

# BRIEFLY

**China, ROK to discuss nuclear issue:** The foreign ministers of South Korea and China will meet in Bangkok next week to discuss mounting nuclear tensions on the Korean peninsula, a Foreign Ministry official said Monday, reports AP from Seoul.

The meeting between Han Sung-joo and China's Qian Qichen will take place during the 49th session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific which opens in Bangkok April 20, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The meeting, the first of its kind since North Korea announced a decision March 12 to leave the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty, is part of South Korean efforts to solve the nuclear issue through diplomacy, the official said.

The north then announced on March 12 that it was withdrawing from the treaty, drawn up in 1968 to check the spread of nuclear weapons.

The IAEA subsequently referred the case to the Security Council for possible sanctions.

South Korean officials say that if North Korea does not bow to international pressure to rejoin the treaty by the end of April, economic and other sanctions will be needed.

China, which holds veto power in the UN Security Council, has said it opposes any punitive actions against North Korea.

**Tamil agent arrested in Colombo:** Sinnadural Vigneshwaraya, a Tamil rebel agent in Colombo, was arrested Sunday, police announced Monday, Xinhua reports from Colombo.

Vigneshwaraya, 42-year-old Tamil resident of Manipay in northern Jaffna who is described as a LTTE recruiting officer. He raided a safe house on Barber Street, Colombo on a tip off, where he was arrested by a crack police team, police said.

The suspect has confessed that he was in Colombo to collect money sent from various persons abroad to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighting to set up a separate state of minority Tamils in the north-east of Sri Lanka.

**Rassul new Kurdish PM:** Abdullah Rassul took over on Sunday as leader of a new administration in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq, Iraqi Kurdish sources said.

The sources told AFP in Ankara that Rassul, 41, was appointed Prime Minister to succeed Faud Maasum, who stepped down on March 17 saying he had completed his mission of setting the economy back in motion.

The Kurds set up a government and parliament after elections held last May in defiance of Baghdad. It has no international recognition.

**Nepali police nab 2 journalists:** Police arrested two Nepali journalists on Sunday for publishing a picture of Princess Shruti, teenage daughter of King Birendra, with an Indian film hero, Reuter reports from Kathmandu.

Interior Ministry officials said police also arrested Shambu Shrestha, publisher of Dristi weekly which on Wednesday carried a story allegedly linking Prince Gyanendra, King Birendra's brother, to a gang of smugglers.

They said Mathbar Singh Basnet and Sharad Chandra Nasti of the Punarjaagan Nepali weekly were arrested for reproducing Shruti's picture with Indian film star Salman Khan from a recently published magazine.

The picture's caption criticised the princess' close proximity to the actor.

**French killed in Pindi flood:** A French archaeologist was killed and three colleagues were slightly injured when a flash flood swept away their camp in the southwestern Pakistani province of Baluchistan, police said on Sunday, Reuter reports from Quetta.

The police identified the dead man as Allen Rolan, who they said was one of a 15 member team. The incident occurred on Saturday night and his body was recovered on Sunday.

The team had camped for the night in a dry ravine in the southern Baluchistan district of Lasbela. The site was hit by the sudden flood after unexpected rains in the Catchment area, Lasbela police superintendent Mohammad Raiz said.

He said four of the team's vehicles carried off by the flood has so far not been found.

## Alija accuses Islamic states of failing to respect aid pledges

RIYADH, Apr 12: Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has accused Islamic states of failing to respect their pledges of aid for the beleaguered Muslims of the former Yugoslav republic, reports AFP.

But on Sunday in Riyadh, the President received a cheque for 10 million dollars in contributions for Bosnia from Saudi citizens.

A Saudi aid committee has now extended around 53 million dollars in such aid since the start of 1992 as well as nine million dollars in food assistance, Saudi officials said.

In a press conference late Saturday, Izetbegovic charged however that "several Islamic countries have failed" to meet their commitments within the framework of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC).

At a conference last December, OIC member states pledged their full support for the Bosnian Muslims in their war against the Serbs.

