

## Police suspects Pakistani in CIA shootings

WASHINGTON, Feb 10: Police have identified the weapon used in a shooting outside CIA headquarters that left two dead and several wounded and are seeking a male suspect, an FBI spokesman said Tuesday, reports AP.

FBI Agent Darrell Farrer said authorities determined that the weapon used was an AK-47 assault rifle, and that police were seeking the man who is of Pakistani origin. He said he had no further information.

A Washington television station reported authorities recovered the weapon at an apartment in suburban Reston and were seeking the owner of the apartment. The station said the suspect is 28 and a legal resident of the United States.

The station said the suspect was not a CIA employee.

## US urges Arabs to accept Israeli formula

WASHINGTON, Feb 10: The State Department notified the Arabs on Tuesday they should accept Israel's formula for resolving the deportation of some 400 Palestinians and direct their attention to resuming Mideast peace talks, reports AP.

While Assistant Secretary of State Edward P. Djerejian met separately with an Arab League delegation and an Israeli delegation, the State Department spokesman said that Arabs should not press the United Nations to take up the dispute.

"We believe that the process that was announced by the Israeli Prime Minister concerning the deportees is a significant and a constructive approach to resolving the problem," spokesman Richard A. Boucher said.

The Arabs insist the agree-

ment Secretary of State Warren M. Christopher reached last week with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin does not satisfy the UN Security Council resolution criticizing Israel for deporting the Palestinians.

They were exiled across the border with Lebanon December 17 on suspicion of promoting violence against Israel. The United States voted for the resolution.

Asked if the United States thought any further action at the United Nations was necessary, Boucher replied: "No we don't."

The US officials also ruled out further US negotiations with Israel to gain more concessions on behalf of the Palestinians, 100 of whom are to be repatriated soon and the others by the end of the year.

"We think that this ap-

proach is a process that can be made to work" he said. "It will work to resolve the situation."

At the same time, Boucher reiterated that all Arab governments that participated in now-suspended negotiations with Israel — and the Palestinians, as well — were "committed" to the peace process.

But the Palestinians have indicated in their public statements they would defer a decision on resuming negotiations until the deportation controversy was resolved to their satisfaction.

"I think we've placed the emphasis all along in the fact that this is a process that is consistent with the UN resolution," Boucher said, "that provides for the return of the deportees. And we've emphasized

again and again — we've done this privately, we've done it publicly — that we think the parties should put their focus on the peace process and reinvigorating the peace process."

In the meeting with Djerejian, meanwhile, Israeli negotiators gave a detailed account of Israel's proposal for limited self-rule for Palestinians who live on the West Bank and in Gaza, diplomatic sources said.

Samuel Lewis, the new policy planning chief at the State Department and a former US ambassador to Israel, and Martin Indyk, who heads the Israeli desk at the National Security Council, were among the US officials who attended. On the Israeli side,

Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich and Gen Dani Rothchild, administrator for the territories, attended.

Rabinovich did not present any new proposals, but wanted to explain Israel's position in detail because a new US administration was now in place, said the sources, declining to be identified.

Christopher will go to the Middle East on February 17 to try to get the negotiations reopened in April. A US official, declining to be identified, said he would make stops in Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Israel.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi said Monday that Christopher would meet with a Palestinian delegation in East Jerusalem.

## Off the Record

### Exhibition of pornography for British politicians

LONDON: British politicians, will attend a 'gruesome and nauseating' exhibition of pornography later this month which organisers hope will prove anti-obscenity laws are too weak, reports Reuter.

More than 300 members of parliament have agreed to attend the two-day exhibition of tapes, books and satellite TV pornography featuring "violent and abnormal sexual behaviour", conservative member Anne Winterton said on Tuesday.

"I am talking about in exhibition of material which is so horrific that not one member of parliament at the private viewing held a short time ago was able physically to endure viewing all the exhibits in question," Winterton, one of the organisers, said in a statement.

"I am certainly no prude but I was deeply shocked that such material is now increasingly available, largely because of the lack of political will to tackle the weakness of the obscene publications act."

### Food in return for mating privileges

BOSTON: Three zoos are giving lovers the chance to study monkey business with the pros this Valentine's Day weekend, reports AP.

The Boston, San Francisco and Brookfield, Ill. zoos plan adults-only lectures, tours and videotape shows about sex in the animal kingdom.

The message: There are parallels between animal and human sexual behavior.

For example, the male dance fly gives the female food in return for mating privileges. The bigger the gift, the longer she will copulate with him.

"It's kind of like the difference between dinner at the Ritz and takeout from KFC," said ED Marshall, spokesman for Boston's Franklin Park Zoo.

