

## Benazir okays plan against drug barons

ISLAMABAD, Dec 1: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has approved a comprehensive plan against drug barons and the production of drugs in Pakistan, according to press reports today, says AFP.

Bhutto approved the plan at a high-level meeting here Tuesday.

"Drug barons will be arrested at any cost by the authorities and no political pressure in this regard will be accepted," she said, adding that they would receive "severe punishment and we will not forgive anyone."

The meeting was attended by the Interior Minister, head of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force, chairman of the Narcotics

Control Board and other senior officials, the reports said.

The Pakistani media often alleges that several politicians are drug barons.

Some politicians, especially from the northwestern tribal areas where heroin and hashish are produced, were barred from the October 6 elections which brought Bhutto to power.

Pakistan has over two million drug addicts and is considered one of the main exporters of heroin and hashish worldwide.

"The image of Pakistan abroad has been tarnished by drug barons and I cannot tolerate anything against Pakistan," the reporters quoted Bhutto as saying.

## Human rights activist missing in China

BEIJING, Dec 1: Chinese dissident Ma Shaohua, one of the country's leading human rights activists, is missing and his friends fear he has been arrested by the police, reports AFP.

Friends of Ma in the central city of Xian, from where he travelled to Beijing last week, as well as associates in the Chinese capital, said they had no news of Ma since Monday.

Ma, 25, one of the leaders of a dissident group in Xian, arrived in Beijing with another activist, Zhen Xuguang, to meet dissidents here who recently signed a charter for peace.

The two groups met last Thursday and decided to coordinate their efforts to develop the human rights movement in China.

Zheng was arrested in Beijing Saturday and two signa-

ories to the charter, Qin Yongmin and Yang Zhou, have been detained since November 15, the day after the signing of the charter.

The Beijing Public Security Bureau has confirmed the arrests of Qin and Yang but have given no information on Zheng or Ma.

"The authorities message seems clear to us, he will not allow dissidents from different parts of the country to meet, especially in Beijing, that's why, for the moment, only our friends from the provinces have been arrested", explained one of the charter's signatories.

Qin Yongmin was originally from Wuhan and Yang Zhou from Shanghai. The recent upsurge in dissident activity is the largest since the military crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in 1989.

## Dispute over Pan Am bombing Fresh UN sanctions on Libya

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 1: New Security Council sanctions against Libya came into force today to pressure Tripoli into surrendering two men accused of blasting a Pan Am airliner from the skies over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, reports Reuter.

The Security Council, at the urging of the United States, Britain and France, adopted the new sanctions November 11. But it gave Libya a grace period until they went into effect today at 12:01 AM east (05:01 GMT).

The sanctions freeze Libya's financial assets abroad but exclude future funds derived from oil, natural gas or agricultural commodities exports.

The resolution also prohibits the sale of oil-related equipment for refineries and for transport-

ing oil and gives a detailed list of this equipment. But the list excludes production equipment Libya uses to drill for oil.

Libya has been under UN sanctions since April 1992 that ban all civilians flights to and from the country and the sales of aircraft parts and arms.

But the measures can be suspended if Libya surrenders the two accused for trial in Britain or the United States in connection with the bombing of Pan Am flight 103 which killed 270 people.

Libya also must satisfy demands of a French magistrate investigating the mid-flight bombing of France's UTA flight 772 over Niger in 1989 in which 171 people died.

To date there has been no visible sign from Libya that it

would surrender the Lockerbie suspects, Abdel Baset Ali Mohamed Al-Meghrabi and Al-Amin Khalifa Fhimah, alleged by Washington and London to have been intelligence agents. Libya denies the charge.

But Libya, in a letter released Tuesday, wrote to France asking for an urgent meeting to set up a date for the French magistrate to come to Tripoli and continue his inquiry.

"Should the inquiries result in demonstrating that it is essential for the two suspects to appear before a court, the Libyan authorities would have no objection to them doing so," the letter said. It did not specify the court.

There was no immediate response from French officials, but other diplomats close to the

case said they hoped some progress would be made on the UTA bombing.