"With the aid of Islamic countries, the war will not be lost," said Izetbegovic during a brief visit to Riyadh during which he received the King Faisal of Saudi Arabia prize for "services rendered to Islam."

He called for Muslim countries to support the Bosnian Muslim demand to be exempted from the UN arms embargo on Bosnia Herzegovina.

Elsewhere, King Hussein of Jordan called Sunday in a message to Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani for joint action by Islamic countries to end the bloodshed in Bosnia, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported.

"I am sure that you are also concerned over the fate of Muslims in Bosnia Herzegovina and the consequences of the unending plight of this nation on global security and stability," Hussein was quoted as saying.

## Arabs to decide resumption of ME talks with Israel

DAMASCUS, Apr 12: Arab sides in the Middle East peace process will meet here later this week to decide whether to resume talks with Israel, diplomatic sources said today, reports AFP.

Officials from Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestinian Liberation Organisation, along with Egypt, will meet on Friday and Saturday.

The United States and Russia, co-sponsors of the talks, have set Tuesday of next week as the date for the resumption of negotiations suspended since Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians in December.

## Naruhito's engagement formalised with fish, silk and sake

TOKYO, Apr 12: Crown Prince Naruhito and former diplomat Masako Owada formally marked their engagement Monday with a delivery of fish, silk and sake to the family of the future empress, reports AP.

The royal couple has been officially engaged since January 19, when their betrothal was approved by the Imperial Council, headed by Prime Minister Kichii Kiyazawa. Monday's ritual brought Miss Owada, a commoner, a step closer to membership in Japan's ancient imperial family.

During the ritual in the guest room of Miss Owada's home, Hiroo Kanno, grandmaster of the crown prince's household, presented a plump male and female sea bream, five rolls of silk and six large bottles of sake, or rice wine.

After Kanno formally announced the gifts, arranged on a table in front of a golden screen, the bride-to-be expressed her "respectful" acceptance.

Miss Owada, in a shimmering pale yellow kimono with a fan-and-cloud motif of burnt orange and an orange sash tied in an elaborate bow in the back, bowed deeply before receiving from Kanno a list of the gifts delivered.

Her mother, Yumiko, in a subdued gray kimono, and her father, Hisasahi, who is vice foreign minister, in coattails, bowed in unison as they stood next to their daughter. The mother wore a subdued gray kimono and the father, like Kanno, wore formal Western attire with coattails.

Monday's was the first in a series of rituals leading up to the wedding. The next will be the formal announcement of the wedding date, expected to be in late May or early June.

"I'm hoping to treasure our future life together," the crown prince, who did not attend the ceremony, said in a statement released through his chamberlains.

Miss Owada, 29, gave up a promising career at the Foreign Ministry after her engagement to Naruhito, the 33-year-old heir to the throne. Since mid-March, she has spent four mornings a week taking lessons — on topics ranging from constitutional law to classical poetry — required for imperial brides.

Monday's ceremony, called the "nosai-no-gi," is an imperial version of a traditional custom of betrothal gifts that is still observed by many Japanese families.

The usual ceremony, or "yuino," involves the ceremonial display of a collection of gifts, often including an envelope full of cash, dried squid and seaweed, and a folded fan — items that symbolize happiness and long life.

The silk presented to Miss Owada — in white and gold brocade, creamy pale red, sky blue, leafy green with gold thread and pale peach — will be used to make dresses for her. The fish and sake probably will be consumed by the Owadas, the Imperial Household Agency said.

After the gifts were presented, the crown prince visited three shrines in the palace complex and then visited his parents, Emperor Akihito and the Empress Michiko. They were joined by Miss Owada and her parents.

Afterward, Miss Owada emerged sporting a more conventional engagement gift — a large pearl engagement ring.



Crown Prince Naruhito and Masako Owada

## Five killed in violence over Hani's assassination Police seize 'hit list' from arrested person

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 12: Five people were killed Sunday, including two white men who were burnt to death, as South African black areas simmered after the murder of south African Communist Party head Chris Hani the previous day, reports AFP.