"We've been wanting to do this and we were trying to decide where it would fit in, and somebody suggested Valentine's Day," Marshall said. "You could come to this thing at 6 or 8 and then go out for dinner and you'd have something to talk about, sex."

The Brookfield zoo near Chicago plans a similar Weekend for Lovers starting Friday with a lecture on the sex lives of plants and animals, followed by a wine-and-cheese reception. The San Francisco Zoo's third annual Sex Tour is scheduled for Saturday and Sunday and is preceded by a champagne breakfast.

"Sex sells," said Jane Tollini, a penguin keeper who runs the tour at San Francisco's zoo. "People learn something a little different, something a little kinky. There's a lot of curiosity."

Besides, she said, "There's nothing much happening at the zoo in the late winter. This is a great time to arouse some interest, so to speak."

Such events also allow zoos to attract adults instead of mostly children.

### Raped sis brings shame to family

WASHINGTON: The number of rapes has diminished in Bosnia but Muslim victims of rape are being killed by relatives who feel disgraced, the representative of a US relief organization reported, reports AP.

"A sister who is raped brings shame to the family," said Karel Zelenka, in charge of the office in Zagreb, Croatia, of the US Catholic Relief Services.

"Even brothers will kill a sister if she's been raped... And nobody really knows how to handle it because these women do not want to be contacted because of the shame..."

He told a news conference Tuesday that large scale rape had been an unprecedented attempt by Serbs to dilute an ethnic group, the Bosnian Muslims.

"It may not be a written policy but there must have been some acceptance because it spread very rapidly," he went on. "The lowest estimate is 20,000."

Zelenka, an American of Czech origin, said there may have been isolated rapes by Croats but that was inevitable in a conflict of this kind.



Two deported Palestinians model a miniature "Mosque of Omar" of Jerusalem in snow in front of their tent on Tuesday in the camp of Marj Ez Zouhour. —AFP/UNB photo

### Japan to ease curbs on condom machine

TOKYO: Spurred by a sharp jump in the number of people carrying the AIDS virus, Japan's health ministry said Wednesday it is asking local governments to ease restrictions on condom vending machines, reports AP.

The step marks another small shift in attitudes brought about by the AIDS virus, which was newly identified in 493 people in Japan last year, up from 238 in 1991.

Encouraged by the ministry's old policy, 38 of Japan's 47 prefectures (states) have established some kind of restriction on the condom machines, such as banning them from places near schools or public libraries.

However, since condoms are believed to be the most effective way of avoiding infection with the virus, the ministry has shifted course and will encourage the prefectures to lift the restrictions, an official said Wednesday.

As of the end of 1992, Japan had a total of 543 known AIDS patients and 2,551 virus carriers, the Health and Welfare Ministry said. Since 1989, 298 of the patients have died.

The official, who asked not to be named said the old belief that condom vending machines are a bad influence on young people is no longer valid because of the spread of sex education in schools.

## Gen Powell seeks early retirement

NEW YORK, Feb 10: Gen Colin L. Powell wants to step down from his job as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff two or three months before his term expires September 30, according to a published report, says AP.

Because he's against military budget cuts that President Clinton has proposed, Powell has told Defence Secretary Les Aspin that he wants to step down before long-term budget plans are made this summer. The New York Times reported Wednesday.

The Times reported that disagreements between the Joint Chiefs and Clinton over lifting the ban on homosexuals in the military and reductions in military spending made Powell decide to step down before his two-year term expires.

## Haiti to allow UN monitors

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Feb 10: Haiti's government agreed Tuesday to allow UN monitors to investigate human rights for at least a year. Diplomats hoped the accord would lead to a restoration of democracy, reports AP.

The announcement from the office of army-backed Prime minister Marc Bazin called the monitors' mission "only the first step toward the normalization and democratization of political life."

The key question is whether the Haitians will cooperate with the rights monitors, who would seek to protect Haitians from harassment.

"We do not know that right now," the UN special envoy for Haiti, Dante Caputo, said in New York.

## Lien Taiwan's new PM

TAIPEI, Feb 10: President Lee Tang-hui named a Taiwan-born politician as premier Wednesday in a historic move that transferred power from old guard Nationalists to a younger generation, reports AP.

Following weeks of intense infighting within the governing Nationalist Party, the party's 29-member Central Standing Committee approved the appointment of Taiwan provincial governor Lien Chan, 56, as the island's first native-born premier.

## UN may ask Iraq for list of missile suppliers

MANAMA, Feb 10: A UN team will leave for Baghdad Friday to inspect new sites for long-range missiles and could ask the Iraqi authorities for list of their missile suppliers, the team leader said in Bahrain Tuesday, reports AP.

