

# BRIEFLY

## More Pak troops for Somalia:

Pakistan began sending more troops to Somalia on Monday to join a multinational force deployed there to restore order and protect famine relief, reports Reuter from Islamabad. The 190-strong contingent left for Mogadishu on a special flight, marking the beginning of the movement of two additional battalions, a military statement said. The rest of the troops are likely to leave shortly, it said. A Pakistan army battalion consists of 800 to 1,000 troops. Pakistan already has two battalions in Somalia. US-led forces deployed in Somalia since last December are due to hand over command to the United Nations next month.

## Arafat in Cairo:

Yasser Arafat arrived in Cairo Monday for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on reviving the Middle East peace process, officials said, reports AFP from Cairo. Arafat, who met with Foreign Minister Amr Moussa immediately after his arrival, is accompanied by Faisal Husseini, the head of the Palestinian delegation to Arab-Israeli peace talks. The PLO chief's visit comes ahead of a visit Wednesday to Egypt of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who will also meet with Mubarak.

## Palestinian shot dead:

An Israeli man returning home from an evening out in Jerusalem chased three Palestinians he thought were trying to steal a car and shot one of them dead, police said on Monday, reports Reuter from Jerusalem. They identified the dead man as an 18-year-old Palestinian from the nearby occupied West bank town of Ramallah. Police arrested Israeli and confiscated his gun. He told them he fired after one of the Arabs pointed what he thought was a weapon at him.

## Sow named PM of Mali:

Former Mali Defence Minister Abdoulaye Sekou Sow was named Prime Minister of the impoverished West African country in a presidential decree on Monday, reports Reuter from Bamako. The decree, issued by president Alpha Oumar Konare, was broadcast on national television on Monday night. Sow was Defence Minister in the 10-month-old government led by Younoussi Toure, who resigned on Friday after student riots in which parliament and other state buildings were set ablaze.

## Two Indians killed in New York:

A man and woman said to be an Indian prince and princess were found dead in their posh Park Avenue apartment on Monday in what police are calling a double murder, reports Reuter from New York. The man was found face down in a pool of blood in the living room of the fourth floor flat on Manhattan's upper east side, police said. A police spokeswoman said the man may have been an Indian prince, but did not identify him.

## Angolan peace talks open

ABIDJAN, Apr 13: Angola's government and rebels have begun face-to-face peace talks after six months of renewed civil war, and the government says it is ready to agree to a cease-fire, reports AP. The two sides met Monday and said they were committed to ending the civil war, and a UN envoy hinted that 700 peacekeepers in the country may be withdrawn if the negotiators do not make progress.

## Plane carrying Bush, his wife makes emergency landing

HOUSTON, Apr 13: A Kuwait Airways jet carrying former President George Bush and his wife Barbara to Kuwait made an emergency landing here on Monday after part of the left wing peeled away, Aviation officials said, reports Reuter. None of the 59 people aboard the Boeing 747 was injured in the 10:25 am cdt (1525 GMT) landing at Houston Intercontinental Airport, about an hour after leaving nearby Ellington field.

## Roadside bomb kills 3 Israeli soldiers

MARJAYOUN (Lebanon). Apr 13: A remote-controlled roadside bomb killed three Israeli soldiers and injured two in southern Lebanon on Tuesday, security sources said. A Shiite Muslim group's military wing claimed responsibility, reports AP. The attack on the Israeli patrol occurred just a week before Arab and Israeli negotiators are due to resume negotiations in Washington, although Arab delegations have not yet announced whether they will attend.

## Iran warns of 'concrete measures' if Azeri-Armenian fighting on

TEHRAN, Apr 13: Iran warned Monday it could resort to "concrete measures" if the fighting around the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh in neighbouring Azerbaijan dragged on, reports AP. President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, in a meeting with Azerbaijan Vice President Hossein Panahov, called for Armenian forces and Azeri forces to withdraw to previous positions and resume peace talks.