In Lwandile township near Cape Town, residents vented their anger for the assassination of the popular leader on four whites who had ventured into their township to buy liquor from a shebeen.

The two men were burnt to death and a colleague was seriously mutilated when his tongue was cut out, police said. The fourth man escaped injury.

AP adds: Police found a suspected "hit list" of politicians and several guns in the home of a white man charged with killing top black leader Chris Hani.

Police Brig. Frans Malherbe said Monday Hani was shot with a pistol stolen by right-wing white extremists from a military installation in 1990.

Hani's killing outside his home Saturday triggered fears of an angry backlash that could threaten crucial talks between black and white leaders on ending apartheid.

But government and African National Congress leaders said they were determined to press ahead with talks. Leaders on both sides called for calm despite scattered outbreaks of violence following the killing.

Police arrested Januzo Jakub Wallus, 40, an immigrant from Poland, shortly after Hani's killing. A pistol found in Wallus' car was identified as the alleged murder weapon, police said.

The pistol was part of a cache of weapons stolen by right wing extremists from South African air force headquarters in Pretoria in 1990, police said. Several weapons were found in Wallus' apartment, they said.

Police said a list of politicians and addresses was found in Wallus' apartment, but refused to give any of the names. People on the list had been warned and offered police protection.

"This list includes the names of political leaders of various parties and organizations, but also of people not active in politics," police said in a statement.

South African news reports have linked Wallus to neo-Nazi groups, but police say they cannot confirm the reports. A white supremacist group, the World Apartheid Movement, said it would provide Wallus with legal aid.

Wallus was a fanatical anti-communist who left Poland because of his opposition to the communist government, according to reports. He was described as "a loner."

Small white extremist groups say they are preparing for "a race war" rather than accept a multi-racial democracy. But the extreme right has rarely carried out any attacks despite incessant rhetoric.

Hani, 50, was perhaps the most popular ANC official after its President, Nelson Mandela. Many blacks revered him for his militant opposition to white minority rule.

Hani headed South African's influential Communist Party and was a member of the ANC's policy-making National Executive Committee.

The ANC, the nation's largest black group, accused government officials Sunday of ignoring requests for special protection for Hani but none was provided.

Police said they had not been notified of any "specific threat" to Hani.



Muslim refugee children from Srebrenica, who arrived in Tuzla with a convoy, wait for a meal in their temporary shelter in a school in Lukavak, 20 km west of Tuzla Sunday. — AFP/UNB photo

## 5 killed in Ohio prison riot

LUCASVILLE, Ohio, Apr 12: A fight among inmates escalated into a riot Sunday at a maximum security prison, with inmates killing at least five fellow prisoners and holding at least eight guards hostage, authorities said, reports AP.

At least 15 people were injured at the south-central Ohio prison, including 10 guards and five inmates, said Sharron Kornegay, spokeswoman for the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction.

The prisoners were apparently beaten to death. The inmates didn't have firearms but were armed with batons taken from guards, Kornegay said.

"They suffered extensive injuries," she said. "I think it's probably pretty obvious who killed them. Our staff wouldn't do that."

He called for Muslim countries to support the Bosnian Muslim demand to be exempted from the UN arms embargo on Bosnia Herzegovina.

Elsewhere, King Hussein of Jordan called Sunday in a message to Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani for joint action by Islamic countries to end the bloodshed in Bosnia, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported.

"I am sure that you are also concerned over the fate of Muslims in Bosnia Herzegovina and the consequences of the unending plight of this nation on global security and stability," Hussein was quoted as saying.

She didn't know when the inmates were killed. Their names were being withheld pending notification of relatives.

A ninth guard who was taken hostage was rescued when prison officials and the State Highway Patrol took back the recreation yard.

"The inmates in the yard did not want to be involved so there was little to no resistance," Kornegay said. No shots were fired, she added.

An inmate and the released officer had been injured, apparently in the melee earlier. The extent of their injuries was not immediately known. The inmate was taken into custody, authorities said.

Authorities would not say how many prisoners were involved in the disturbance at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility.

