Amnesty may not be allowed to visit Bombay

LONDON, July 14: The human rights organisation Amnesty International late Tuesday said it "greatly regrets" the Indian government's failure to agree to an Amnesty visit to Bombay between July 18 and 24 this year, reports AFP.

The London-based human rights organisation said it proposed the visit in the wake of assurances from Indian Home Minister S B Chavan in April that Amnesty could "go to Bombay and speak to whoever they wish, so long as they also meet the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.*

Amnesty made its request in a letter dated June 16 to Sharad Pawar, the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, India had turned down an earlier Amnesty request to visit Bombay in April.

Amnesty proposed that it visit Bombay to *discuss matters relating to police behaviour and training after allegations that some policemen had failed to act impartially during disturbances in the city in December, 1992 and this January.

Amnesty said it had requested meetings with the Chief Minister, the Bombay police commissioner, and members of civil liberties organisations.

Baghdad sees no hope of an end to UN sanctions

Iraqis urged to keep patience despite threat of attack

BAGHDAD, July 14: Iraq. seeing the prospect of an end to sanctions fade in the furore over its missile sites, has stepped up its criticism of the United Nations and urged its people to be patient despite the threat of attack, reports Reuter.

The government gave no sign it would compromise in a dispute over monitoring of its weapons systems which has prompted threats of military action and sent a top UN arms official to Baghdad to try to avert showdown.

Rolf Ekeus, the head of the UN Special Commission in charge of dismantling Iraq's most far-reaching weapons programmes after the Gulf war, left New York on Tuesday to tell Iraq the Security Council was united in demanding that it comply with ceasefire resolu-

For its part, Iraq maintained its stance, namely that the dispute over its refusal to allow UN inspectors to install monitoring cameras or seal missile sites was a US directed plot to enslave the country.

"Iraq has been subjected to various attempts by the socalled UN inspection teams to

paralyse its political will and violate its sovereignty," the official Baghdad Observer said on Tuesday.

"The inspection teams have become an instrument for the US to carry out open espionage detrimental to lrag's security and peace," it said, reviving accusations that US weapons inspectors are western spics.

Women and children have gathered outside UN offices in Baghdad for daily protests since the dispute erupted with the sudden departure of a UN team last Sunday.

The team said they were stopped from shutting of FA missile site near Baghdad.

Iraq's official media urged its people to be "steadfast and patient" in the face of a likely military strike.

"The US and its allies will not hesitate to direct another blow against Iraq, and they are preparing to do so," the Defence Ministry daily Al-Qadissiya said in a front-page editorial.

"Iraq has made clear that it will never yield to aggression or blackmail and the Iraqis are even more prepared to make all sacrifices rather than surrender their sovereignty ...," The

Baghdad Observer said. Iraq officials quoted by the state news agency in a reiter-ated that Baghdad had not rejected the principle of installing surveillance cameras at the two

missile test sites. But they insisted that the move, aimed at preventing Iraq from testing banned missiles, be delayed until a review of its compliance with a resolution disarming its weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq believes that the UN is obligated to lift trade sanctions because of that compliance before it addresses the thornier issue of long-term monitoring of its weapons systems. Diplomats say the current

chances that the UN would soon agree to lift trade sanc-"Iraq cannot pick and choose how it implements security resolutions," the special com-

mission's spokesman, Tim

Trevan, told the New York

dispute has crased any

Times on Monday. But the UN also made clear that the row should not directly affect talks taking place between the UN and Iraqi officials in New York on resuming lim-



BAGHDAD: Iraqis women demonstrate outside the UN office in Baghdad on Tuesday against the UN inspection team and the US. Tension is mounting as the threat of further military action grows over the refusal of Iraq to allow UN monitoring of two missile sites. - UNB/AFP photo

Dalai Lama sends

brother to China

to talk Tibetan

problems

Dalai Lama's elder brother is in

China holding crucial talks to

reach a possible solution to the

Tibetan problem, the Dalai

Lama's bureau here said today,

Delhi July 9 and reached

Beijing three days later from

Hong Kong for meetings with

Chinese leaders on the instruc-

tions of the Tibetan spiritual

leader, spokesman Jampal

He is accompanied by

Sonam Topgyal, an official in

the Dalai Lama's government-

in-exile based in the Indian hill

Gyalo Thondup left New

reports AFP.

Chosang said.

NEW DELHI, July 14: The

200 Jews secretly arrive in Israel from Yemen

JERUSALEM, July 14: More than 200 Jews have arrived secretly in Israel over the last 12 months from an Arab country, which cannot be named under strict military censorship laws,

state radio reported today, says The immigrant were brought in small batches, but the censors have blocked out all details

of the operation, which began last summer with six families. According to the radio, the latest group to reach Israel was (40) strong.

