

## Non-immigrant US visas to Haitians revoked

WASHINGTON, July 2: Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers announced that the United States has "revoked all US non-immigrant visas issued before May 11, 1994, to Haitian nationals," either by the embassy in Port-au-Prince or the consulate in Curacao, reports USIS.

She said, the step is intended to place further pressure on the military leaders of Haiti to depart and allow the restoration of democracy there. The revocation was effective as of 0401 GMT, June 29, USIS said.

"The stubborn refusal of Haiti's military leaders to permit the restoration of democracy and the return of President (Jean-Bertrand) Aristide," Myers said, "is the cause of this additional step. We believe the revocation of these visas will significantly increase pressure on the military, the illegal Jonassaint regime and their supporters."

Visa revocation, she added, complements earlier blocking of assets, banning of financial transactions and halting commercial air traffic. "It demonstrates in no uncertain terms," she said, "that there is a real cost to Haitians continued support for the military and its illegal government."

Myers said those already in the United States on such visas will not be deported, nor will those Haitians with valid green cards be at risk, but those with non-immigrant visas who leave the United States will not be allowed to return.

She told questioners that the Dominican Republic is cooperating with efforts to enforce the United Nations embargo against Haiti, and while she acknowledged continuing smuggling problems along the border at night, she asserted that "enforcement at the border has gone pretty well by day."

## Koreas agree on main points for presidential summit

SEOUL, July 2: North and South Korea on Saturday agreed on main logistical provisions for the historic presidential summit set later this month, the South said, reports AP.

In a one and a half hours session at the border village of Panmunjom, the two sides ironed out disputes over television coverage and travel to the North by South Korean advance teams, South Korean negotiators said.

The working-level talks, which began Friday, were considered crucial for setting the stage for the summit, to be held July 25-27 in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

The summit is meant to ease tensions stemming from a 16-month standoff over the North's nuclear programme. The Communist government says its nuclear programme is peaceful, but has not allowed full international inspections to prove that claim.

In Saturday's talks, the North accepted South Korea's proposal to send a 20-member advance team to Pyongyang around Tuesday, South Korean officials said. A second Southern advance team will arrive at Pyongyang four or five days before the summit.

North Korea had at first insisted that an advance team come only two or three days before the summit began, which the South said was not enough time to make the necessary security provisions.

The two sides also reached a compromise over television coverage of the summit. South Korea networks won't dispatch their own broadcasting vehicles, as they had wanted to; instead, North Korea will lend them equipment for live microwave or cable transmissions.

Previously, the North had insisted that tape and film be transported out by courier.

In Friday's talks, the two sides agreed South Korean President Kim Young-sam and North Korean leader Kim Il Sung would hold at least two semi-private meetings during the summit, at which they will be joined by only one or two aides.

The North had initially sought a single session with a large contingent of aides in attendance.

Negotiators also agreed Friday that South Korea would be allowed to send a 100-member official entourage and 80-member press corps to the summit.

The logistics accord was to be signed later Saturday, and working-level contacts were to continue over details.

Despite the progress in laying groundwork for the summit, North Korea kept up harsh rhetorical attacks on the South in conjunction with other issues.

On Saturday, its official Korean Central News Agency denounced South Korean defence officials for responding coolly to a recent Northern call for a troop pullback along the border.

"We cannot help taking a serious view of the wicked remarks made by South Korean bellicose elements, spoiling the atmosphere of talks," the dispatch quoted a government newspaper as saying.

The two sides agreed to the summit — which would be the first presidential meeting since the peninsula was divided in 1945 — in the wake of a visit to the North last month by former US President Jimmy Carter.

After the North told Carter it wanted to help resolve the nuclear dispute, the United States also agreed to reopen high-level talks with North Korea. They are to begin on Friday in Geneva.

## BRIEFLY

### Declare emergency in Arizona:

Gov Fife Symington asked the government Friday to declare a state of emergency for all of Arizona after wildfires charred more than 76,000 acres (30,000 hectares) throughout the state, AP reports from Phoenix.

Symington had asked for an emergency declaration earlier for southern Arizona but widened the request Friday to gain additional money and manpower to battle the flames.

Blazes mostly ignited by the recurring lightning storms of the monsoon season had blackened acres (hectares) of brush, scrub, grasses and trees as of early Friday, according to the Southwest Region Coordinating Center in Albuquerque, N.M. Dozens of fires continued to burn out of control late Friday.

**Tremor hits southern Iran:** An earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale jolted an area of southern Iran near Bandar Abbas, at the mouth of the Gulf, the official Iranian News Agency said yesterday. Reuter reports from Nicosia.

It said the quake struck at 5:38 pm on Friday but that it was not yet possible to say what casualties or damage may have been sustained.

The Geophysics Institute of Tehran University monitored the tremor. At Bandar Abbas, which guards the Strait of Hormuz, Iran is building an aluminium smelter that is supposed to start up early next year and an oil refinery that is due to be finished in two years.