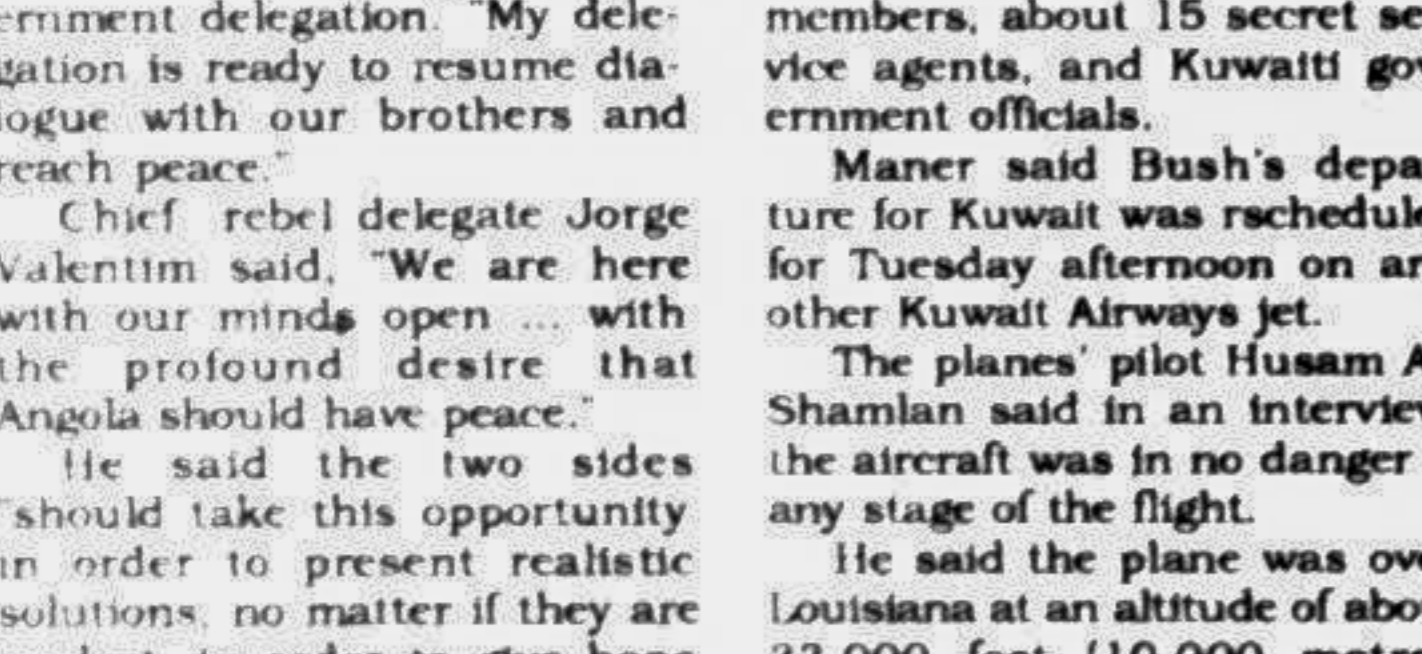
## Grenade attack kills four in Thai new year festival

BANGKOK, Apr 13: A drunken youth hurled a grenade into a crowd of Thai New Year celebrants early Tuesday, killing four people including an infant, FM107 radio in Bangkok reported, says AP. Two youths who had been drinking heavily started fighting while watching a film outside a temple just after midnight at Ta Phraya, about 230 kilometres (145 miles) east of Bangkok near the Cambodian border.

## Chernobyl reactor shut down

MOSCOW, Apr 13: The number one reactor at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station in Ukraine has been shut down because of a turbine fault, the Itar-Tass news agency said Monday, reports AFP. There were originally a total of 55 people on the ship, including 47 crew members. The unidentified captain at first declined helicopter evacuation of the crew, apparently because he thought the situation was under control, the merchant marine said in a statement.

## Off the Record



Mickey Mouse welcomes 'Marsupilemi', a character by the author of the Spirou Comics, Robert Velter, on the first anniversary of Euro Disneyland in Suburban Marne-La-Vallée Monday. —AFP/UNB photo

## Kidnapper jailed for 109 years

MARTINEZ, Calif. A man convicted of kidnapping two young girls as they slept in their homes and molesting them was sentenced Monday to 109 years in prison, reports AP. Tracy Arthur Stone, 31, was convicted of 16 felony counts in the kidnapping of a 6-year-old girl in June and a 9-month-old girl in March 1992.

## One stabbed to death in S Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Apr 13: A white man was stabbed to death and set on fire in a black township south of Johannesburg on Monday, police said, reports Reuter. A police spokesman said the killing did not appear to be motivated by anti-white anger over the killing of black leader Chris Hani last Saturday.

## Second saddest day of celebrity divorce lawyer

LOS ANGELES: Celebrity divorce lawyer Marvin Mitchelson was sentenced Monday to 30 months in prison and ordered to pay \$1.8 million restitution for his conviction on tax-evasion charges, reports AP. US District Judge William D Keller, who imposed the sentence after a three-hour hearing, allowed Mitchelson to remain free on bail pending an appeal.

## She doesn't bother people's perception

BOSTON: Vanna White, star of American television's top-rated syndicated game show, acknowledges that some people perceive her as an empty-headed letter-turner, but says that doesn't bother her, reports AP. "If I was sitting there watching TV and saw this woman turning letters for 10 years, I would probably think the same thing," she told the Boston Sunday Herald.

