### Koreas hold talks to lay groundwork for summit

SEOUL, July 1. North and South Korea on Friday held' working-level talks to lay the groundwork for the first-ever Korean presidential summit. scheduled later this month, reports AP.

Three officials from each of the Koreas attended the session in the "truce village" of Panmunjom, inside the demilitarized zone dividing the Koreas. There was no immediate word on the outcome.

South Korean officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said before the session they would propose sending a 180-member delegation to the North for the summit, including 100 officials and 80 journalists.

The South will also ask for

### Iraq repeats call for lifting of sanctions

AMMAN (Jordan), July 1: Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz Thursday repeated his government's request for an end to a crippling trade blockade imposed by the United Nations four years ago, reports AP.

A report on Jordan Television quoted Aziz, Iraq's diplomatic front man, as stressing his country's compliance with UN ordered ceasefire terms that ended the Gulf war over Kuwait in 1991.

"Aziz reaffirmed Iraq's commitment to implementing all UN resolutions and expressed hope that sanctions against the Iraqi people will soon be lifted," the report said.

reports from Goma, Zaire.

military hospital.

Shakarpur to Sukkur.

of the 17 people abroad.

from Tokyo.

Johannesburg.

apartheid.

2.14 pm (0514 GMT).

France evacuates 43 Tutsis: French

troops on Thursday evacuated 43 Tutsi men, women and

children wounded by Hutu militiamen, airlifting them by

helicopters from southwestern Rwanda to Zaire, Reuter

by French troops to Zaire since the start of "Operation

Turquoise", started by France one week ago and aiming to

bullet wounds were taken by three army helicopters to a

French base at Goma Airport in eastern Zaire and then to a

Pak bus mishap claims 10: Ten people

were killed and 22 others injured when a overcrowded bus

collided with a truck in the southern Sindh Province.

condition in hospital, adding that the bus was travelling from

2 die in Ivorian chopper crash:

Two crew members were killed when an Ivory Coast air force

helicopter crashed on Thursday near the central city of

Last Sunday a Fokker-27 of the Ivorian National Airline. Ai

lvoire, crashed near Abidjan after a domestic flight, killing 16

Quake jolts Hokkaido island: A

strong earthquake measuring 5.1 on the open-ended Richter

scale jolted Japan's northern most island of Hokkaido

yesterday the Meteorological Agency said. Reuter reports

There were no immediate reports of damage or casualties The spicentre of the quake, which measured as high as four on the Japanese scale of seven, was 60 km (38 miles)

underground in the eastern part of Hokkaido. It struck at

Poet Saint dies of AIDS in US:

Assotto Saint, a Haitian-born poet, dancer and playwright

whose work focused on the lives of black homosexuals, has

according to Walter Holland, a close friend and fellow poet.

Saint died Wednesday in his Manhattan apartment

Saint, whose real name was Yves F Lubin, joined his

mother in New York in 1970. He graduated from Queens

College and for a time danced with the Martha Graham

company. Saint's plays, including "Risin' to the Love We

Need" and "Nuclear Lovers," were performed by the

Two black gunmen to die in SA:

Two black gunmen who opened fire on cars, killing three

whites, were sentenced to death Thursday after a court ruled

they set out to kill white children. AP reports from

the 1993 slaying of a mother, her teenage son and a 13-year

years in prison. After the shooting on March 19 last year, a

telephone caller claimed the black militant Azanian People's

Liberation Army carried out the attack to scare whites during

negotiations between white and black leader to end

old girl on their way to a school south of Johannesburg.

Siphiwe Bholo, 26, and Sipho Gavin, 23, were convicted in

An accomplice, Bo Titi Ndweni, 20, was sentenced to 17

Metamorphosis Theater, which he founded and directed.

died of AIDS. He was 36, AP reports from New York.

Bouake, state television reported, Reuter says from Abidjan.

It did not say whether there were any survivors.

The report said seven of the injured were in a serious

Pakistani television reported, AFP says from Islamabad.

protect civilians from massacre and provide aid.