Scioto County Sheriff's Senior Dispatcher Phil Malone described the disturbance as a "full-scale riot" at the prison, which houses some of the state's most dangerous inmates.

The Department of Rehabilitation and Correction issued a statement that said "a group of inmates started a fight and a group of correctional officers responded."

The injured guards were taken to the Southern Ohio Medical Centre in Portsmouth, about 10 miles (16 kms) to the south.

Corrections spokeswoman Tessa Unwin said six of the officers were treated and released, and the seventh was being treated for a broken arm. She gave no details on the other injuries.

## Azerbaijan seeks Iranian help

NICOSIA, Apr 12: Azerbaijan asked Iran to help it defend the strategic southern town of Fizuli from advancing Armenian forces, the official Iranian news agency IRNA reported, says Reuter.

The agency said Azeri Ambassador to Iran Nasib Nasibzadeh "appealed to the Islamic Republic of Iran to help prevent the Azeri town of Fizuli from falling into the hands of Armenian forces."

Azeri Secretary of State Panakh Guseinov on Sunday flew to Tehran and carried his country's "closest friend", saying Muslim countries should help Azerbaijan to end the clashes, IRNA said.

Ambassador Nasibzadeh asked Iran on Sunday "to give material and spiritual assistance to the Azeri people to repel the Armenian aggression," IRNA said.

Iranian first Vice-President Hassan Habibi told Guseinov in talks after he arrived he hoped the conflict could be solved peacefully and denounced Armenian attacks, IRNA said.

Guseinov, who is on a two-day visit to Tehran and carries

a message for Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani from Azeri leader Abulfaz Elchibey, said some countries were supporting Armenian troops but he would not name them.

Azeris and Armenians fought around Fizuli on Saturday. The town lies in a narrow strip of Azeri territory separating the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh from Iran. Its capture would bring all of southeast Azerbaijan under Armenian control.

## Hanoi assured of UN help

HANOI, Apr 12: United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said Monday he would do his best to aid Vietnam's domestic development and expand its role in the international community, reports AP.

In an interview, Boutros-Ghali said the United Nations was ready to help Vietnam become "a major force in this region" — an offer similar to one he made to Thailand on an earlier trip.

"Whatever Vietnam requests from the United Nations in the way of economic, political, or social assistance, the United Nations will be ready to offer," he said. "It is up to Vietnam to ask."

"This doesn't mean that I am able to cope with all the demands, but I will do my best."

The comments showed the extent to which Communist-ruled Vietnam has emerged from the international isolation that resulted from its 1978 invasion of neighbouring Cambodia. Each year, by overwhelming margins, the UN General Assembly had adopted resolutions condemning the Cambodian occupation, which ended in 1989 as the Vietnamese leadership focused on economic reforms.

## Record reward for elephant poacher

NEW DELHI, Apr 12: Police have offered a record reward of 4 million rupees (dhs 128,000) for India's most notorious elephant poacher and sandalwood smuggler, reports AP.

Leaders of two southern Indian states announced the reward Sunday for Veerappan, who uses one name, after 22 policemen and informers were killed in a land mine explosion set by the outlaw's gang.

The deaths raised to 62 the number of his known victims in the last 10 years.

The states of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu also offered rewards of 2 million rupees (dhs 64,000) for each of Veerappan's 50 gang members. Karnataka's chief Minister Veerappa Moily said in the southern city of Madras. "I will smash Veerappan even if he is hiding in his mother's womb," Moily was quoted as saying by the Indian Express newspaper.

Veerappan has acquired a Robing Hood image by giving help and protection to local tribes people and villagers of the jungles that straddle the south.

## Off the Record

### Prince turns actor

LONDON: Prince Charles turned TV actor for a children's film broadcast Sunday, "The Legend of Lochnagar," inspired by a book he published in 1980, reports AP.

The 44-year-old Prince appeared in live action sequences at the beginning and end of the animated film about an old Scot who sets up his bathtub in a remote Highland cave without a thought to the effects it will have on his surrounding.