# Serb artillery attack kills 56 in Srebrenica

SARAJEVO, Apr 13: The deadliest Serb artillery attack in the year-long siege of Srebrenica killed 56 people and severely wounded 73 more in eastern Bosnia on Monday. Minutes after NATO planes began enforcing a UN no fly zone over the embattled republic, Serb shells -- apparently set to explode in mid-air to wreck the greatest havoc on people caught in the open -- rained death on the town, said John McMillan, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) spokesman.

"God damn, it's just horrible," he told Reuters. "There had been a ceasefire declared. Then the barrage came and the people were running around terrified trying to find shelter. They are all hiding now." He expected the death toll to rise as the wounded succumbed in the town's hospital. Local doctors appealed to the UN to evacuate the wounded by air.

"There is blood all over the place," a local Ham radio operator said of the Srebrenica attack. "It was a massacre in the centre of town." The hospital is having great difficulties. Wounded are lying on the floor in hallways. Store rooms have just been opened to hold the wounded," he told Reuters.

But a spokesman for the UN protection force in Bosnia said it was still not clear which side shot first, breaking a shaky ceasefire that took effect on March 28. "We're not entirely sure this was a Serb provoked or initiated attack, whether the first shots were not fired by the Bosnians. We just don't know at this time," he told Reuters.

He said the UN's top generals, frustrated after Muslim military chiefs boycotted talks on bringing peace to Srebrenica, had urged both Muslims and Serbs to show restraint. In central districts of Sarajevo, one person died and 35 people were hurt in an hour-long artillery assault after

the planned peace talk with government commanders collapsed. The artillery barrage on Sarajevo was the first sustained attack on the encircled Bosnian capital since the UN-mediated ceasefire came into force. Bosnia's rebel Serbs denied shelling Srebrenica and alleged Muslim-controlled government forces were stepping up an offensive designed to win political support for tougher UN sanctions against the rump Yugoslav state.

"I think the Muslim side will intensify fighting in order to influence the Security Council," Bosnian Serb Leader Radovan Karadzic told Reuters. "They (Muslims) are avoiding any talks, intensifying operations and violating the ceasefire." At the urging of Russia, the Security Council has delayed a vote on tightening Yugoslav sanctions until after Russia's crucial referendum on April 25, dip.crnats at the UN said.

## WTC bombing suspect's family off to NY

CAIRO, Apr 13: The wife and four children of Mahmoud Abouhalima, a main suspect in the World Trade Centre (WTC) bombing, flew to New York on Tuesday, reports AP. Abouhalima's German wife Mariana Wiper and their sons, who carry US passports, were seen off by members of Abouhalima's Egyptian family. They refused to speak to reporters.

The children range in age from 1 to 7. Abouhalima entered Egypt on German travel papers a few days after the Feb 26 bombing, which killed six people and wounded more than 1,000. He went to the family home south of the Mediterranean port Alexandria.

He was arrested by Egyptian police, who handed him over to US officials. He was flown back to New York on March 24.

## UK, China agree to hold talks on HK polls

BEIJING, Apr 13: China and Britain have agreed to hold talks about elections in Hong Kong starting on April 22 in Beijing, the British embassy said today, reports Reuter. The two countries have been at loggerheads for months over plans for Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten for democratic reforms in the colony before it reverts to China in 1997.

The Beijing talks will be between Sir Robin McLaren, British ambassador to China, and Jiang Enzhu, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs. Michael Sze, Hong Kong's Secretary for Constitutional affairs, his deputy Peter Lai and William Ehrman, political adviser to Patten, will be present at the talks to provide support to the ambassador, according

to a British embassy spokeswoman. She quoted Patten as saying his bill on democratic reform would not be put to the colony's legislature while the talks were in progress. She said she expected the first round of talks to last about four days. The Chinese and British sides have agreed that the government representatives of the two countries will, starting from April 22, 1993, hold talks in Beijing on the arrangement for the 1994-95 elections in Hong Kong in accordance with the Sino-British joint declaration, the principle of convergence with the basic law and the relevant agreements and understandings reached between China and Britain, the embassy statement said.

## Ban on Palestinians entry hits Israeli farmers

JERUSALEM, Apr 13: Israeli farmers, hit by a two-week-old government ban on Palestinians entering Israel, will be able to employ up to 9,000 of them from today, the Agriculture Ministry said, reports Reuter. Ministry spokeswoman Batya Keinan said on Monday that 2,000 Palestinians of the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip had obtained special permits to work in Israeli fields and the government on Sunday had approved the issuance of 7,000 more.

Israeli farming and construction have suffered for lack of cheap Arab labour during the closure. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin imposed the ban after Arabs killed 13 Jews in March. Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who rely on jobs in Israel for their livelihood, assailed the closure as a collective punishment. Israel Radio said 20,000 had worked in agriculture before the closure.

