

BRIEFLY

Suit against Karadzic: A legal advocacy group for women has filed suit against Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic for allegedly ordering the widespread rape of Bosnian women...

Gunmen kill 10 S Africans: Ten people were killed Friday when gunmen sprayed a minibus with automatic rifle fire near the Natal province capital Pietermaritzburg...

France-Recourse chief shot dead: The head of an association promoting the rights of French nationals repatriated from north Africa was shot to death in his car Friday...

Fundamentalist killed in Egypt: A man described as a Muslim extremist was killed on Friday and another was injured in a shootout with police searching for the killers of a senior state security officer...

400 Kuwaiti families plan to buy house abroad as shelter: KUWAIT CITY, Mar 6: Two year after the Gulf War, many Kuwaitis still fear Iraqi President Saddam Hussein...

US to repatriate 524 Chinese: Rescued after weeks adrift on a disabled ship, then stranded while US and international agencies pondered their fate, 524 Chinese who tried to make their way illegally into the United States...

Police beat King's car passenger: Government prosecutors claimed for the first time Friday that a passenger in Rodney King's car was beaten by police, and they demanded to tell the jury about it...

UK rules out support for plebiscite in Kashmir: LONDON, Mar 6: Britain has ruled out support for a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir and told the Kashmiri separatists in the UK to help encourage participation in a constructive dialogue with India...

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French govt divided over arms deal with Pakistan

PARIS, Mar 6: Negotiations for an arms deal worth 700 million dollars between France and Pakistan have run into opposition from the French finance ministry...

The defence ministry, which is backing the sale by France of three Agosta-90 submarines to Pakistan, has asked for the Prime Minister to arbitrate in the row...

Pakistan already has two Agostas and four Daphne French-built submarines and has long been eager to acquire three more Agosta-90s...

Meanwhile a Bangkok report says, a Frenchman has been arrested at Bangkok's international airport on charges of possession of trafficking in heroin...

Jordan unlikely to attend ME peace talks: WASHINGTON, Mar 6: Jordan is unlikely to attend Middle East peace talks with Israel next month unless Palestinians also take part...

US brands Iran as terrorist state: WASHINGTON, Mar 6: The United States on Friday branded Iran the world's most dangerous state sponsor of terrorism...

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Off the Record

War against women

LONDON: American feminist writer Shere Hite said on Friday that women were bearing the brunt of a worldwide political attack on democratic and liberal ideals...

"Fundamentalism takes many guises. It seeks to stand for traditional family values. But the fact is that family values mean the man is in charge and women stay at home had been no rights," said Hite...

There is a war going on against women all over the world, she told a news conference. Hite and speakers from India and Ireland said fundamentalism in religious and social attitudes was increasing in western countries...

Women's rights were being abused in the name of a return to family values, they said, listing issues ranging from laws governing the behaviour and dress of women to restrictive abortion laws and property rights...

Women against fundamentalism was founded in Paris about three years ago and has branches in most western countries as well as groups in Asia.

Mother faces neglect charges: COLORADO: A mother who left her two children alone at home while she spent a week in Mexico with her boyfriend may face neglect charges, authorities said Friday...

Victoria Wilson, 36, left her 12-year-old daughter and 11-year-old son with food, money, laundry instructions and a brochure of the cancer resort where she would be staying and could be contacted, police said...

She returned several days later after authorities learned of the situation and contacted her. She was not arrested since the possible neglect charges are misdemeanors...

The divorced father of the children obtained temporary custody of them at a hearing Wednesday. Wilson was scheduled for a March 12 hearing to review the decision to give the father custody...

In a similar case in December, a Chicago couple left their two young daughters at home while vacationing in Acapulco.

Appeal for symbolic damage: PARIS: A Paris court Friday rejected a demand by a Russian woman whose father once owned numerous Matisse paintings currently on show in Paris to confiscate the exhibition's catalogues...

Irina Shtukin, whose industrialist father amassed a major collection of paintings, including 36 works by Henri Matisse, had sought to force the museum to remove the paintings. She also sought to have the show catalogue confiscated...

Miss Shtukin accused the Pompidou Centre, where the paintings are showing through June 21, of reproducing the works in the catalogue without her authorization...

The show, which has caused huge lines outside the Pompidou Centre in central Paris, was hailed by the conservative daily newspaper Le Figaro as 'an astonishing and exceptional event'...

Miss Shtukin, who lives in France, has appealed to Russian leader Boris Yeltsin for 'symbolic damages.' Her father's art collection which once included some 450 masterpieces, was seized in 1918, a year after the Russian Revolution...

Judge Francoise Ramoff ruled that Miss Shtukin's ownership of the works in question could not be established with certitude, and rejected confiscation of the catalogues.

Phoolan is my inspiration: ISLAMABAD: A woman who graduated in psychology from Pakistan's prestigious Punjab University was arrested on Friday for burgling homes and stealing cars in the southern city of Karachi...

