Over 250 massacred in Liberia

Under-Secretary of State Jean-Bertrand Aristide was

Army officer killed in Kashmir battle

SOPORE (India), June 7: Querillas ambushed an army patrol after it searched a village in Jammu-Kashmir state, and one officer was killed and another injured, police sources said Monday, reports AP.

The soldiers who survived the ambush Sunday night jumped out of their vehicles on a dirt road and opened fire on the militants, killing three of them in a 40-minute gun battle, the sources said.

A colonel was killed and a major general injured, the sources said. The Hindustan Times identified them Monday as Col. J. Singh and Maj. Gen. Inder Verma. Two other soldiers and two civilians were injured, the sources said on condition of anonymity.

The patrol had spent Sunday searching Budhan Raflabad, a village 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of the city of Sopore.

As they do in many other areas of Jammu-Kashmir, the soldiers forced all men in the village out of their homes, sat them in the street, and had a disguised guerilla informer drive by in a car so he could identify suspected rebels among the After they are taken into cus-

tody, the soldiers search all the homes in the village for hidden guns and weapons.

As the soldiers were returning to Sopore in four or five military vehicles, rebels ambushed them from behind trees.

Militants in Jammu-Kashmir, India's only state with a Muslim majority, have been fighting for independence for three years.

More than 6,000 people have been killed in clashes involving army an paramilitary forces from India, a nation whose population of 875 million peo-



Jamsheed Marker, Pakistan's ambassador to the UN answers questions as he arrives for Security Council consultations Sunday. At least 22 Pakistani troops were killed in battles in Somalia and nonessential UN personnel were told to prepare to leave the country.

-AFP/UNB photo

Flash flood in Tripura

NEW DELHI, June 7: Thousands of people have been stranded and left homeless as flash floods caused by heavy monsoon rains submerged vast tracts of India's remote northeast, the Press Trust of India reported today, says AFP.

Officials in Tripura state told the news agency that uninterrupted showers for the past three days had caused the Manu and Deo rivers to spill over, inundating scores of lowlying villages and towns.

They said some 10,000 villagers had been marooned as the gushing waters engulfed four districts.

Twenty-five relief camps have been set up for the victims, they added.

Assam and Meghalaya states, which border Bangladesh, have also been hit by the floods with rivers crossing the danger level and still rising.

out of the camps", he said.

"Then there was random shoot-

but what I saw this afternoon

was very gruesome, horrible,"

this," he said. "You could have

fired one shot in the air but not

he said.

world.

Africans.

"I wasn't there at the scene

"I just cannot comprehend

The camp was at a workers

compound in an abandoned

rubber plantation owned by fire

stone and the largest in the

to Robertsfied International

Airport, 40 miles (64 km) from

Monrovia, and is supposed to

be under the control of the west

It is located at Harbel, close

Off the Record

Witch doctor to catch thief

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's central bank will investigate complaints that a local bank forced staffers to drink a witch doctor's potion in efforts to find a possible thief, the newspaper The Star reported Sunday, says AP.

The witch doctor was called in after the bank discovered 5,000 ringgit (dirs 1,923) was missing and a body search of

staffers did not turn up the money, the paper said. Some Malaysians believe that an unrepentant thief who drinks a witch doctor's "magic water" will throw up, havestomach cramps or even suffer from an incurable mystery

The Star quoted an unidentified officer of the central bank, Bank Negara, as saying: "We view the matter seriously and we will take action based on the outcome of our investigations."

The paper did not identify the local bank in Kelantan state,

on the northeast coast of peninsular Malaysia. It said the money was discovered missing on March 31. Bank employees complained to the National Union of Bank

Employees over what they called the manager's primitive

methods, and the bank management formally apologized to the employees on May 10, it added. The money still has not been found, the paper said.

Free-falling president

TOKYO: U S President Bill Clinton's popularity took another dip Monday, this time across the Pacific ocean in Japan, where a poll showed his numbers plunging to almost 20 per cent, reports AFP.

Clinton, whose popularity in his home country is freefalling following a series of gaffes by his young administration, is now seen in a negative light by more than half of Japanese, said the

The survey, conducted in May by Nippon Research Center Ltd. showed that the healthy 62 per cent approval rating Clinton enjoyed in February had tumbled to 44 per cent.

