Strong earthquake jolts Bali: strong earthquake rocked the tourist island of Bali Wednesday afternoon, but there were no reports of damage or casualties, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said Thursday, AP reports from Jakarta.

The quake struck at 5:22 pm local time (0922 GMT) with a preliminary magnitude of 5.8. The centre of the quake was 189 kilometres (118 miles) beneath the Indian Ocean, at a spot 227 kilometres (142 miles) southwest of the city of Denpasar and 1,172 kilometres (733 miles) southeast of the capital, Jakarta.

An aftershock of about the same strength followed an hour later. An agency official said the tremor was very unlikely to cause tidal waves because the epicenter was located so deep in the earth's crust.

Chinese flood toll rises to 100: Flooding in the south China province of Guandong has killed nearly 100 people, according to official statistics, Reuter reports from Beijing.

The death toll had risen by 37, with one person reported missing and 18 others injured, according to latest figures quoted in Wednesday's Yangcheng Evening News, received in Beijing on Thursday.

More than 300 homes had collapsed and an unknown number of businesses had been forced to close.

5 more lawyers held in Egypt: Egyptian security services have arrested five lawyers just hours after the prosecutor's office refused to release 33 others being held on public order charges, a human right's

body said Wednesday, AFP reports from Cairo. The Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights said the five were arrested overnight and condemned the measure, saying it could only aggravate the tension between the government and the Bar Association.

Earlier the prosecutor retained in custody 33 lawyers arrested during a rally organised by the Bar Association to protest the death in custody of colleague Abdel Hareth Madani, a legal source said.

Two die in Dutch chopper crash: A Dutch air force helicopter crash-landed in a industrial area Thursday, killing the two people on board, according to

Defence Ministry spokesman Fer Logister said the cause of the crash was not known. He declined to confirm the two deaths.

Dutch television, AP reports from Netherlands.

The German-made Bolkow 105 CB-helicopter was on a routine exercise when it wet down at 10 am local time (0800 GMT). 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Amsterdam.

The crash site was about 80 kilometers (50 miles) from the aircraft's base in Deelen near the central city of Arnhem, according to Logister.

Lebanese envoy's home attacked: The home of a senior Lebanese diplomat was damaged by a

firebomb Thursday, police said. There were no injuries, AP reports from Sydney. Lebanon's Consul-General Sleiman Rasi, his wife Daisey and

their two young children were in the house when the attack took place at 2 am. They were unhurt. A garage, a car, a garden shed and a boat on a trailer in the

front vard of the home were burned. Rasi has not commented on the incident. But members of Sydney's large Lebanese community said they were shocked. Pakistan destroys narcotics: Pakistan

authorities yesterday destroyed a large quantity of narcotics including 409 kilograms of heroin, 190 kilograms of opium and 1797 kilograms of hashish. Xinhua reports from Islamabad.

They were burned near Peshawar, capital of Pakistan' Northwest Frontier Province. The narcotics were seized by Pakistan Narcotics Control

Board in recent years in the province.

Greek Oscar winner dies: Manos Hadjidakis, who won an Academy Award for penning the title song to the movie "Never on Sunday," died Wednesday. He was 69, AP reports from Athens.

Hadjidakis died less than an hour after arriving a Evanghelismos hospital from his Athens home, suffering from a pulmonary edema, or build-up of fluid in the lungs, the hospital said in a statement

"Hadjidakis' contribution to the moulding of modern Greek culture was decisive," Premier Andreas Papandreou said. "His music and his songs will remain forever the expression of the soul of all Greeks."

## US Senators for laws to stop flow of aliens

WASHINGTON, June 16: Warning of a backlash against legal immigrants, several Senators are pushing legislations designed to stop the flow of undocumented aliens and speed up deportation of those convicted of crimes, reports

the Senate Judiciary Committee, the lawmakers cited figures that one-quarter of the federal prison population is made up of aliens, and that 11.000 convicted felons in 1992 failed to show up for deportation hearings.

problem is ignored, said Senator Alan Simpson, "it could lead to true anti-immigrant sentiments.

"If we fail to act, it's only going to escalate ill will towards all aliens." Senator Dianne Feinstein agreed.