Otherwise, they said Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi might not even consider handing over the Lockerbie suspects for fear sanctions would remain in place because of the French case.

The sanctions have been crafted to avoid shutting down Libya's oil industry, the country's lifeline.

But Libya says its economy has been seriously damaged by the current sanctions with rising unemployment and a postponement in major construction works. It fears its oil industry might deteriorate for lack of some spare parts banned under the new embargoes.

## Off the Record

### Jackson stayed overnight with the boy?

SANTA MONICA: An attorney representing a 13-year-old boy who contends he was molested by superstar Michael Jackson questioned the entertainer's chauffeur Tuesday during a five-hour deposition, reports AP.

Driver Gary Hearne reportedly verified that he brought Jackson to stay overnight at the house of the boy who is suing him. According to the boy's attorney, Larry Feldman, the driver said Jackson was with the boy each night for about a month.

"The chauffeur substantiates that Michael Jackson slept at my client's house, as he says, at least 30 days," Feldman said in an interview with KNBC-TV.

Phone calls to Jackson's lawyer Howard Weitzman weren't returned last Tuesday. Weitzman accompanied Hearne to the deposition.

Jackson, under a criminal investigation of the boy's allegations since August, has not been charged.

Jackson is believed to be in Europe undergoing treatment for an addiction to painkillers. The entertainer said anguish over the investigation and the drug problem prompted him to cancel his "Dangerous" tour.



Quitting smoking not enough

WASHINGTON: Quitting smoking is no longer enough: A high fat diet raises the risk of lung cancer among people who do not smoke, according to a study released Tuesday, reports AP.

Women whose diet consists of 15 per cent or more of saturated fat are about six times more likely to develop lung cancer than women who eat diets with 10 per cent or less of fat, according to a study by the National Cancer Institute.

The leading contributors of dietary saturated fat were hamburgers, cheeseburgers, and meat loaf... followed by weekly consumption of cheeses and cheese spreads, hot dogs, ice cream and sausages," the study said.

Other studies have linked fatty diets to colon, prostate and breast cancer, as well as to heart disease.

Researcher Michael Alavanja said he compared the diets of 429 non-smoking women with lung cancer to the diets of 1,021 women who did not develop the disease.

They filled out questionnaires on their diet, which revealed that the women who ate the least fat and the most fruit, vegetables, beans and peas were the least likely to get lung cancer.

Elvis look-alike held

DICKSON: An Elvis Presley look-alike from Canada was arrested after ramming two Tennessee state trooper cars during high-speed chase and spending the night in the woods, reports AP.

Andre Guay, 34, of Quebec was charged Tuesday with attempted murder, reckless driving, vandalism, leaving the scene of an accident and evading arrest, said Tennessee Highway Patrol spokeswoman Karla Rich.

Rich said Guay, who speaks French and little English, has black "Elvis-style" hair and was wearing a jacket with the words "Elvis Lives" on the back.

A Nashville television station reported that Guay told officers he became distraught over problems he was having with his wife and that "he became even more distraught after visiting Graceland," which was Presley's Memphis home and is now a tourist attraction.

After leading troopers on a 17-mile (23-km) high-speed chase Monday along Interstate 40, Guay allegedly rammed his Oldsmobile into a patrol car at an exit ramp, pinning trooper Jim Hutcherson, Rich said.

Hutcherson suffered a broken leg and toes and will have to undergo skin graft surgery on Thursday, Rich said.

After hitting Hutcherson's car, Guay drove a few more miles before abandoning his car and running into the woods, Rich said. He evaded searchers Monday night, but was spotted Tuesday afternoon by local residents and arrested.

Rich said more charges were expected to be filed against Guay.

Megawati most popular

SURABAYA, Dec 1: An extraordinary congress of Indonesia's smallest political party opens here Thursday the daughter of the late charismatic leader Sukarno contesting the top post, reports AP.

Megawati Sukarnoputri Kiemas a 46-year-old mother of three and second daughter of Indonesia's founding president, is one of the four candidates for the top slot in the Indonesian Party of Democracy (PDI).