"We will visit some sites that are already known as well as new facilities," said Patrice Palanque, a French man who is heading the 50th UN mission to Iraq since the Gulf War ended. The sites are in the Baghdad region.

He said the 16-member team, including 13 inspectors, will check information already given by the Iraqis. The team will stay until February 21.

Asked if he would ask for a list of foreign firms or governments that allowed Iraq to build its missile programme, Palanque said he would not rule it out.

During the last ballistic mission to Iraq in January, team leader Nikita Smidovich said Baghdad was ready to give the United Nations the list of its non-nuclear suppliers.



WASHINGTON: President Bill Clinton announces cuts to the White House staff of 350 workers on Tuesday, during a briefing at the White House. Clinton said it was the first time any president had reduced the size of the White House staff. —AFP/UNB photo

## US armed forces propose sharp cuts in military budget

WASHINGTON, Feb 10: The US armed forces have proposed sharp cuts in planes, ships and weapons to reduce the 1994 military budget by up to 10.8 billion dollar, Defence officials said on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the navy wanted to cancel the overhaul of the aircraft carrier Forrestal and to retire it along with about 10 other warships next year.

They said the air force offered to stop buying F-16 fighters, slow production of the C-17 cargo jet and eliminate two active fighter wings and part of a reserve wing totalling over 150 planes.

The cuts were sought last week by Defence Secretary Les Aspin and submitted by the services on Monday as part of a plan by President Bill Clinton to cut 60 billion dollar from Defence spending over the next five years.

But the officials confirmed some details of the cuts reported by the New York Times, including the army's offer to cancel the advanced Tow anti-tank missile and several other programmes and to slow some 25 weapons programmes.

They could not confirm the Times report that the air force had also proposed cancelling a 27 million dollar communica-

tions satellite programme. The budget cuts are part of a Clinton plan to cut the US armed forces from their current total of 1.8 million troops to 1.4 million by 1997. US troops' strength in Europe would be cut from 180,000 to 100,000.

The air force was ordered to cut 2.8 billion dollar from its 81.4 billion dollar total proposed by Bush and the army was told to remove 2.5 billion dollar from its 64.1 billion dollar 1994 budget.

The Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) Anti-missile Research Programme, commonly known as Starwars, was told to slash 2.5 billion dollar.

## Drought hits 4m Sudanese

WASHINGTON, Feb 10: Hundreds of thousands of Sudanese suffering from drought and a decade of civil war may starve unless aid can arrive soon, the US Agency for International Development predicted Tuesday, reports AP.

"About 4 million people are affected by civil strife and drought," said Jim Kunder, who heads the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance. "In Sudan, 1.7 million are displaced, in dire need, and I

think it's fair to say that several hundred thousand face starvation if they do not receive assistance in the coming months."

He called it the "most silent" of famine situations.

Kunder was reluctant to compare the situation with Somalia because he said the areas affected in the Sudan are hard to reach and the figures only rough estimates. About 235,000 refugees

have fled the country, mostly to Zaire and Uganda. But Sudan is host to about 770,000 others, mostly from neighbouring Eritrea and Ethiopia — now at relative peace after years of conflict.

Kunder told reporters that a window of opportunity to bring supplies to remote southern Sudan will close in April when rains make roads impassable and airstrips unusable.

## Sun vows to see Queen in court

LONDON, Feb 10: The Sun newspaper on Tuesday defied a legal deadline set by Queen Elizabeth II and said it would defend in court its scoop of her annual Christmas speech, report AP.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman confirmed late Tuesday that the Queen would press ahead with a lawsuit against the tabloid.

The Queen's lawyer, Sir Matthew Farrer, received an unsatisfactory response from the Sun at midday, the unidentified spokesman said, therefore "the writ will be issued and the Sun has been informed."

The Queen's lawyers wrote last week to the Sun demanding damages and costs from the newspaper for publishing a leaked text of her address two days before it was broadcast. They warned that the matter would proceed to court unless a settlement was agreed within seven days.

Daniel Taylor, company lawyer for New Group Newspapers, had said earlier in the day that the threat of legal action seemed out of proportion.

The Sun regrets that Her Majesty has been advised to bring a lawsuit in her own courts for publication of the Christmas Day message two days before the due broadcast date," Taylor said in a state-



The Sun he said it got the speech from a British Broadcasting Corp. employee. The BBC has said it investigated and found the charges were untrue.