Attorney General Janet Reno promised "we will gain control of our border." But she told the hearing that the illegal-immigrant population, es-

Fiji may face

coups again,

timated at 3.8 million, is in creasing by about 300,000 an Among other steps being

taken by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, Reno

budget to beef up border control, deport criminal aliens and reform the asylum pro-

seeking 350 million dollars to help states cover the expense of imprisoning aliens. Several states including Florida and California, have sued the federal government to get back some of the billions of dollars they say they spend on welfare. education, health care and incarceration of aliens.

Several senators are promoting legislation to slow the

# China opposes US plan for sanctions against N Korea

BEIJING, June 16: China said today it opposed a US plan for sanctions against North Korea but declined to say if it would veto it in the United

Nations, reports Reuter. "China in principle does not subscribe to the involvement of the Security Council in the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula or the resort to sanctions to solve it," Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang told reporters.

On Wednesday, the United States unveiled the draft of its sanctions resolution against North Korea, with two phases, which it wants the Security Council to adopt.

China's support, or at least its abstention, is crucial as it is one of the five permanent members of the UN body, which can block resolutions with a veto.

Shen repeatedly urged all parties in the dispute over in-

spections of North Korea's nuclear programme to negotiate and said there was too much bellicose rhetoric surrounding the crisis.

There should be "less talk of war and more of specific ways of seeking a proper settlement," he said.

Shen said a 1961 friendship and mutual assistance treaty with North Korea remained in effect, but he declined to confirm or deny reports by west ern diplomats that the pact committed China to support Pyongyang should a war break

Shen said he could not remember the complex details of the document.

North Korea has said it will consider any sanctions imposed against it an act of war.

The Chinese spokesman emphasised that no one had any proof that North Korea had built nuclear weapons and said

would not be right to take any action that might have serious consequences before this crucial issue was clarified.

North Korea denies it has nuclear weapons or a strategy to develop them.

The current crisis, which has been building for 16 months, centres on Pyongyang's refusal to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) uninhibited access to North Korea's nuclear facilities to determine if it is engaged in a clandestine weapons programme.

Shen said again that China regretted the IAEA's decision to suspend technical aid to Pyongyang over the crisis and the consequences of that vote. which was North Korea's withdrawal from the watchdog

China abstained in the IAEA vote to punish Pyongyang. Shen said China had chose that

stance to try to keep all sides talking

North Korea made a new threat today to quit the Nuclear non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) unless the United States and its allies stop pressuring it to accept full UN inspection of its nuclear sites.

The warning in the rulingparty daily Rodong Sinmun appeared as former US President Jimmy Carter held talks in Pyongyang with North Korean President Kim Il-Sung on ways of resolving a crisis threatening security in northeast Asia.

The Stalinist state, widely suspected to be building nuclear weapons in defiance of its NPT obligations, first gave notice of its withdrawal from the treaty in March, 1993, in protest at inspection pres-

It later agreed to suspend the NPT pullout.

Another North

Korean defects

to South

Korean who defected via a

third country arrived in Seoul

on Thursday, government offi-

driver for a supply unit of

North Korea's military

academy, the South Korean in-

telligence agency said in a

rean in February and made his

way to Seoul via a third coun-

discriminated against because

his father repatriated to North

number of defectors this year.

the past few years, with recent

defectors citing severe short-

ages in food and fuel and a

crumbling economy in North

Morocco jails

8 for supplying

arms to Algeria

16: A military tribunal sen-

tenced two Algerians and six

Moroccans to prison early

Thursday for running guns to

Islamic extremists waging re-

The convictions underscore

increasingly frequent reports

that arms are reaching Alge-

ria's Islamic gunmen via the

North African country's long.

sparsely populated border with

san Ighiri, a Moroccan named

as chief of the smuggling ring.

to 20 years in prison. The Al-

gerians each got 15 years. The

remaining Moroccans received

penalties ranging from five to

18 years. All were ordered to

charges throughout the 10-day

trial. Their lawyers said they

had been detained beyond pre-

trial limits and had given in-

criminating statements under

Famine kills 267

in Ethiopia

Famine in western Ethiopia

has killed at least 267 people.

many of them children, over

the past month, state televi-

sion reported, reports Reuter.

quoted as saying that serious

drought had hit the region of

Illubabaor on the border with

Sudan, turning the area into a

which 129 were children have

died of famine or famine-re-

lated diseases in the district of

Darimu," state television said

late on Wednesday, quoting

one official. It said some

12,000 head of cattle had also

perished due to lack of pasture

"Over 267 people out of

Provincial officials were

ADDIS ABABA, June 16:

The defendants denied the

The court sentenced Has-

bellion in Algeria, reports AP.