They were the first group of Rwandan casualties evacuated

The casualties, many of them children, with machete and

two face-to-face meetings between the two presidents during the July 25-27 summit in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang, the officials said. And the Seoul government wants to send an advance team to the North around July 10.

The summit is aimed at easing tensions on the Korean peninsula, which have been running high for the past 16 months over the North's refusal to allow full nuclear inspections.

The North claims its nuclear programme is peaceful, but its refusal to allow outside inspections has deepened suspicion that it has been developing atomic bombs. .

After the North told former President Jimmy Carter last month it wanted to try to help resolve the nuclear dispute, the United States agreed to reopen high-level talks in Geneva on July 8.

US officials said the Geneva talks would go on as long as the North abides by its promise to freeze its nuclear programme and guarantee inspections as required under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which the North signed in 1985.

North Korea, meanwhile, warned against any steps it said would "spoil the atmosphere" of the Geneva talks. It singled out Senate Minority Leader Robert Dole, who on Sunday urged the Clinton administration not to be too quick in trusting the North.

"You look back over history and their word has not been good," the Kansas Republican said in a television interview.

Yemenis defy ceasefire

Fierce fighting around Aden

SANAA, Yemen, July 1: Northern and southern armies fought with artillery and rockets around the southern stronghold of Aden on Friday. shooting down another ceasefire in Yemen's civil war diplomats and news reports fire.

said, reports AP. The Moscow-brokered truce was the eighth called since the war began May 4 over a political rift between northern President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice President. Ali Salem al-Beidh, the socialist southern leader.

Thousands are believed to have died in the fighting. The South has claimed hundreds were killed in Aden alone from weeks of northern shelling. The city of 350,000 and

50,000 war refugees lacks food, water, fuel and electric

All previous truces have broken down within hours with each side accusing the other of being the first to open

Friday's ceasefire collapsed within an hour when northern forces opened fire with artillery and rockets on Aden's residential areas, according to the Southern Aden News

"Since 7.30 this morning, the Sanaa forces pursued their brutal assault operations to advance in the direction of Aden," said the news agency.

ing mechanism. "In an intensive manner, they are shelling the residential areas of Aden," it claimed,

adding southern forces were resisting the attack."

Sanaa-based diplomats. speaking on condition of anonymity, said reports from the front indicated that sporadic exchanges of fire quickly mushroomed to rocket and artillery duels about 40 minutes into the ceasefire.

UN efforts to mediate a truce in the war confinued at the United Nations, where northern and southern Yemeni representatives were to meet Friday. A UN statement Thursday called the talks positive. UN envy Lakhdar Brahimi said the parties made progress on setting up a ceasefire monitor-

The United Nations Wednesday called for an im-

mediate cease fire in the conflict, a halt to foreign arms supplies and regionally drawn ceasefire monitors.

Thursday afternoon, southern warplanes attacked and set ablaze storage tanks at an oil ·field in northern Yemen in the heaviest reported strike on oil facilities in North Yemen.

The attack underlined both sides' shift toward attacking each other's strategic economic installations.

Company officials and diplomats said southern aircraft struck the Yemen Hunt Oil Co. facility at Marib, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) east of the northern capital of Sanaa, killing one Yemeni worker and woundling nine.

# Serbs, Muslims trade artillery fire

SARAJEVO, July 1: Bosnia's Serb and Muslim led forces fought over a key supply route while international mediators prepared for a final push to persuade the warring parties to accept a proposed peace plan, reports Reuter.

The two armies fought "with a high level of artillery fire" in north central Bosnia near Mount Ozren and the town of Zavidovici, a UN. peacekeeping spokeswoman said in Sarajevo.

Claire Grimes said the mostly Muslim Bosnian army and Bosnian Serb army traded some 500 artillery rounds on Thursday as they continued to fight over a contested supply route in the Mount Ozren area.

International mediators planned to invite Bosnian rivals to Geneva next week to present them with a "take it or leave it" peace plan drawn up by five major powers.