The small Christian-nationalist alliance will meet for five-days in this east Java city to elect a new leadership for the next five years.

The party's fourth congress in Medan, north Sumatra, in July, was marred by factional violence and forced the resignation of PDI's newly re-elected chairman Suryadi, with a caretaker board formed to fill the vacuum.

After maintaining a neutral, low profile position throughout the tumultuous congress in Medan, the softspoken Megawati has in the course of five months emerged as the strongest candidate for the PDI chairmanship.

Opinion polls conducted by the local press tipped Megawati as the most popular candidate for the chairmanship with Budi Harjono a distant second.

Political analyst Marzuki Darusman told the Detik weekly that he believed Megawati's drawing power was partly because she projected the image of a conscience politician, not the image of an ideologist politician.

Both her entry into politics as well as into the current race were unexpected. Megawati defined a family consensus barring members from entering politics when she accepted to run for parliament on a PDI ticket in 1987.

Her younger brother Guruh Sukarnoputra has since followed in her steps, running for the PDI in 1992.

India launches Prithvi

NEW DELHI, Dec 1: India has successfully launched its medium range surface to surface missile Prithvi (Earth) from the interim test range at Chandipur on the Eastern Indian State Orissa on Tuesday, reports Xinhua.

According to official sources, the indigenously developed missile with a range of 250 kilometres was test-fired from a mobile launcher.

Prithvi (Earth) was first test-fired in 1988.

The sources said that a series of test would be conducted before the missile was handed over to the defence force.

The sources said that powered by a liquid propellant, Prithvi is one among the five missiles under the integrated guided missile development programme of Indian government.

India launches Prithvi

NEW DELHI, Dec 1: India has successfully launched its medium range surface to surface missile Prithvi (Earth) from the interim test range at Chandipur on the Eastern Indian State Orissa on Tuesday, reports Xinhua.



Man fined for tugging child's hair

HELSINKI: Finnish parents have been prohibited for years from spanking or slapping their children. The Supreme Court says pulling a child's hair now is also banned, reports AP.

The court last week fined Karl Lappalainen 600 markkaa (dhrs 100) for tugging the hair and flicking his fingers against the head of the 5-year-old daughter of his former common-law wife.

"The court obviously wanted to make this a precedent," Anne Ekblom-Worlund, a Supreme Court spokeswoman, said Tuesday. "Parents are not allowed to use any physical force to discipline their children."

The case began in 1990, when Lappalainen was fined 4,800 markkaa (dhrs 840) for causing pain while disciplining the girl. At the time, Lappalainen was the girl's guardian.

Lappalainen appealed the decision by the Lahti District Court, 60 miles (100kms) north of the capital, and the case was dismissed by a higher court.

But the girl's mother, who had separated from Lappalainen, subsequently appealed to the Supreme Court, which imposed a lower fine, saying the child suffered no damage.

"The judges wanted to make sure that no one has any doubts about where to draw the line," Ekblom-Worlund said. "Physical violence is out."



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II (C) shares a joke with former US President George Bush and his wife Barbara Tuesday in London, after Bush had been awarded an honorary Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath by the Queen at a private lunch.

## Biggest loser in Himachal elections Janata Dal

NEW DELHI, Dec 1: The biggest loser in the just-concluded assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh is the Janata Dal which has been totally routed as it conceded all its 11 seats to other parties, according to a PTI computer analysis.

Of the eleven seats lost by the Janata Dal, eight went to the Congress-I, two to BJP and one to an Independent. Seven Independents, who won this time, wrested six seats from the BJP and one from the Janata Dal.

For the first time, the CPM made its presence in the state by winning one seat, while the CPI lost its lone seat, the computer projections pointed out.

The Congress-I, which won 52 seats in the 68-member state assembly, in fact gained 44 seats from its rivals, including 34 from the BJP. The Congress-I, however, retained eight seats and lost one. Apart from its gain from the BJP, the Congress-I wrested eight seats from Janata Dal, one from CPI

and one from an Independent, the computer projections pointed out.