RABAT, MOROCCO, June

Korea after living in Japan

He escaped from North Ko-

Jin reportedly said he was

Jin's arrival brings to 23 the

Defections have shot up in

Jin Kwang Ho. 26, was a

cials said, reports AP.

statement.

try, it said.

Korea.

Morocco.

pay light fines.

torture.

wasteland.

SEOUL, June 16: A North

### Fresh fighting in Kigali

## Rwandan govt, rebels postpone truce talks

KIGALI, June 16: Tutsi rebels fired machine guns and mortar shells at government positions Thursday in a renewed effort to take control of the capital despite a cease-fire pledge from both sides in the civil war, reports AP.

The Rwandan Patriotic Front rebels and the government forces also postponed truce talks that had been set for Thursday, said a UN military official who requested anonymity. The reasons for the one-day delay were not clear. he said.

Leaders from the warring factions pledged Tuesday to observe an immediate ceasefire. But the, commitment, made at the Organisation of African Unity meeting in Tunis, Tunisia, has been slow in reaching soldiers fighting for control of Kigali, the capi-

Neither side had given the United Nations any indication

it planned to stop shooting as of midday Thursday, said the UN official.

The rebels, led by members of the minority Tutsi ethnic group, were trying to take control of key roads in the capital Thursday, the official added. There was regular machine gun fire and sporadic shelling aimed at government forces.

The government army, dominated by the majority Hutu tribe, controls the city center but is largely surrounded by the rebels...

The UN official said the fighting was less intense than during the past few days. though he had no casualty fig-

Since April, the war has claimed an estimated 200,000 lives, although no reliable figures are available. UN officials and rebels continue to find mass graves in the Kigali suburbs and Rwandan countryside.

# Off the Record

#### Breast implants unlikely to cause arthritis

BOSTON: The largest study ever of breast implants finds no evidence they cause rheumatoid arthritis or other serious diseases, challenging claims of women who reached a 4.3 billion dollars settlement with manufacturers, reports AP.

The review, conducted at the Mayo Clinic, found that women who get implants to enlarge or reconstruct their breasts are no more likely than anybody else to develop a variety of connective tissue disorders. These diseases, including arthritis, lupus, scleroderma and

several less common illnesses, have been linked to leaking implants. Much of the apparent evidence came from examples of individuals getting sick after receiving implants. However, such illnesses could be entirely unrelated to

their implants. Until now, there has been little rigorously conducted comparison to see if those who get implants truly have worse health than other people.

Although no single study can prove breast implants are safe, the researchers say theirs suggests that if there is any hazard, it is small,

#### Gay pastors

SEATTLE: A gay couple has been hired as joint pastors by a United Church of Christ congregation determined to practice what it preaches, reports AP.

The Revs. David Shull and Peter Ilgenfritz, who have been together about eight years, will share an associate pastorship at the 1,200-member University Congregational Church beginning in August. The position of senior pastor is vacant.

It is believed to be the first time a gay couple has been given a joint pastorship in a major denomination, said Hans Holznagel, spokesman at United Church of Christ headquarters in Cleveland.

"Our only real fear is that some people, perhaps both inside and outside the congregation, might have difficulty getting past seeing us only as gay pastors," Shull said Tuesday in a telephone interview from Chicago.

Church members voted 474-143 Sunday to hire the couple after hearing the two speak.

"We're an open and affirming church and we should practice what we preach," said Alice Oehler, a member of the church

Shirley Morrison said the church needed to take a strong stand on something, and Ildenfritz and Shull fit the bill. Plus. she said, "I think they're the most outstanding human beings I've met for some time."

