress, said in a report 60 per cent of the deaths since July 1990 had occurred in the region around Johannesburg.

"Victims of the violence have included groups or individuals in the political arena, but by far the majority have been the ordinary residents of black townships," it said.

The commission said vigilantes in the employ of "apartheid structures" were responsible for most of the killings. The majority of victims were ANC members, it said.

The independent South African Institute of Race Relations (SAIRR), a privately-funded research group often attacked by the government at the height of apartheid, said on Thursday just over 13,000

people had died since township wars began in 1984, usually pitting the ANC against the Zulu-based Inkatha freedom party.

SAIRR Director John Kane-Berman said in a speech the root cause of the violence was apartheid, but he accused groups like the HRC and amnesty international of twisting their reports of the bloodshed to suit the aims of the ANC.

"At best the recent reports of these agencies are one-sided and simplistic, at worst they amount to disinformation," he said.

"The objective is to demoralise all security forces, disarm some of them, and put others under the joint control of the ANC and the government, while leaving the ANC's armed wing and its arms cache intact."

The ANC accuses president F W de Klerk of complicity in the violence. It broke off constitutional negotiations after 43 blacks were killed in the Boipatong township massacre in June.

**SAARC confce on children from Sept 16**

COLOMBO, Aug 29: The second South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) ministerial conference on children in South Asia will be held here on September 16 to 18, according to media sources here today, reports Xinhua.

The meeting will review and strengthen the national plan of action for achieving the goals and needs of children in South Asia, presidential advisor on international affairs B Weerakoon was quoted by the sources as saying.

An estimated 400 million children lived in South Asia alone, this meeting would focus attention on the welfare of these children, Weerakoon said.

**'No fly' zone: Arabs now sitting on the sidelines**

MANAMA, Bahrain, Aug 29: The Arab states that rallied to support the US-led coalition during the Gulf War are sitting on the sidelines as allied planes enforce a flight ban over southern Iraq, reports AP.

Even Saudi Arabia, the only Arab nation providing significant help to the allies, has only tacitly supported them in the latest dispute with Saddam Hussein.

Kuwait, which was liberated by the coalition after seven months of Iraqi occupation, has been the sole Middle East country to welcome the joint US, British and French air operation. But even its support has cooled.

On Thursday, the day allied warplanes began flying over southern Iraq to protect dissident Shi'ite Muslims, an official Kuwaiti government statement

ignored the operation and spouted the same line as its Arab neighbors: The territorial integrity of Iraq must be preserved.

"It is difficult to ignore our fears of partitioning Iraq, and Arabs always fear foreign intervention," Abdullah al-Nibari, a member of the Kuwaiti opposition, said Friday. "But on the other hand, the situation of the Iraqi people is tragic, and Saddam's regime is a threat to the area."

The Gulf War allies were able to overcome this ambivalence because an Arab nation was occupied, and countries like Egypt and Syria believed Iraq posed a military threat not only to Kuwait but to the region and were willing to fight. Now, most Arabs don't see any Iraqi threat.

Only Saudi Arabia agreed to allow allied warplanes to use its bases, but it has barred the Western media, kept domestic coverage very low-key, and issued only one statement calling for the preservation of Iraq's territorial integrity.

The Gulf states sent troops to fight in the Gulf War, and in the case of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates also allowed their bases to be used by the allies.

"The Arabs don't have the same sense of urgency of dealing with Saddam Hussein as Western powers do. They believe history will take its course," said Dr Rosemary Hollis, a Middle East expert at the London-based Royal United Services Institute for Defense Studies who recently visited the region.

Hollis said many Arabs told her Saddam's recent execution of 54 merchants for alleged corruption "was a clear signal that something was amiss and they asked, why intervene further? Already things are taking their own course. Leave it alone," she said.

"There is a lot of cynicism in the Arab world that I came across about this being done to boost President Bush's reelection chances," she said in a telephone interview.

The Bush administration's goal — getting rid of Saddam — has widespread public support in the Gulf. Government-backed newspapers in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi have called for the Iraqi leader's ouster.

But few Arab nations are convinced the allied "no-fly" zone over the southern

marshes will topple him.

Some Arab diplomats fear the operation may escalate into a military confrontation of unknown dimensions which could enhance Saddam's popularity — but their overriding worry is partition.

Throughout the Middle East, fear of Iraq being divided into ethnic or religious statelets as a result of the allied campaign has united Baghdad's friends like Jordan and Yemen with enemies including Syria and Egypt.

The Kurds are already operating semi-autonomously in northern Iraq following allied intervention after the Gulf War, and the current allied operation could give rise to a Shi'ite Muslim state in southern Iraq, strongly influenced by neighboring Iran. This would leave only a central Sunni Muslim-

dominated region controlled by Baghdad.

Arab nations are worried that a Shi'ite state in the south would not only fan fundamentalism in the region but also become a precedent for Shi'ite and other minorities in the Middle East. During earlier years of Iran's Islamic revolution, Shi'ite communities in Bahrain and elsewhere were used to stir up trouble.

The possibility of a Kurdish state has provoked similar fears in Turkey, Iran and Syria, which all have Kurdish minorities.

Turkey, a NATO ally of the United States which supported the Gulf War, fears partition could strengthen rebellious Turkish Kurds and has been very cool to the current allied initiative.

**Kanju, Rabbani talk Kabul situation**

ISLAMABAD, Aug 29: Pakistan State Minister for Foreign Affairs Siddique Kanju held talks with interim President of Afghanistan Burhanuddin Rabbani on Kabul situation soon after his arrival in the Afghan capital on Friday evening, reports Xinhua.

According to reports reaching here from Kabul, Kanju and his entourage were received by Afghan Foreign Minister Syed Suleiman Gillani on the outskirts of Kabul after nine hours' travel by road.

Kanju and his entourage including Secretary General of Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki drove straight to the Presidential Palace in Kabul where they went into talks with Rabbani.