The peace plan, which calls for Bosnia's partition along ethnic lines, is seen as the last hope to prevent an escalation of the war in the former Yugoslav Republic.

Despite the upsurge in fighting, UN officials said they would press for extending a much violated truce which expires now July 9. UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali planned to recommend to the Security Council that the one month truce Boutros be continued.

Grimes told reporters.

"It is expected that this extension of the ceasefire will take place. I'm not saying it will take place. I'm saying it is expected to take place," she

The UN brokered ceasefire. agreed on June 8, brought relative calm to Bosnia initially. but shooting and shelling have increased markedly in the last 10 days as the Muslim led army pushed to gain control of the supply route that would link their strongholds of Zenica and Tuzla.

The attitude of the Muslim led Bosnian government and Bosnian Serb leaders to extending the truce remained unclear but there were indications the UN had already received assurances the two armies would approve such a

Sarajevo Oslobodjenje news agency said 17 people had been killed and 112 wounded in the week ended on Wednesday. Croatian radio said on Thursday one person was killed and five wounded when a hospital was hit by Serb shells in the central town of Travnik, held by government

Muslim controlled Sarajevo radio said two people killed and 10 wounded in the Bihac enclave, where breakaway Muslim forces are fighting assistance of Serb forces.

### Liberian militia frees 6 UN

peacekeepers

UNITED NATIONS, July 1: Six UN peacekeepers taken prisoner by a Liberian militia this week were released unharmed Thursday, the United Nations announced, reports Reuter.

Spokesman Joe Sills told reporters the six part of the 370-strong UN Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) had been held in the town of Tubmanburg, northwest of the capital, Monrovia, late Tuesday and released there also.

UN sources said the militia responsible was Ulimo, a tribally-split group that is also holding hostage two Nigerian soldiers from a west African peacekeeping force.

Liberia's peace process is faltering and elections planned for September 7 are certain to be postponed. A collective presidency and transitional government has been formed but progress towards peace has stopped because of fighting on several fronts between at least five factions.

birthday.

government troops with the

### Female hormone improves mental ability WASHINGTON: Older women who take the female hor-

London's Tower Bridge is lit up with fireworks to mark its

centenary June 30 with the royal yacht Britannia in the

foreground. The fireworks marked the beginning of three

days of festivities to celebrate the famous landmark's 100th

- AFP photo

Off the Record

mone oestrogen are able to think and remember more keenly and are better able to handle intellectual challenges, a researcher reports, says AP.

Dr Uriel Halbreich of State University of New York at Buffalo said that oestrogen does not create sudden genius, but that there is a "clear and significant" improvement in mental ability from the hormone.

"We showed that oestrogen replacement therapy is not only good for osteoporosis and cardiovascular disease prevention, but also it can improve the cognitive function," said Halbeich.

The scientist presented a paper on his research this week at a national meeting of the American college of Neuropsychopharmacology.

Dr Lon S Schneider, an associate professor of psychiatry and neurology at the University of Southern California, said Halbreich's research is consistent with other studies that have suggested oestrogen helps some patients think better.

### Longer lasting rose

AMSTERDAM: Dutch scientists said on Thursday they hope to use genetic engineering to breed a rose that flowers longer before it wilts and dies, reports Reuter.

Roses die in the vase because bactèria clog up the stem and prevent them from drawing up water.

Researcher Willem Stiekema said a team at the CPRO plant research centre in Wageningen hoped to transplant a gene into the rose which will produce a protein that kills the bacteria.

The Dutch flower industry, with annual exports of six billion guilders (3.4 billion US dollars) hopes more people will buy roses if they can be made to last longer.

Some people don't buy roses because they think they'll be gone in a few days and some roses never flower properly in a vase because they can't get enough water." Stiekema said.

### Arafat's trip to Gaza'sad and painful: Hamas

New Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama (C) looks in a different direction among

his Cabinet members during a photo session after their first Cabinet meeting at the prime

## Israeli settlers block road from Jerusalem to Jericho

JERUSALEM, July 1: Israeli settlers were blocking the main road from Jerusalem to Jericho Friday in protest at the planned visit of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, police said, reports AFP.

minister's official residence on Thursday.