Shaiba Rani alias Madam, told police she took to banditry as a profession after being inspired by a notorious Indian woman bandit, Phoolan Devi, the official APP news agency said...

Rani, in her late 30s confessed to several robberies and to car theft, it said. She was arrested with two male members of her gang who said they felt more secure operating under the cover of a woman...

Highway robbery was common in the southern province of Sind, where gangs of bandits used to hide out in forests along the river Indus, until the army was called out in June...

Police said at least 89 bandits, known as dacoits had been shot dead and 278 arrested in the Hyderabad district of Sind in the last nine months.

Because of her religious belief: HAGERSTOWN: A chapel won't open its doors for the filming of Shirley MacLaine's latest movie because of her religious beliefs, reports AP...

Faith Chapel has refused TriStar Picture's request to film scenes at the church for the movie 'Guarding Tess,' starring MacLaine and Nicolas Cage...

"Given the fact that Shirley MacLaine is a guru or the New Age Religion, which is contrary to Christian truth, we certainly would not want to give her our endorsement," Pastor Robert Ridenour said...

TriStar Pictures, which will be shooting scenes across the street at the Maryland Theatre next month, wanted to film the entrance to the 83-year-old chapel, which was used as a theater until 1975...

TriStar publicist Judith Rheiner had no comment on the chapel's decision. MacLaine, the author of several books on spirituality, also had no comment, said her publicist, Dale Olson...



ISLAMABAD: Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani (L) talks with Najibullah Lafrie (R), Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Assef Mohseni, Afghan Shi'ite leader, before a joint meeting on peace dialogues at the Prime Minister's house on Friday.

400 Kuwaiti families plan to buy house abroad as shelter

KUWAIT CITY, Mar 6: Two year after the Gulf War, many Kuwaitis still fear Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and would like to buy a house abroad as a shelter in case he invades the country again...

According to a western economic expert, the poll conducted by the Al-Waseet Advertising Company shows that the external threat embodied by Saddam Hussein is still vividly felt by Kuwaitis...

Those who had a residence abroad suffered much less than those who did not, said the expert who declined to be identified recalling Iraq's August 2, 1990, invasion of the Emirate...

The systematic transfer of capital abroad confirms that the Iraqi leader and the memory of his seven-month occupation still haunt Kuwaitis, according to several economists...

They said that Kuwaitis were not saving money in local accounts despite the high eight per cent interest rate offered by the Central Bank...

Kuwaitis' lack of confidence in the future is also reflected in imports, which amounted to some 6.5 billion dollar in 1992, the same level as that of 1989...

Current imports are primarily consumer products not geared to building the economy. Despite such fears, oil-rich Kuwait still enjoys one of the highest gross national products per capita in the Middle East...

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In a written statement, the State Department accused the Iranian intelligence service of being involved in assassinations in Europe and elsewhere and bombings in the Middle East, Europe and Latin America...

"Iran is the world's principal sponsor of extremist Islamic and Palestinian groups, providing them with funds, weapons and training," the statement said...

"Iran is currently the most dangerous state sponsor of terrorism," it said.

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The court, acting as a Presidential Election Tribunal, has not disclosed results of the recount, which began last month. But Mrs Santiago claims the results so far show widespread irregularities...

Early returns from the May 11, 1992 election showed Mrs Santiago with a lead, and she gamely declared that her darkhorse presidential bid had been successful...

But the court was delayed by cumbersome procedures, and Ramos ultimately pulled ahead. He took office last June 30...

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Jordan unlikely to attend ME peace talks

WASHINGTON, Mar 6: Jordan is unlikely to attend Middle East peace talks with Israel next month unless Palestinians also take part...

Jordanian King Hussein said in an interview published on Friday, reports Reuter.

In the interview, to be broadcast on Sunday's edition of John McLaughlin's one on NBC, King Hussein noted that Jordan and the Palestinians formally constituted a joint delegation in the talks...

though they conduct the actual negotiations separately.

"I certainly hope the Palestinians will attend. I don't see how we can resolve the Palestinian problem with the Palestinians absent," he said...

"You can't go with half a delegation, if only from the point of view of form," the King added. A transcript of the interview was made available to news organisations on Friday.

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Diana ends Nepal tour

KATHMANDU, Mar 6: Britain's Princess Diana left Nepal today, ending a five-day 'official informal visit' to the Himalayan Kingdom, a Foreign Ministry source said...

Crown Prince Dipendra and Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala were on hand at Kathmandu Airport to see off the Princess of Wales, who took a scheduled royal Nepal Airlines flight to New Delhi, the source said...

Travelling with her was the British Minister for Overseas Development, Baroness Lynda Chalker...

During her stay, Princess Diana toured Gurkha villages and inspected British-aided development projects. She also inaugurated a new facility operated by Nepal's Red Cross Society...