His negative ratings, expressed in a polite Japanesc "not favourably impressed,"

went up to 51 per cent, shooting up from 34 per cent in February.

Clinton suffered most in the area of trade, where there has been discord between the Clinton administration and Japan. The survey found that five per cent of those polled had confidence in Clinton's trade policies toward Japan, while 56 per cent did not. Thirty-nine per cent said they do not know.

The Japanese also appeared leery of Clinton as a world leader, with only 15 per cent saying they could expect Clinton to show leadership in global politics.

Thirty-eight per cent said they "cannot really expect" world leadership from Clinton, and 47 per cent said they did not know, the survey said.

The poll covered 2,000 mcn and women aged 18 or older, of

which 69 per cent responded, the company said. Study on homosexuality

ORLANDO: After years of divisive debate, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) is considering launching a three-year study on

homosexuality, reports AP. The Committee on Human Sexuality of the 205th General Assembly voted 32-3 Sunday to recommend a church-wide study in response to more than 30 requests from regional church bodies that want the church to either strengthen or

Under the proposal, the ban on openly gay clergy would stand, but homosexual Presbyterians who have not made their sexuality public would-be allowed to participate in the study without retribution.

Tony Award winners

Winners of Broadway's 1993 Tony Awards announced Sunday in ceremonies televised by CBS from the Gershwin

relax its ban on homosexual clergy.

Play: "Angels in America: Millennium Approaches." Musical: "Kiss of the Spider

Woman:" Revival: "Anna Christie;"

Actor, Play: Ron Leibman "Angels in America; Millennium Approaches." Actress, Play: Madeline Kahn

"The Sisters Rosensweig." Actor, Musical: Brent Carver

"Kiss of the Spider Woman." Actress, Musical: Chita

Rivera "Kiss of the Spider Woman. Book, Musical: "Kiss of the Spider Woman" Terrence

McNally. Score, Musical: (tie) "Kiss of

the Spider Woman" John Kander, music, Fred Ebb.

Clinton joins Kennedy family

ARLINGTON, Virginia, June 7: President Bill Clinton joined the Kennedy family and a crowd of thousands Sunday at Arlington National Cemetery to honour Robert Kennedy, who was assassinated 25 years ago,

reports AFP. "May the good lord hold Robert Kennedy close and may we, too, hold on to the example of his life and its continuing meaning and challenge to all of us, said Joseph Kennedy, the son of the slain

1968 presidential candidate.

Lyrics; "The Who's Tommy" Pete Townshend, music and lyrics. Director, play: George C

Wolfe "Angels in America: Theatre, reports AP. Millennium Approaches." Director, Musical: Des McAnuff "The Who's Tommy."

Featured Actor, Play: Stephen Spinella "Angels in Millennium America: Approaches."

Featured Actress, Play: Debra Monk "Redwood Curtain."

Featured Actor, Musical: Anthony Crivello "Kiss of the Spider Woman.

Featured Actress, Musical: Andrea Martin "My Favourite

Scenic Design: John Amone "The Who's Tommy." Costume Design: Florence

Klotz "Kiss of the Spider

Lighting Design: Chris Parry "The Who's Tommy."

Choreography: Wayne Cilento "The Who's Tommy." A special Tony Award for continued excellence by a re-

gional theatre: La Jolla Playhouse, La Jolla, Calif. Other special Tonys were given to; "Oklahoma: — The landmark

Rodgers and Hammerstein mu-

steal is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 1993. The International Alliance of

Theatrical Stage Employees and Moving Picture Machine Operators of the United States and Canada.

Fights AIDS, an entertainment industry charity.

Broadway Cares-Equity

West's human rights dangerous to Yangon?

BDIFFF IV

Kabul denies Tajik charges: The

Afghan government on Sunday denied allegations that it

launched an artillery attack on the Tajik border last week, the

Ministry statement as saying that no such attack was made on

at a border post on the frontier between Tajikistan and

Afghanistan last Saturday in an attack the Russian foreign min-

istry said was launched from Afghan territory. The Russians

were guarding the border under an accord with Tajikistan's pro-

Sanchez claims victory: Gonzalo

Sanchez de Lozada of the opposition Revolutionary Nationalist

Movement (MNR) claimed victory Sunday in Bolivia's

minutes earlier announced the "unquestionable victory" of the

leading by seven percentage points over second-place Hugo

Banzer, a former military ruler- turned- democracy advocate

MNR in at least six of the country's nine departments.