Groups of settlers burnt tyres, strewed nails and tried to throw wet concrete over the road, causing traffic hold-ups before police managed to clear the road at some points.

At others, settlers were throwing stones at passing cars and buses, including those with Israeli yellow plates.

Burning tyres at one road block forced cars to travel via a dust track over a nearby moun-

It was still unclear whether Arafat actually intended to travel to the West Bank self rule enclave of Jericho during his three-day visit.

Late Thursday hundreds of settlers and extreme rightwingers held a mass rally in Jerusalem to protest Arafat's return to the autonomous Gaza

The Islamic resistance movement Hamas said today PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's return to the autonomous Gaza Strip was "sad and painful."

Hamas representative in Damascus Abu Mohammad Mustapha told AFP Arafat's trip to Gaza, his first for 27 years, was "sad and painful because he is making it with Israeli permission and under Israeli protection.

"This is not the return the Palestinian people have been dreaming of. They have been awaiting the return of a revolutionary and conqueror, no one which is governed by concessions," Mustapha said.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for another Islamic fundamentalist group, Islamic Jihad, said the Palestinian people were "astonished and condemn this visit, which is being carried out under the protection of Israeli bayonets.

- AFP photo

The spokesman said: "Arafat, who was the symbol of Palestinian resistance, is now forced to show his official authorisation to the Zionist (Israeli) government so that he can visit Gaza." "We shall continue resisting

the Israeli occupation by armed struggle," he added. Islamic Jihad Friday

claimed responsibility for an ambush of two Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip. Both Hamas and Islamic

Jihad rejected the PLO's deal with Israel launching Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

### 'Syria committed to peace with Israel'

DAMASCUS, Syria, July 1: State-run media on Friday said Damascus remains committed to peace with Israel, despite Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's warning of war with Syria if peace was not reached in three to seven years, reports AP.

"Such threats, which will only poison the atmosphere in the region and return it back to the state of war, cannot intimidate Syria or undermine its sincere drive to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East," said government-run Al-Thawra news-

Rabin's warning last week were interpreted in Israel as an effort to prepare the public for the possibility of full withdrawal from the strategic Golan Heights, which the Syria wants returned.

Damascus is pivotal to the Mideast peace process since Lebanon and Jordan are not expected to sign treaties with Israel until Damascus does.

## US moving closer to ties with Vietnam HANOI, Vietnam, July 1:

One of the highest-ranking US delegations to visit Vietnam since the end of the Vietnam War arrived in Hanoi Friday for talks with Communist leaders to lay the groundwork for establishing diplomatic relations, reports AP.

Hershel Gober, deputy secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs, said the United States would acknowledge recent progress in accounting for Americans missing in action from the war, and discuss "how we can make more

White House press secretary Dee Dee Myers said the delegation would make clear that further steps in relations between the countries "depend on additional tangible progress on the outstanding POW-MIA cases."

Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai, head of the Vietnamese delegation in the talks, said there has been "quite a lot" of

"I don't see any outstanding issue," said Le Mai.

The two countries are preparing to open diplomatic missions after signing a formal agreement last month. These would later be upgraded to full embassies once President Clinton is satisfied with progress on the prisoner of war and

MIA issue. Le Mai said the American side was still looking for appropriate housing in Hanoi. Whenever they can find the houses, then they will come immediately. So there's just some technical details left," he

Others in the delegation include Winston Lord, assistant secretary of state; James Wold, deputy assistant secretary of defence for POW-MIA affairs; representatives of the five largest US veterans organizations; and Ann Mills Griffiths, executive director of the National League of POW-MIA

### Yeltsin to have an active role at G-7 meet

WASHINGTON, July Russian President Boris Yeltsin will participate at the G-7 summit in drafting a joint position on Bosnia, North Korea and other global trouble spots, a senior White House official

and influence that leaders from Moscow have long sought from the seven leading industrial nations, set to meet July 8 through July 10 in Naples.