The new arrivals were said to

be "very religious." Last March, the ultra-orthodox newspaper Yated Neeman reported that 100 Jews from Yemen had emigrated secretly to Israel and complained that

they had been settled at a secu-

lar absorption centre. Details of immigration of Jews from countries technically at war with Israel are regarded as military information and subject to censorship.

In April 1992, then absorption minister Yitzhak Peretz caused a furore when he revealed that Israel was working behind the scenes to organise the return home of the last 1,500 Jews living in Yemen.

Nigerian crisis deepens as two parties split

Miyazawa visits quake-hit areas:

Japan's Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa yesterday visited

Okushiri Island, west of Hokkaido, to inspect the area worst-

affected by a huge earthquake and tidal waves which claimed

helicopter to the island, some 100 kilometers (62 miles) north-

Mtyazawa flew from Hakodate Airport on a self-defence force

The earthquake, measuring 7.8 on the Richter Scale, oc

curred late Monday. It claimed at least 81 lives, and 167 are still

missing, feared dead. In Okushiri 43 people were confirmed

Filipino floods claim one: Flash

floods caused by heavy rains killed one man and injured four

others in the southern Philippines, police said yesterday, Reuter

Santos City, 1,040 km (650 miles) south of Manila on Tuesday,

The man drowned when flood waters swept through General

Bridges linking the city to the rest of southern Mindanao is-

29 die in a China factory blast:

A deadly mixture of summer heat and improperly stored

chemicals triggered an explosion in a factory in China's Henan

province, killing 29 workers and injuring 32, the China Datly

The powerful blast occurred June 26 in Henan's capital

initial findings revealed that the blast was the result of

scorching weather, poor worker safety standards and improper

storage of acetylene and benzol peroxide, but investigations

Iran frees 459 Iraqi troops: Iran

was to free yesterday a group of 459 fraqi troops who sought

refuge on its territory during the Gulf War, raising the total of

tragts released since March 1992 to 4,115, Abrar newspaper

border post of Khosravi. 700 kilometers (430 miles) southeast of

Tehran, it said quoting a spokesman for the Prisoner of War

Gonzalez names new cabinet:

member cabinet, a month after he was returned to office in a

general election, a government spokesman said, Reuter reports

women and six independents. Four ministers retained their

kept their jobs. He will take on additional responsibilities for co-

The new cabinet included eight new ministers with three

Deputy Prime Minister Narcis Serra was among those who

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez (Tuesday) named a new 18

The soldiers would be handed over to Iraqi officials at the

over 80 lives, Jiji Press reported, AFP says from Tokyo.

west of Hakodate in northern Japan, Jiji said

dead and further 155 missing, according to Jiji.

reports from General Santos

police chief Rene Santos said.

said vesterday, AFP reports from Beijing

reported, AFP says from Tehran

Zhengzhou, at the Zhengzhou food additive factory

land were damaged

were continuing.

Commission.

ABUJA, July 14: Nigeria's political crisis deepened today with the two political parties split on whether to go along with the military regime's plan to hold fresh presidential elections, reports AFP.

While the Social Democratic Party (SDP), whose candidate Moshood Abiola is widely believed to have won the June 12 poll, has rejected the plan, the National Republican Convention

(NRC) has accepted it. The SDP said Tuesday it was sticking to its earlier decision not to take part in any new election before August 27, the date that the military is due to hand over to a civilian government.

The NRC, which had alleged

irregularities in the June 12 poll, said it supported fresh

*Right now we are waiting for the federal government to release the time-table for the election," NRC spokesman Okey Uzoho said.

The military announced late Monday that it would re-run the presidential elections after abandoning a plan to hand over to a national unity government

the choice of the president than by democratic elections," the military's statement said.

formed from both parties.

There is no alternative to

Students agitated for further unrest Tuesday.

UN plans repatriation of Lankan Tamils from India

NEW DELHI, July 14: The United Nations is working out the details of the repatriation of some 7,000 Shri Lankan Tamil refugees from India, but a refugee activist alleged today that many were being forced out, reports AFP.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has identified a Singapore ship to ferry the refugees from the Indian state of Tamil Nadu to Shri Lanka, a UNHCR official said here.