Shull 35, is a medical social worker. Ilgenfritz, 32, works with low and moderate income housing developers in

#### Cambodian peace talks end in failure PHNOM PENH, June 16:

Cambodian peace talks ended in failure Thursday as the Khmer Rouge guerilla group refused to agree to a date to begin a truce, reports AP.

The government offered a truce starting June 30, but the Khmer Rouge evidently wants to reach an agreement first on how much power the group would get in the government if it laid down arms.

"We have done our utmost to reach national reconciliation and peace, but to no avail at this meeting," Khmer Rouge delegate Mak Ben said after the two days of talks at the Royal Palace. "We want a cease-fire, (but)

we should avoid a cease-fire which cheats one another," he

He said the talks failed to address the Khmer Rouge demand for a "minimum political platform" that would be the basis for formation of a new national government and army that included the Khmer

The government wants a truce pact before going on to negotiate power-sharing. It appeared the two sides

did not set a date for another round of talks. King Norodom Sihanouk has said he would not sponsor

sessions failed. The first round of Sihanouk-sponsored talks, in North Korea late last month. also had failed.

any more talks if this week's

The government was formed after United Nationsorganised elections in May 1993, which the Khmer Rouge boycotted. During its fanatical Com-

munist rule in the 1970s, the Khmer Rouge killed, worked or starved to death hundreds of thousands of people. It was toppled from power by a Vietnamese invasion in late 1978. but has been fighting from the jungles ever since. The guerilla army, estimated at 9,000strong, controls large slices of western and northern Cambo-

# Reformers challenge Yeltsin's anti-crime measures

warns Rabuka MOSCOW. June 16: Boris Yeltsin's sweeping new anti-SUVA, June 16: Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka warned today that he could not rule out a repeat of his two military coups in 1987, which ousted an Indian dominated tution Yeltsin fought so hard coalition government, reports for reports AP.

"I will not and I will never apologise for the coups of 1987 and I am not the only person who feels very strongly about the lot of the Fijian in his own homeland." Rabuka told to the same period in 1993.

parliament. "I will not even say that it Opposition parties boy-

Rabuka seized power in

1987 after leading two coups

will not happen again. cotted later sessions of parliacrime measures ran into an a promise made Friday to step unexpected challenge Wed nesday from reformers in parliament, who said the crackdown violates the consti

New government figures. meanwhile, showed a continu ing rise in violent crime including a 41 per cent increase in murders in the first five months of the year compared

On Tuesday. Yeltsin gave police broader powers to fight organised crime, including the right to detain suspects for up to 30 days, and examine their finances and those of their relatives. Police were authorized to search offices, homes

and cars without court orders. Yeltsin was making good on up the war on crime, which he

called "the scourge of Russia. Crime has soared since the collapse of the old Soviet order. The country's fledgling businesses have been particularly hard-hit by extortion and contract killings

But on Wednesday, members of the leading reform bloc. Russia's Choice, held a news conference to blast Yeltsin's anti-crime decree as unconstitutional

Lawmaker Viktor Pokhmelkin said only parliament has the right to amend laws. the ITAR Tass news agency reported He said the decree violates the criminal code which allows suspects to be

held for only 72 hours and also tramples on defendants rights and the presumption of innocence. Those rights are part of the

constitution promoted by Yeltsin and approved by voters in December. The decree will "give rise to

a whole system of arbitrary rule and gross violations of human rights, and contribute only in the smallest degree, if at all, to an effective campaign against serious crime Pokhmelkin said quoted by ITAR-Tass

The objections, familiar in crime debates in the West, are unusual in Russia. In October when Moscow police cracked down on crime by deporting thousands of people, there were hardly any objections.

Gennady Zyuganov also criticized the decree Wednesday for "grossly violating current laws and neglecting parliament." the Interfax news

agency said. Ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky said parliament must pass an even tougher decree. He repeated his earlier proposals for fighting crime by executing suspected criminals without trial and banishing foreigners from major cities. Yeltsin's decree won strong

support, however, from law enforcement officials. A real gangland war has begun in this country. Sergei Stepasin, head of the Federal

Counterintelligence Service,

told a news conference in the

eastern city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, ITAR-Tass re-Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov

praised Yeltsin's measures to

an audience of American businessmen Crime figures released Wednesday only bolstered

According to Vladimir

Vershkov, spokesman for Moscow's Interior Depar tment, the city's murder rate rose 41 per cent in the first five months of the year compared to the same period in 1993.