For the first time on the last day President Yeltsin will participate in the discussions of political issues as a real participant," said Anthony Lake, President Clinton's national security adviser.

said Thursday, reports Reuter.

The move offers a stature

### 30 drowned as Haitian military fire on boat carrying refugees PORT-AU-PRINCE. Haiti. the statement said.

July 1: More than 1,000 Haitians fled their nation by sea Thursday, maintaining a week-long exodus from re pression and economic collapse despite US appeals to stay, reports AP.

A Time magazine journalist reported that Haitian military police fired on a 60-foot (18meter) boat carrying would-be refugees early Thursday off the southern coast town of Nan L'Etat, causing a panie in which at least 30 of the refugees drowned. Journalist Edward J. Barnes witnessed the incident, according to a statement by Time Daily, a computer service of the magazine. The victims included women and children,

There was no independent confirmation of the account. the fires reported instance of soldiers trying to stop refugee vessel since the surge in boat people began a week

Since then about 4,700 Haitians have been intercepted at sea by US Coast Guard cutters and Navy warships - at least 1.056 of them Thursday. Coast Guard spokesman Rob Wyman told the Associated

"A busy day indeed." Wyman said from Miami, adding that most of the 38 refugee boats intercepted Thursday were off Haiti's southern peninsula

Hundreds more refugees were shipped to the US Navy base in Guantanamo Bay. Cuba

The base was reopened Wednesday to ease crowding at a refugee processing facility on people. a ship off Jamaica.

Diplomats say the exodus may push the Clinton administration and reluctant Pentagon to invade Haiti to oust military leaders and restore the elected government, which was overthrown by the army in 1991. The military-backed gov-

ernment had threatened in May to arrest anyone leaving on a refugee vessel. UN human rights monitors criticised the government after the arrests May 21 of about 50 would be boat people in Petit Goave, 40 miles (65 kms) west of Portau Prince, the capital,

Others were arrested on La

Gonave island, another common departure point for boat

More than 50,000 Haitians have been intercepted at sea by the Coast Guard since elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown. Aristide, in exile in Washington, said he can't tell Haitians not to flee military repression and economic depression in Haiti, which he describes as "a house on fire.

Intensified economic sanctions on Haiti and a new liberalized Clinton administration refugee policy may have provoked the refugee wave. The Coast Guard, backed by

US warships enforcing a trade embargo with Haiti, has deployed 15 cutters and patrol craft in its biggest operation

since Vietnam. The Clinton administration has repeatedly appealed to Haitians no to risk their lives at sea and to apply instead for US political asylum at three consular offices inside

Before June 16, Haitian boat people were repatriated without a hearing to determine whether they were fleeing political repression. Criticism by human rights groups and increasing political violence prompted President Clinton to change the policy. Washington set up the Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort, with 1,000 spots for refugees, off Jamaica to give each refugee a hearing.

Since June 16, 301 refugees have been granted asylum and 677 have been re-

jected, an acceptance rate of 31 per cent, said Capt. David Manning, information director for the Jamaica operation. That's 10 times the acceptance rate for Haitians who stay at home to apply for US

The Comfort housed 806 Haitians as of midday Thursday, including 275 delivered by Coast Guard cutters that day. Of those, 602 were still being interviewed. 86 have been granted asylum and will be flown to Quantanamo and 118 will be repatriated.

The Guantanamo base was also used as a tent city during a refugee flood in late 1991 and early 1992 and at one point held about 12000 refugees.

### Guatemalan president uncovered **GUATEMALA CITY, July 1:**

Plot to kill

Guatemalan police said they had uncovered a plot to assassinate President Ramiro de Leon during a military parade held in Guatemala City Thursday, reports Reuter. National police chief Salvador Figueroa told re-

with a telescopic lens had been discovered in a hotel room three blocks from where de Leon was watching the military parade, but no one had been arrested.

porters that a high calibre rifle

Leon. formerly Guatemala's top human rights officials took office in June 1993 after a palace coup.