He made the announcement on Channel 2 television, which

Channel 2 said the latest results showed Sanchez de Lozada

Ossetians shot dead : seven

Ossetians were shot dead early Sunday by unidentified at-

tackers who then stole their three tankers full of petrol, the

deputy interior minister of Russia's northern Ossetia region

village of Chmi, Colonel Sosian Stkoyev told the Itar- Tass news

Ossetia was last autumn the scene of bitter ethnic clashes be-

tween Ossetians and Inguehes which left several hundred dead.

Cop kills 4 Filipinos: A policeman went

berserk and killed four people in a shooting spree before he was

shot dead later by authorities, officials said Monday, AP reports

Sgt, Jimmy Baltinga stepped out of a bar Sunday and opened fire with a M-16 rifle, killing four passers-by and wound-

ing five others, said police chief Pidel Bolano in the town of

neighboring town; where he was shot dead after refusing to sur-

in the police attack on the bus, but it was not immediately

Baltinga then setzed a bus and ordered the driver to go to a

A policeman was killed and three passengers were wounded

Bolano said police are investigating why Baltinga went

Malaybalay, 830 kilometres (520 miles) south of Mantla.

Among the victims were a little boy and a policeman.

The killers fled in the trucks after the attack in the mountain

A Caucasian republic of the Russian Federation, northern

A state of emergency is still in force over a large part of the

Tajikistan threatened Kabul with retaliation if there were any

The radio, monitored in Islamabad, quoted a Foreign

Three Russian border guards were killed and four wounded

official Kabul radio said, reports Reuter from Islamabad.

the territory of the "brotherly country of Tajikistan."

BANGKOK, June 7: A senior Myanmar junta member said Sunday that people who support western-style human rights should be weeded out of local government and other jobs in Myanmar that deal with the public, state-run Radio Yangon reported, says AFP.

It quoted Lieutenant General Tin Oo, who spoke to a gathering of local government officials one day before the nations constitutional convention reconvenes in Yangon, as saying western-style human, rights were dangerous to Myanmar.

The government should clean out those people as soon as possible, the broadcast,

Moscow government.

further attacks on border posts.

presidential race, AFP reports from La Paz.

with the ruling Patriotic Accord coalition.

said, reports AFP from Moscow.

country.

from Iligan.

berserk.

monitored here, quoted the general as saying. He did not specify what should be done with these people.

promote Myanmar ethics, her-State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC).

SLORC is following its own plan to develop Myanmar and people should adhere to its

ditions," Tin Oo said.

Government officials should itage and culture, said Tin Oo, who is second secretary of the the formal name of the ruling

teachings, the general said.

"We must rule ourselves our own way according to our tra-

forces, a UN official said, reports Reuter. "They were shot, they were mutilated and some of them had their heads broken and their throats cut," Augustine Mahiga, a representative for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said in a telephone interview with re-

of them women and children,

were massacred on Sunday at

an abandoned rubber planta-

tion near the Liberian capital

Monrovia, apparently by rebel

porters at the United Nations. "There were (hundreds) of parts of people who were dead," he said after a visit to the scene.

bullet wounds. These are all

civilians who have been dis-

"Most of them had a lot of

MANAGUA, June 7: The

United States on Sunday said it

was consulting with the United

Nations to clamp a worldwide

Secretary of State Warrent

UNITED NATIONS, June 7: placed by this war," Mahiga massacre but witnesses had ordered every person to come More than 250 refugees, many said.

In Monrovia, West African military leaders and witnesses blamed guerilla leader Charles Taylor and his followers who restarted the civil war in 1990, throwing the country into anarchy and making more than two million people homeless.

Taylor denied responsibility in interviews with the British Broadcasting Corporation and CNN. He told the BBC the accusations were an excuse for an offensive against him by Liberian army troops, who were supported by a West African intervention force known as ECOMOG, which was sent to end the civil war.

Mahiga said he had no "conclusive evidence" to prove Taylor's forces conducted the

Clipton Wharton said at the

Organisation of American

States meeting in Managua.

said this was the case. US sources said they heard

another refugee camp had been attacked but did not know the death toll. Mahiga, who said he was

filling a report to Sadako Ogata, the head of UNHCR, said most of the dead were women and children whose body parts lay strewn over the abandoned camp. He said he saw sixmonth-old babies mutilated. Hundreds more were in-

jured, he added.