The BJP, which had 46 seats in the previous assembly, actually lost 41 this time. With its present kitty of eight seats in the new assembly, BJP retained five seats, gaining three-one from Congress-I and two from Janata Dal. In a nutshell, the BJP lost 34 seats to Congress-I, one to CPM and six to Independents.

In Rajasthan, polarisation of votes between Congress-I and BJP helped both the parties increase their tallies in Rajasthan at the expense of Janata Dal, according to a PTI-computer analysis.

BJP, which had ruled the desert state till December last, did better in terms of seats despite an average 1.25 per cent swing against it while its former ally Janata Dal faced a negative swing of 19.88 per cent, worked out on the basis of seats contested.

The Congress-I that had con-

tested all the 200 seats both times, was the only major party to witness a positive swing in its favour.

A five per cent increase in voter inclination which got translated into a over one-and-a-half times increase in its seats tall, raising it from 50 to 76, was helped by the vote split between the Janata Dal and BJP.

The party which had captured the imagination of 33.26 per cent of the voters in 1990, got the support of 38.26 per cent of them this time.

BJP, which emerged as the single largest group, bettered its previous score of 85 by ten as it contested 69 seats more than it did last time for the 200-strong house.

Contesting 128 seats three years back, the party had secured 25.47 per cent of the votes which when projected for its current performance works out to about 40 per cent. The party polled 38.57 per cent votes this time.

## US opposes early lifting of UN sanctions on Iraq

WASHINGTON, Dec 1: The United States Tuesday renewed its opposition to early lifting of United Nations sanctions on Iraq, despite Baghdad's recent acceptance of long term monitoring of its arms potential, reports Reuter.

Iraq is not at this time in full compliance with any of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions. It has not even met the requirements of the resolution which ended the fighting in Gulf War, Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian said.

"With such record, Iraq calls negotiations to end international sanctions are at best premature, he said in a speech to the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles that was released in Washington by the State Department.

On Friday Iraq agreed to long-term monitoring of its arms potential, a demand imposed by the Security Council after Baghdad was ousted from Kuwait in 1991 by a US led international coalition.

Iraq accepting the monitoring,

Iraq said the Security Council should immediately lift the sanctions that for three years have barred the sale of its oil.

Djerejian said the United States will accept nothing less than Iraq's full compliance with all the Security Council resolutions and with measures taken by the international coalition to enforce them.

There is no convincing evidence that (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein's regime is prepared to meet this standard, Djerejian said.

## BRIEFLY

**Eagle Russia's state emblem:** President Boris Yeltsin signed a decree Tuesday restoring the czarist double-headed eagle as Russia's state emblem. AP reports from Moscow.

Yeltsin scrapped the Soviet-era seal, a globe framed by ears of corn and hung with a red ribbon inscribed with the Marxist slogan: "Workers of the World, Unite!"

The new emblem includes religious and imperial symbols from before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution. Its centerpiece is a gold double-headed eagle on a red heraldic shield.

**10 babies die in Bosnia:** Ten babies have died of cold, hunger and lack of medicines in recent days in a village near the Muslim town of Tesanj, Sarajevo Radio reported Tuesday, AFP says from Sarajevo.

Tesanj, in northern Bosnia-Herzegovina, 80 kilometres (50 miles) north of Sarajevo is one of the areas most seriously in need of humanitarian aid, according to the Bosnian government.

**20 Hindus drowned in Ganges:** At least 20 people were killed when a boat packed with Hindu pilgrims capsized in the Ganges river near the Northern Indian City of Kanpur, the Press Trust of India said yesterday, AFP reports from New Delhi.

The victims were returning Tuesday to Kanpur after offering prayers at a Hindu temple in the nearby town of Unnao, the news agency said.

Twenty people, mostly women and children, drowned and six were missing, it added.

**Smoking banned on SA flights:** Smoking was banned on Singapore Airlines (SA) flights to and from Australia, effective Wednesday, AP reports from Singapore.