Agriculture Minister Yaacov Tsaur announced a committee would study technological innovations that could help reduce Israel's reliance on the Palestinians. A Treasury spokesman said Finance Minister Abraham Shohat would press Rabin to also let building contractors

## US C-in-C in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, Apr 13: General Joseph P Hoar, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Central command, arrived here Monday on an official visit, an official statement said, reports AFP. He will meet with top Pakistani military officials during his week-long stay to discuss further strengthening professional relations between the armed forces of the two countries, it added.

The US suspended military and economic aid to Pakistan in October 1990 because of suspicions that Islamabad's nuclear programme was weapons-oriented, a charge denied by Pakistan, which says the programme is entirely meant for peaceful purposes. Pakistani army chief General Abdul Waheed is due to make an official visit to the United States this month, a move seen linked to Islamabad's efforts to improve bilateral ties.

## UK, China agree to hold talks on HK polls

BEIJING, Apr 13: China and Britain have agreed to hold talks about elections in Hong Kong starting on April 22 in Beijing, the British embassy said today, reports Reuter. The two countries have been at loggerheads for months over plans for Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten for democratic reforms in the colony before it reverts to China in 1997.

The Beijing talks will be between Sir Robin McLaren, British ambassador to China, and Jiang Enzhu, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs. Michael Sze, Hong Kong's Secretary for Constitutional affairs, his deputy Peter Lai and William Ehrman, political adviser to Patten, will be present at the talks to provide support to the ambassador, according

to a British embassy spokeswoman. She quoted Patten as saying his bill on democratic reform would not be put to the colony's legislature while the talks were in progress. She said she expected the first round of talks to last about four days. The Chinese and British sides have agreed that the government representatives of the two countries will, starting from April 22, 1993, hold talks in Beijing on the arrangement for the 1994-95 elections in Hong Kong in accordance with the Sino-British joint declaration, the principle of convergence with the basic law and the relevant agreements and understandings reached between China and Britain, the embassy statement said.

## US C-in-C in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, Apr 13: General Joseph P Hoar, Commander-in-Chief of the United States Central command, arrived here Monday on an official visit, an official statement said, reports AFP. He will meet with top Pakistani military officials during his week-long stay to discuss further strengthening professional relations between the armed forces of the two countries, it added.

The US suspended military and economic aid to Pakistan in October 1990 because of suspicions that Islamabad's nuclear programme was weapons-oriented, a charge denied by Pakistan, which says the programme is entirely meant for peaceful purposes. Pakistani army chief General Abdul Waheed is due to make an official visit to the United States this month, a move seen linked to Islamabad's efforts to improve bilateral ties.

## 12 killed as Indian cargo ship sinks

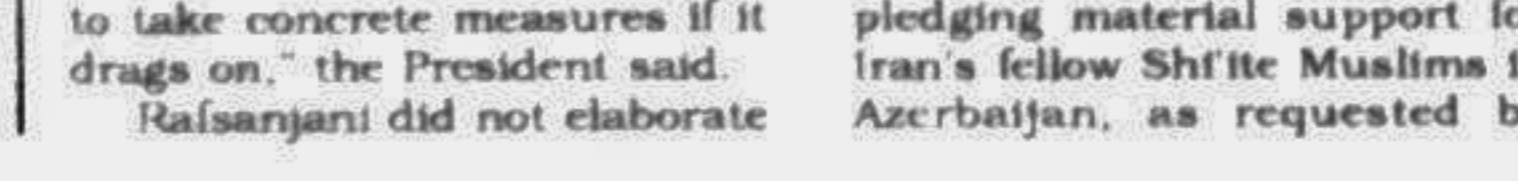
GIJON (Spain), Apr 13: The death toll in the sinking of an Indian freighter rose to 12 on Tuesday, with 28 people still missing, authorities said, reports AP. The Vishva Mohini was headed from the English port of Middlesbrough to Bombay on Monday when its cargo of machinery slipped, punching a hole in the hull, merchant marine officials said. Helicopter crews rescued 16 people as the 10,000-ton, 156-meter (514-foot) ship sank in heavy seas and gale-force winds, but one person later died. Rescue workers found 11 bodies Tuesday.

There were originally a total of 55 people on the ship, including 47 crew members. The unidentified captain at first declined helicopter evacuation of the crew, apparently because he thought the situation was under control, the merchant marine said in a statement.

## Chernobyl reactor shut down

MOSCOW, Apr 13: The number one reactor at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station in Ukraine has been shut down because of a turbine fault, the Itar-Tass news agency said Monday, reports AFP. There were originally a total of 55 people on the ship, including 47 crew members. The unidentified captain at first declined helicopter evacuation of the crew, apparently because he thought the situation was under control, the merchant marine said in a statement.

## Off the Record



Mickey Mouse welcomes 'Marsupilemi', a character by the author of the Spirou Comics, Robert Velter, on the first anniversary of Euro Disneyland in Suburban Marne-La-Vallée Monday. —AFP/UNB photo