"A number of refugees want to go back," the official said. "We will provide the vessel and the (Indian) government the logistic support. We are working out the modalities and sched-

WASHINGTON, July 14: The

United States opposes sending

Iranian troops into Bosnia to

defend security zones for Bos-

nian civilians, a State Depart-

ment official said Tuesday,

But the official said the US

administration would not make

its opposition known officially

due to the criticism such a

move could draw from the

countries actively taking part in

problems with a sizable contin-

Bosnia," the official said, refer-

ring to a proposal from Tehran

to put 10,000 men at the dis-

posal of the United Nations as a

part of an offer made by the

Organisation of the Islamic

While the administration of

ficial did not specify the nature

of these problems, Washington

for days has said Tehran's in-

fluence in the former Yugoslavia

is growing and that foreign na-

tionals should take steps to pro-

tect themselves against possible

acts of Iranian inspired terror-

the fact that we are not provid-

ing ground troops, it is not up

State Department spokes

man Michael McCurry indicated

that the United States would

defer on the issue to UN Secre-

tary General Boutros Boutros-

It is for Boutros Chali,

McCurry said, to decide on the

appropriate deployment of

forces, and the United States

will refrain from commenting on

He said the United States

the participation of particular

was in close consultation with

the Secretary General but that

he did not know if Washington

formally had offered optrions on

the countries that ought or

to us to comment."

Still, the official said, "given

gent of Iranian troops in

There would be 'substantial

protecting the zones.

Conference (OIC).

reports AFP.

He said some 7,000 of an estimated 100,000 Shri Lankan Tamils in Tamil Nadu wanted to

Hundreds of thousands of Tamils have fled Shri Lanka to India since 1983 because of the war between Tamil separatists in the island's northest and the Colombo government. The last batch of refugees returned to Shri Lanka in October.

But a Shri Lankan who works among the refugees alleged that Indian authorities were putting pressure on the Tamils to go back.

"In order to force the refugees to return, officials are making conditions as difficult

US opposes sending Iranian

If Boutros-Ghali decides to

The United Nations has

asked member states to provide

7,500 additional troops to pro-

approve the Iranian contingent,

the United States then would

decide whether there was may

cause for concern, he said.

troops into Bosnia

ought not supply troops.

as possible in the refugee camps," said S C Chandrahasan, speaking by telephone from the Tamil Nadu capital Madras.

He said Indian authorities had reduced doels given to the refugees and barred them from doing manual labour, and were forcing local schools not to admit children of the Tamils.

"They are making life miserable for the refugees," Chandrahasan said. "It is an attempt to force them back."

Nearly 30,000 Shri Lankan Tamils have returned home since the May 1991 assassination of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi by suspected Tamil rebels.

tect the six safe zones in Bosnia

declared by the Security

At a meeting in Islamabad,

the OIC proposed offering

18,000 troops to the world body

from six countries including

Iran and the State of Palestine

Council

town of Dharamsala, Chosang There is no specific duration (for the visit)," the first such trip by a Tibetan delegation to China, "in at least three or four years," Chosang said.

The duration will depend on "how the negotiations go on," he

"The discussions centre around the overall ultimate solution of the Tibetan solution without preconditions," said Chosang, secretary in the office of the Dalai Lama here. He gave no further details.

The Dalai Lama has been living in India since 1959 when he fled his homeland following a failed revolt against Chinese rule installed in 1951.

India is also home to some 100,000 of his followers.

12 more executed in China

HONG KONG, July 14: Twelve people were executed in southern China on Tuesday for abducting women, forcing them into prostitution, and rape, as officials launch a campaign against organised crime, press reports said, according to AFP.

The twelve were taken separately to execution grounds immediately after their trials in the booming cities of Guangzhou Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Huizhou on crimes including kidnapping, rape, gang-rape and selling the young women into prostitutions.

A further 18 people received sentences ranging from five years to life imprisonment and suspended death sentences. The criminals were members

of various organised crime syndicates operating in the five

Meanwhile, China's mos prosperous province, Guangdong, has begun a six-month campaign against serious crime including murder, robbery. rape, kidnapping, armed and highway of organised crime, the semi-official China News Services said.

Chen Shaoft, head of the Guangdong province Public Security Bureau, announced the new campaign at a provincial police "telephone conference held Tuesday.

Off the Record

Law to refrain them from child prostitutes

BANGKOK: Thailand's Interior Ministry has drafted legislation that provides harsh penalties for men who have sex with child prostitutes, a ministry official said Tuesday, reports

If passed by parliament, the bill would replace the 1960 antiprostitution law, widely considered as outdated. The new legislation sets prison terms of up to eight years and

fines as high as 60,000 baht (2,400 US dollars) for men who

have sex with prostitutes under the age of 18, and up to 10

years in prison and a fine of up to 200,000 baht (8,000 dollars) for customers of prostitutes under 15 years old. The current law provides a maximum penalty of six years in jail and a 100,000 baht fine for having sex with prostitutes

under 15.
The bill also sets prison terms of 15 years and fines of

200,000 baht for people who procure prostitutes under the age of 15, a five-year-sentence and 100,000-baht fines for those procuring youths under the age of 18, and up to three years and a 60,000-baht fine for procuring older prostitutes. But the legislation ignores a controversial suggestion to

make prostitutes carry health cards. Women's groups had said that would permanently brand them as prostitutes.