Linked to an earlier smoking ban on flights between Singapore and Britain, it means that the so-called 'Kangaroo route' between Britain and Australia via Singapore will be smoke-free on Singapore Airlines.

An airline statement said the move was prompted by growing passenger demand.

**Singer David Houston dies:** Grand Ole Opry star David Houston, who won a Grammy, for the 1966 million-seller country music classic "Almost Persuaded," has died at the age of 57, AP reports from Nashville.

Houston suffered a ruptured brain aneurism Thanksgiving Day and never regained consciousness, said Paul Hockett, spokesman for Bossier Medical Center in Bossier City, La. where Houston died Tuesday.

"Almost Persuaded" chronicled a honky-tonk flirtation in which a married man considered cheating on his wife. "A song like that comes along once in a lifetime," he said in a 1977 interview. He was one of the most successful country singers in the mid-1960s and had performed on the Grand Ole Opry since 1972.

### Israeli woman shot dead in West Bank

JERUSALEM, Dec 1: Palestinians shot dead an Israeli woman and wounded two passengers in her car on the occupied West Bank today, military sources said, reports AP.

One of the wounded passengers was in serious condition after the attack near the town of El Bireh.

The identity of the woman, who was driving the car, has not been released.

Troop reinforcements were dispatched to the scene of the attack, which followed a day of widespread violence on the Gaza Strip when troops killed one Palestinian and wounded 80 others.

Palestinians have killed nine Israelis since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed a Palestinian autonomy deal on September 13.

Israelis have killed 27 Palestinians.

## Ukraine under pressure to give up strategic arms

ROME, Dec 1: Russia, France and Germany piled pressure on Ukraine on Tuesday to give up all the strategic nuclear weapons it inherited from the Soviet Union, and fulfil the Start-1 treaty without conditions, reports Reuter.

Backing a call by US President Bill Clinton, Foreign Ministers of the three powers urged Kiev to reconsider its attempt to hold onto over 900 atomic warheads and to delay signing a non-nuclear pledge.

They were speaking in Rome at a meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which includes all of the states of Europe and the former Soviet Union, plus the United States and Canada.

The two-day gathering was dominated by concern over how to tackle conflicts racking or threatening former Soviet terri-

tories.

But in a rebuke to the CSCE, Pope Paul remained participants of their inability stem from the bloodshed in former Yugoslavia and urged them to avoid compounding that failure with "scandal of indifference."

Speaking to over 50 CSCE foreign ministers gathered in the Vatican, he evoked the atrocious spectacle of villages razed, and inhabitants savagely mistreated and deported.

"This is going on only a few kilometres from here. Everyone sees it, the pontiff said.

In his speech to the conference, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev launched a sharp attack on Ukraine, saying its nuclear stance could start a chain reaction across Europe that would drive the continent back to cold war.