He could not immediately say how many murders that meant, but said there have been 52 this month alone in Moscow, a city of about 9 mil-

There have been 52 bombings in Moscow this year. compared to 61 tn all of 1993. Interfax cited Vershkov as say

In the first five months of 1994, the number of robberies rose 12 per cent, thefts of state property 42 per cent and thefts of private property 16 per cent compared to the same period a year earlier. Vershkov said. Russia's political and eco-

nomic instability raise the stakes of crime-fighting. In January, a presidential think tank warned that popular disgust with rampant crime and corruption could propel extremists to victory in 1996 na tional elections.

#### US lifts arms embargo on SA WASHINGTON, June 16: The Clinton administration

said Wednesday it was lifting an embargo on arms sales to South Africa and easing limits on export of so-called dual use items to South African police and military, reports Reuter. The Commerce and State

step jointly. In a statement, they said the United States acted in line with a United Nations resolution and due to the installation of a democratically elected unity government in South Africa. The announcement said US

Departments announced the

companies with potential sales to South Africa were encouraged to submit to the Commerce Department export licence applications for dual-use items.

#### said, are an increase of 1,000 agents to the current Border Patrol strength of 4,000 and a goal to double the deportations At a hearing Wednesday by of criminals, which reached 22,000 in fiscal 1993. She said 300 million dollar is being sought in next year's

If the illegal immigration The administration also is

flow of illegal aliens.

### Spain's Queen Sofia (R) talks with a young mother of the Colombian Kogui Indian tribe while holding her baby, Wednesday, during a visit of Ibero-American first ladies to a Kogui village. 500 km north of Cartagena, Colombia. North's shelling kills 18,

sets homes ablaze in Aden ADEN, Yemen, June 16: Northern shelling today killed ers to warn of the threat of tvat least 18 people and set homes on fire in the Southern stronghold of Aden, hospital

officials said, reports AFP. Many wounded were still being taken to the Al-Jumhuriya Hospital three hours after the dawn attack on the Sheikh Osman suburb, offi-

cials at the hospital said. Sheikh Osman is about 10 kilometers south of the war front where forces loyal to northern President Ali Abdallah Saleh are fighting troops backing his southern rival and former Vice President Ali

Salem Al-Baid Heavy artillery duels left one soldier dead and four wounded just north of Aden late Wednesday, hospital officials said. Fifteen soldiers were reported wounded earlier in

the day. A southern military spokesman said northern forces had also fired three missiles at the city but that one was shot down and the other two fell harmlessly into the sea.

The northern forces man aged to claw about 500 to 1.000 metres of territory from southern troops south of the village of Saber, about 20 kilometres north of here.

But the southwest on the counter-offensive with heavy shelling and rocket attacks in a bid to prevent the north from seizing Bir Nasser, only two kilometres further south. Bir Nasser is the site of the water pumping station which supplies Aden with its drink

This city of 500,000 resi-

dents was cut off from water

for more than a week after the

north bombed the plant, and

supplies are still sporadic.

ing water

phoid. War planes taking off from

prompting medical aid work

Aden airport mounted wave after wave of attacks on the western front at Kharaz where the north was trying to reinforce its positions. Xinhua reports from Kuwait: Yemen president Ali Abdullah

Saleh yesterday delivered let

ters to leaders of the Gulf Co-

operation Council (GCC) mem-

ber states on the latest devel-

opments of the situation in Yemen when he met ambassadors of the six countries.

In his letters, Saleh expressed the willingness of his country for "developing the brotherly relationship with the GCC states on a basis of mutual respect, good-neighbourliness non-interference in each other's internal affairs and positive cooperation which bridge the common desire of our people and the brothers in the peninsula," said Sanaa radio.



New Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaly Masol, 66, smiles after winning the approval of the parliament in Kiev on Thursday. Masol, a former premier and an avowed communist, was nominated for the post by President Leonid