## BRRIFFLY

**Pope flies to Sudan:** After a week of appeals for religious liberty, Pope John Paul II on Wednesday flew to Sudan to visit his besieged flock in the predominantly Muslim country, AP reports from Kampala.

The scheduled nine-hour stay in Khartoum, Sudan's capital, was the last stop on the pope's eight-day tour of Africa. In a country that is 70 per cent Muslim with an Islamic fundamentalist government, Sudanese Catholics feel beleaguered. Parishes have been closed, missionaries expelled or displaced, priests arrested and Christians rounded up. The Sudanese bishops alleged that Catholics are tortured.

Sudan's parliament on Tuesday welcomed the pope's visit, saying it will allow him to check on alleged human rights abuses by the government. In a statement, the parliament denied there was lack of religious freedom.

**Eye surgeon Hollows dead:** Eye surgeon Fred Hollows, who saved the sight of thousands of Australian aborigines and many poor people in Third World countries, died Wednesday. He was 63, reports AP from Sydney.

Hollows died of lung cancer, said family friend Mike Lynskey. Hollows pioneered eye care in Australia's outback in the 1960s when he found many aborigines were afflicted with eye diseases not seen in mainstream Australian society for generations.

He set up a team of eye specialists who used simple and inexpensive techniques to treat almost 30,000 aborigines for trachoma, a disease that causes blindness.

He later established similar programmes in Mexico, Myanmar, Thailand, Nepal and Eritrea, formerly part of Ethiopia.

**Ukrainian President in UK:** Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk flew into London on Tuesday for the start of an aid-seeking visit to Britain, reports AP from London.

Kravchuk and his wife, Antonina, were met at the steps of his private plane at Heathrow International Airport by Queen Elizabeth II's representative, Baroness Trumpington. Kravchuk made no remarks before being whisked off in a limousine.

His three-day visit is expected to include meetings with the Queen, Prime Minister John Major, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, opposition lawmakers and key business leaders.

Before leaving the Ukraine capital, Kiev, Kravchuk told reporters that his fledgling state needed immediate foreign aid to make transition to a market economy possible.

**Israeli shot dead in Gaza:** An Israeli vegetable merchant was killed Tuesday when Palestinian gunmen shot at his car in the occupied Gaza Strip, the army said, reports AP from Jerusalem. A second merchant in the car was lightly wounded. The shooting occurred near the beach area of the southern town of Khan Yunis, said an army official, speaking on condition of anonymity. Troops were searching the area. The two men had entered an area that is off limits to Israeli civilians, the army official said. The army did not give the name of the slain man, saying only he was a Jewish resident of central Israel. The wounded merchant is an Israeli Arab, the army said.

The death brought to 117 the number of Israelis killed since the December 1987 start of the Palestinian uprising against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

**Mahathir to visit Pakistan:** Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad will pay a four-day official visit to Pakistan from February 14, the Pakistani government announced on Tuesday, reports Reuter from Islamabad.

He will hold talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on international, regional and bilateral matters, a government statement said.

It said the two men were also expected to discuss ways to increase economic cooperation between their countries.

## Beijing mistreats political prisoners

BEIJING, Feb 10: A US-based human rights group says two prominent political prisoners from the 1989 pro-democracy movement are being deliberately mistreated and deprived of medical attention and basic hygiene, reports AP.

The statement from the Committee to End the Chinese Gulag on prison conditions of Liu Geng and Chen Ziming was issued Tuesday to mark the second anniversary of their trials in February 1991.

Liu, 32, who was No. 3 on the government's most-wanted list of student leaders after the 1989 crackdown and received a six-year sentence, needs prompt medical treatment for stomach and heart trouble, the group said.

It also said that authorities at the Lingyan Prison in northern Liaoning province forced Liu's family members to sign statements saying they didn't believe his description of conditions before they could visit.

Chen, the 39-year-old founder of the Beijing Social Economic Studies Institute, was accused of masterminding the student-led demonstrations and is serving a 15-year

sentence at Beijing No. 2 Prison.

The human rights group said he is kept in his cell all day, in allowed to change his clothes only once a week and was allowed only two showers last year. He was denied medical attention for boils and skin ailments, it said.

Although Chen receives some food and medicine from family, the statement said the amount the government spends on his monthly food allotment was "grossly inadequate" and that his diet contains no meat.

The group, whose chairmen include exiled Chinese dissident Fang Lizhi and former US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, did not say how it got the information, although sources have described similar conditions in the past.

The Ministry of Justice did not have an immediate response to the charges.

The government has released two political prisoners in recent weeks, perhaps as a good-will gesture to the new Clinton administration that has vowed to stress human rights in foreign policy.