He said the gunmen came to get rice that had been distributed on Friday by the United Nations. Every but had some rice and there was also extra stored.

"So these people who came wanted the rice and they

toppled in a September 1991

first time the United States

Although there have been

military coup.

Kawakita dead US for trade ban on Haiti TOKYO, June 7: Kazuko Ka-

wakita, who helped introduce artistic European and American films to Japan, died of respiratory failure in Tokyo on Monday. She was 53, reports

Kawakita, the only daughter of the late Nagamasa Kawakita, president of Toa Film Corp studied in Britain, France, Italy and Germany, before returning to Japan in 1959.

In 1968, Kawakita set up Shibata organization Inc a mafor importer of works by European and American directors.

Ruling party wins Spanish elections

MADRID, June 7: Spain's ruling socialists garnered 38.68 per cent of the vote in Sunday's general elections, winning 159 seats in the lower house and the Peoples Party 34.82 per cent and 141 seats. according to official results with virtually all ballots counted, reports AFP.

Turnout was 77.28 per cent against 69.9 per cent in 1989. In the 1989 legislative elections, the socialists garnered 39.8 per cent (175 seats), the Peoples Party 25.9 per cent (107 seats), the United Left 9.1 per cent (17), the CDS 7.9 per cent (14), The Catalan Party five per cent (18), the Basque Party 1.2 per cent (5), the Canary Island Coalition 0.3 per cent (1) and the Basque Separatists 1.1 per cent and four seats.

After Sunday's vote, the socialists will have 96 seats in the upper house and the Conservative People's Party 93 seats, according to an official tally of 99.80 per cent of the

No percentage points were immediately available. The Catalan Party gained 10

seats, the Canary Island Coalition five, the Basque Party three and the Basque Separatists one scat. The upper house has a total

of 254 seats but only 208 seats were disputed in Sunday's vote. The other 47 seats will be designated by regional assemblies.



Hoyan Mok (C) is congratulated by first runner up May Lam (L) and second runner up Middy Yu (R), after Mok was named Miss Hong Kong 1993 at the Miss Hong Kong Pageant Sunday. The new Miss Hong Kong, a 23-year-old biology research assistant, will receive almost 300,000 US -AFP/UNB photo

ROK agrees to

known who was responsible for those casualties.

SEOUL, June 7: South Korea said today it would accept a North Korean offer to hold talks at the border on Tuesday but insisted Pyongyang's nuclear programme should top the

render to waiting police.

agenda, reports Reuter. In a letter to the North. South Korean Prime Minister Hwang In-Sung said two southern delegates would be sent to the border village of Panmunjom at 10 am (0100 GMT) on Tuesday.

But he said the two sides should first try to resolve a dispute over the North's refusal to allow access to two suspect nuclear sites - a condition that the North has spurned in more than two weeks of haggling over reting.

NEW DELHI, June 7: S x months after it was razed by hundreds of frenzied Hindus, the ghost of the Babri Mosque continues to haunt India's political landscape, reports AFP.

The government is still n the dark on how to keep Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's promise to re-construct the 16th century Islamic shrine in Ayodhya, gentk reminders from the Islamic bloc not withstanding.

have yet to recover from the shock of the December 6 sacrilege. The community is divided on re-building the fallen mosque. The secular opposition blames the Rao

makeshift Hindu temple for Lord Rama on its

And Hindu revivalists are again on the offensive, buoyed by a court order revoking the ban on two Hindu groups I lamed for the mosque

openly stated its interest in The 34-nation OAS clamped Christopher ... on the possibility a pan-American trade embargo turning to the United Nations of creating a worldwide sancon Haiti soon after President to make the sanctions global. tions programme against Haiti,"

destruction, and have renewed claims over two

self-confidence, said Murli Manohar Joshi of the

main opposition Bharatiy i Janata Party (BJP.

Indian Peoples Party), which was in the forefront

dispute (in Ayodhya) will remain alive until a

that June 13 would be celebrated nation-wide as

Hindu awakening day, while the Rashtriya

Swayamsewak Sangh (RSE) is to meet June 22-

Corps, was one of three Hindu groups outlawed

by New Delhi after the mesque razing. The ban

was revoked on two of them, including the RSS,

movement in the courtry," RSS General

Secretary H V Seshadrt said after the court

order. It must expand its network, particularly in

The powerful RSS, or National Volunteers

"The RSS represents he resurgent Hindu

23 to decide the future course of action.