He is taught to be a good neighbour by tiny people called Gorms who use a shrinking machine to bring the old man down to eye-level. At the end of the film Charles, too, is shrunk into a Gorm-size figure at his own fireside.

This reportedly was his own idea. "It's about time the Prince of Wales was cut down to size," several newspapers quoted him as saying.

The film was inspired by Charles' book, "The Old Man of Lochnagar," which evolved from a story he made up for his younger brothers, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward, when they were children.

Charles narrated the film in Welsh, Gaelic and English for separate versions in Britain's three main languages. Royalties are to go to his charity — The Prince Trust.



## Declaration of Independence goes on sale

ATLANTA: An art dealer who paid 2.4 million dollar in 1991 for what was said to be the best existing original copy of the American Declaration of Independence said Sunday he plans to offer it for sale next month at Sotheby's auction house in New York, reports Reuter.

"The historical document market has really caught fire... the market is very attractive and that's why we're selling it," said Donald Scheer of Suburban Atlanta, president of Visual Equities Inc.

## Win \$16,000 caricaturing Salman Rushdie

NICOSIA: An Iranian organisation is offering gold coins worth about 16,000 dollar for the best caricatures of British author Salman Rushdie, who was condemned to death for blasphemy by late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, reports Reuter.

The weekly publication Kayhan Haval quote the organiser of the "Satanic Conspiracy International Caricature Competitions" as saying the aim was to portray the "real conspiracy behind (Rushdie's) blasphemous novel" — The Satanic Verses.

"Artists and caricaturists from across the country have welcomed the initiative and in order to give artists from other countries sufficient time to prepare their works, we have extended the deadline," the organiser, Mohammad Parvin, said.

Applications must now reach the magazine by June 4, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported on Sunday.

It did not say how the 160 gold coins, each worth 150,000 rials (97 dollar), would be shared out between the winners.

Rushdie has been in hiding since Khomeini sentenced him to death in 1989.



## Afghans free 29 Pak guards

QUETTA, Apr 12: Afghan tribesmen freed 29 Pakistani frontier guards on Sunday after holding them hostage for 17 days, Pakistani officials said, reports Reuter.

Baluchistan province's Home Secretary, Ghias-Ud-Din, said the guards, snatched during a clash in southwest Pakistan, were freed unconditionally after talks involving a traditional Pakistani tribal Jirga (council) and the Sulemankhel tribe.

"The government has not paid any compensation or ransom to the kidnapers," Ghias-Ud-Din said.

Two paramilitary troops and 15 Afghans died in a gun battle when the Pakistani frontier corps raided the village of Qamar Din Karez in Baluchistan on March 25, looking for alleged criminals among Afghan refugees and guerrillas.

The Afghans — members of the Sulemankhel — captured 29 of the frontier corps, including a major, and took them across the nearby border into Afghanistan.

Pakistani officials said the relations between the corps and Afghans in the area had deteriorated sharply after troops raided a guerrilla's home last month and seized a US-made stinger missile.

Washington is trying to buy back several hundred of the shoulder-fired anti-aircraft missiles to try to prevent them from being passed on to middle eastern guerrilla organisations at odds with US policies.

The arms were originally given to Afghans fighting the former Soviet-backed communist government in Kabul.

Few stingers are believed to have been used, and most have reportedly been stockpiled by the Mujahideen groups or sold.

Uno-ficial sources said the Jirga had agreed to pay a ransom of one million rupees (37,000 dollar) and assured the kidnapers that no action would be taken against them.

## One held for hurling bombs near Miyazawa's home

TOKYO, Apr 12: A 18-year-old man has been arrested for throwing several petrol bombs near the home of Prime Minister Kichii Miyazawa in Tokyo, police said today. No one was hurt in the attacks, reports AFP.

The man, whose name was withheld, was holding a knife and a letter criticizing Miyazawa's politics when he was arrested late Sunday, police said.

He claimed to be member of a rightist youth group called Hinomaru Seinentai, the police said, adding that he was being questioned.

He threw several petrol bombs about 80 metres (260 feet) away from Miyazawa's home across a railroad, police said.