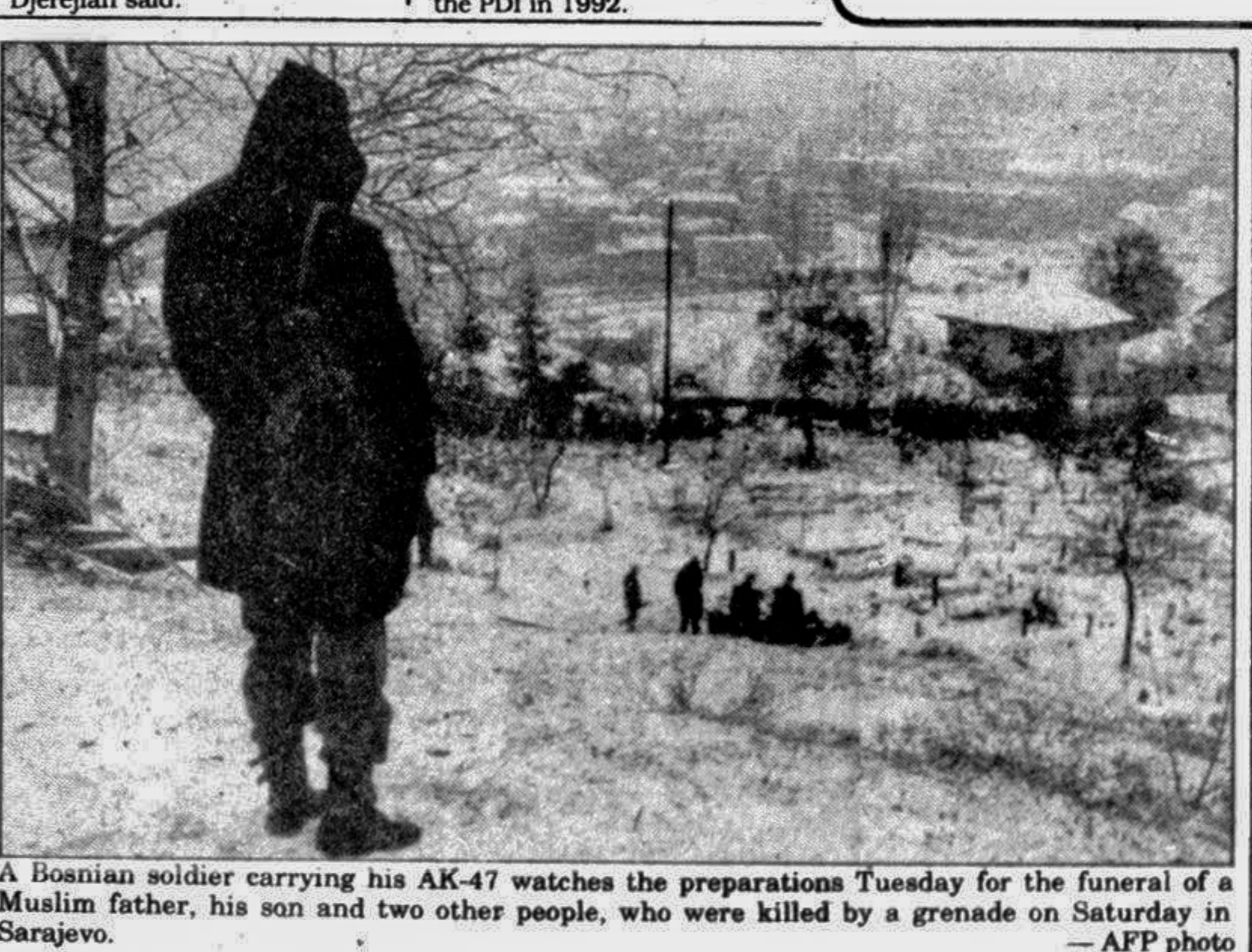
We risk being plunged back

into the worst times of confrontation in Europe, Kozyrev said, urging the CSCE to speak out with all decisiveness for the inviolability of the (nuclear) non-proliferation treaty.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, describing Paris as very worried by the Ukrainian stance, added France, voice to those who expressed the wish this morning that the nuclear menace does not resurge over Europe.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel told reporters he had met his Ukrainian counterpart Anatoly Zlenko over lunch and strongly urged him to carry out Kiev's treaty obligations.

German sources said the conference was expected to adopt a firm resolution on nuclear proliferation which, without naming Ukraine, would be clearly aimed at that country.



A Bosnian soldier carrying his AK-47 watches the preparations Tuesday for the funeral of a Muslim father, his son and two other people, who were killed by a grenade on Saturday in Sarajevo.

### Bad weather delays flight of Christopher

BRUSSELS, Dec 1: US Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrived here late Tuesday after bad weather delayed his flight for more than six hours, reports AP.

He is due to meet European GATT negotiators here Wednesday and participate in a ministerial-level meeting of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Thursday and Friday.

The general agreement on tariffs and trade talks, which are scheduled to be concluded on a December 15 deadline set by the US Congress, are currently log jammed by a dispute over farm subsidies between Washington and Paris.

Christopher, who is on a European tour, arrived from Rome, where he participated in the first day of a summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and where he announced an extra 150 million dollars of US aid to Bosnia.