December 6 has given our youth a sense of

Added Kalyan Singh, a party strongman: The

On Friday, a top Hincu leader announced

other ancient mosques in r orthern India.

of the drive against the mosque.

Rama temple is built there.

by a tribunal Friday.

embargo.

Leading Chinese dissident rearrested

BEIJING, June 7: The Chinese authorities in Shanghai have rearrested leading Chinese dissident Zhang Xianliang, who had been held for 24 hours last week, his wife said today.

Four of Zhang's friends have

also begun a hunger strike out-

side Shanghai's City Hall to protest his arrest, Yan Huili told AFP by telephone. "My husband was picked up Saturday at 6-30 pm and I don't know where they took him," Yan

ceived no word on his condition. "I believe the police are accusing him of having organised a demonstration and given interviews to foreign journalists," she said, but "no reason was

said, adding that she had re-

given during his arrest." Police in Shanghai, China's largest city, declined comment. "We are not up to this affair," said a police spokesman who refused to give his name.

Zhang - a 48-year-old veteran pro-democracy activist was detained Thursday on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the Tiananmen Square crackdown, and held for some 24 hours before being released.

A number of other Shanghai dissidents were also arrested around the anniversary date. their friends said.

Yan said she had no news

She said the hunger strikers

were Wang Yonggang, Yang

Qingheng, Gong Xingnan and

about the hunger strikers.

Tao Ge.

dollar in cash and prizes.

the rural and backward areas.

Few Indians share the upbeat mood of the

"The apology would pave the way for re-

aggressive Hindu camp. Last month, a senior

minister, Arjun Singh, shocked the ruling

Congress (I) Party by demending that it publicly

shaping the psyche of the rimorities in the after-

math of the tragic events leading up to Ayodhya

and beyond," he said. The Congress (I) turned

down the demand saying it is the Hindu groups

community are increasingly talking about

December 6, said Rashid Shaz, a Muslim theolo-

gian who organised a parliament of Indian

Muslims here to discuss coping with growing

to start weapons training to take on Hindu

Muslims say younger members of the

India ceased to be a secular country on

Speakers at the gathering called on Muslims

apologise for the mosques destruction.

which should apologise to the nation.

avenging the humiliation of Ayodhya.

Hindu fundamentalism.

The young Muslim is slowly turning militant, Shaz said. He thinks the Hindu fundamentalist is gaining strength and the state is unable to

protect minorities. This is a new trend. But Imtiaz Ahmed, a social scientist said: The large majority of Muslims are settling down to a sense of complacency that the situation has normalised and nothing more is required to be

New Delhi sacked four BJP state governments in December, saying their leaders were linked to the then outlawed RSS. Elections are due this year in the four provinces. That political commentators say, only means

more trouble.

The BJP and other RSS affiliates are poised to escalate the conflict over Ayodhya ... and precipitate greater polarisation of voters, the Economic Times said in a commentary Sunday. The strategy will be to take up the issue of

Rama temple in Ayodhya just before the elections that Hindu votes get polarised, a Congress Party source said. For the BJP, Ayodhya is the road to power.

China yet to explain nature of Li's illness BEIJING, June 7: Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng's illness,

officially a severe cold, entered its seventh week Monday without any explanation from the government about its true nature, reports AFP. The People's Daily reported today that Li, 65, had sent a

message Sunday to the

aerospace industry urging it to

face up to new challenges. But

the Communist Party paper

said nothing about his state of health. The Foreign Ministry has been repeating since the beginning of April that Li is 'recovering' without giving any

other details.

Ghost of Babri Mosque continues to haunt India's politics hold talks with DPRK

Muslims, India's largest religious minority,

government for failing to protect the shrine or preventing Hindu fanatics from building a

The issue, after claiming nearly 2,000 lives in Hindu-Muslim violence since December, remains a powderkeg.

oil and trade embargo on Hatti widespread suggestions in the Wharton was addressing a past about asking other nations to force the military-backed special Organisation of American States (OAS) meeting on to join in the sanctions to force government to restore democ-Haiti and US sources said he the military-backed regime to racy, reports Reuter. was referring to an oil and trade restore Aristide, this was the President Clinton directed