Estimates of the number of prostitutes in Thailand vary from several hundred thousand to wellover a mi

Efforts to curb the massive sex industry have been spurred recently by evidence that Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is rapidly spreading through the country's



MOSCOW: Designer Dmitry Felin (R) tattoos an unidentified young Russian woman on Monday. The new generation of Russians pay prices of up to 30 dollar for a full colour tattoo, the new craze among the "nouveaux riches."

— UNB/AFP photo

We don't want to show sex

COLOMBO: The Shri Lankan government has decided to ban the import and screening of X-ray rated movies depicting sex and violence, a senior official said Wednesday, reports AFP. The official said Information and Culture Minister WJM

Lokubandara wanted only films suitable for the entire family to be imported in future.

"We don't want to show films with sex," said secretary to the Information State Minister WPS Jayawardena.

"The other thing is that we don't want to show violence and encourage assassinations, robberies and killing. The minister has decided that the films we show should be suitable for the entire family," he said

Instructions had already gone out to the public performance board, the main censoring body, not to allow any X-rated movies to be screened in future, Jayawardena said

But adults-only films already released to local cinema halls will not be withdrawn because the government feared it could be sued for damages.

We are planning to send a leaflet to film importers and also take out newspaper advertisements to give publicity to our decision so that people do not import these films and lose money, Jayawardena said.

rdinating economic policy.

MANAGUA (Nicaragua). July 14: Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro has proposed a partial amnesty in an attempt to coax an estimated 1,400 Dichard guerillas into laying down their arms, reports

proval of the National Assembly would pardon Nicaraguans who late on Monday.

Chamorro offers | World may not be able to feed itself by next century per cent is good for agriculture. farm practices and deforestation ductivity in Europe, 1.4 ner lands-based international Soti There is not a simple technologhas sped up the loss by at least

A Bosnian Muslim carries the coffin of a baby killed by a

mortar during a funeral in Travnik on Tuesday.

said in a report released on

Tuesday, reports Reuter. in the best estimate available to date, a study released by the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation said an area nearly the stee of Alaska may lose most of its agricultural value in 20

"If things continue as they are, the rising population and the shrinking land base are

want a figure, but it may be Robert Brinkman, chief of FAO's Soil Resources Division, said in an interview

FAO Edourd Souma, Director General, said in a statement, analysis of manmade land degradation raises a fundamental question: Are we going to have enough good land to feed the extra 2.6 billion people who will be on this

Reference and Information Centre said an area nearly the size of western Europe has lost most productivity from man's abuse through such processes as deforestation and overgraz-

declined and needs restoration. Up to 17.5 million acres,

nearly the size of Ireland, is lost annually from soil degradation, the study said. In Africa and Asia four per

cent in South America and La per cent in North America. Land degradation is now proceeding so rapidly that few

- UNB/AFP photo

food consequences could eventually be felt... in Latin America and Asia", Souma said.

The report said soil develops so slowly - by one inch (2.5cm) every 250 to 1,200 years - that it is in effect non-renewable.

Those who are impoverished or at war do not consider long from land, he said

range effects of wringing food

ical fix for soil degradation, but soil conservation and rehabili-"inkman said reversing this trend requires social, economic tation is leasible if governments and technological planning. For and land-users work in conexample, he said land and commodity values, and the

He said FAO's soil restoration programme, launched in availability of markets and transportation influence how 1991 and geared mainly to Africa, "is beginning to work." and said African governments are showing interest in it.

The idea of the programme is to provide a means for African programmes to restore and

Unita attacks local govt headquarters LUANDA, July 14: Armed

Unita rebels attacked the local government headquarters in the heart of the disputed central town of Kuito on Tuesday, the official local radio said, the day after intensified shelling of the town, reports AFP. Two battalions of rebel forces

infiltrated the town early Tuesday but were beaten back by government forces, said the radio, adding that forces loyal to Luanda still controlled the town.

partial amnesty for rebels

The plan, which requires ap-

as of May 18 had 'Raised arms with political objectives of for sorto-economic claims," according to the text of the proposal, which the government released

world losing productive soil to abuse at such an alarming rate that it may not be able to feed never, if humanity is wise," ttaclf by early in the next cen tury. United Nations experts

planet by the year 2025.

Figures comptled by 250 scientists through the Nethervalue, 2.3 per cent has lost pro-

Another 2.25 billion acress larger than Australia - has

cent of land has lost most farm

African countries can hope to achieve sustainable agriculture in the near future, while serious

While erosion is a natural process, it said man's abuse

through overgrazing, destructive

farmers use land.

This is a small planet, and out of the land surface only 11

cert". Brinkman said.

countries to develop their own

manage land resources.