### Rebels kill 63 in Sierra Leone:

Rebels killed 63 people, most of them women and children, in two towns in the Pujehun district of Sierra Leone, a government official said Friday, AP reports from Freetown.

Among those slain the Telu and Jaima Bonor chiefsdoms Thursday were police, development workers and retired Capt Hinga Normane, the acting paramount chief, according to Capt. Idriss Kamara, military governor of the southern region.

On Wednesday, rebels of the Revolutionary United Front killed 58 civilians and two soldiers in a night attack on the small town of Teh, seven miles from Bo town in the southern region, military sources in Freetown said.

### Brazilian blast death toll 30:

A fireworks stall exploded Friday at a crowded outdoor antique market in southeastern Brazil, killing as many as 30 people and injuring more than 40, fire officials said, AP reports from Rio De Janeiro.

The blasts knocked down a concrete wall around the market square and set buildings on fire in downtown Vitoria, said fire Lt Edmilton Rabero Aguiar Jr.

Passing cars flipped over, trees were flattened, and flaming debris and tin roofs flew through the air, he said by telephone. The market was jammed with about 250 late morning shoppers.

## Senate body okays 11 ambassadors

WASHINGTON, July 2: The Senate Foreign Relations Committee on June 29 approved by voice vote and sent to the full Senate for confirmation the following ambassadorial nominations:

Mary Ann Casey to Tunisia; Raymond Mabus to Saudi Arabia; Ronald Neumann to Algeria; David Ransom to Bahrain; Elizabeth Bagley to Portugal; Clay Constantino to Luxembourg; Joseph Lake to Albania; Brian Dognelly to Trinidad and Tobago and George Bruno to Belize, reports USIS.

In addition, the committee approved Thomas Graham to be special representative of the president for arms control with the US Arms Control and Disarmament Agency (ACDA) with the rank of ambassador, and James Sweeney to be a

special representative of the president for ACDA with the rank of ambassador.

In other action, the committee approved a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate concerning the fifth year of imprisonment of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the daughter of Myanmar's founding father and the most prominent figure in the pro-democracy movement there. She has been under house arrest since 1989.

The resolution, offered by Democratic Senator Daniel Moynihan, says the US government should "seek the immediate release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners in Myanmar and allow them to participate fully in the Myanmar's political process."

### Bombay Samachar celebrates 173rd anniversary

NEW DELHI, July 2: Asia's oldest newspaper, published in the Gujarati language from the western city of Bombay celebrated its 173rd anniversary yesterday, the Press Trust of India (PTI), said, reports AFP.

Bombay Samachar (Bombay News), founded by an Indian compatriot named Fardoonji Marzban, entered its 173rd year of publication amid plaudits for its financial reporting, the news agency said.

Described as the world's fourth oldest newspaper, Bombay Samachar has catered to the Gujarati trading community in India's financial heart since 1821 with shipping and business news.

It also covered China trade and optimum prices in Canton, a major market for the British East India Company.

PARIS, July 2: "C'est officiel." It's official. No longer can advertisers, schools and government offices in France use English words such as "bulletin," "software," "chewing gum" and "marketing," reports AP.

The French National Assembly adopted early Friday the controversial law requiring French, instead of English and other foreign loan words, in advertising, academia, and government and corporate documents.

"Hamburger" is in, but "cheeseburger" is out, and the McDonalds and Burger King fast-food chains will have to find a new word for their beef sandwich with "fromage."

Construction workers will clear roads with "bouteurs," computer users will load "logiciels," kids will pop "gomme a macher" into their mouths and product planners will study "mercatique."

## N Yemeni troops rocket Aden airport

ADEN, Yemen, July 2: Northern Yemeni troops besieging Aden pounded the city's airport with intense rocket fire early today, setting hangars ablaze, reports AFP.

Volley of Katyusha rockets slammed into the airport, in northern Aden, and some also hit a residential area nearby.

No immediate casualty toll was available.

Meanwhile, northern and southern troops fought with artillery, anti-tank rockets and small arms on the frontline on the edge of Aden's suburbs.

The Red Cross in Aden warned today that the port city was suffering an acute shortage of water.

"The situation will become untenable in 48 hours if the

population of Aden remains short of drinking water," said Stephen Tannock, a sanitation expert with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Heavy fighting prevented the ICRC from crossing the frontline Friday to repair the water pumping station at Bir Nasser, 15 kilometres north of Aden.

The pumping station, which supplies water to the city's 500,000 inhabitants, was damaged on Tuesday.

Tannock said 44 artesian wells being used by the inhabitants were "not sufficient for the whole population of Aden — there is not enough water."

War broke out between northern forces loyal to

President Ali Abdallah Saleh and those of his southern rival Ali Salem al-Baid on May 5.

Seventeen civilians were killed and 87 wounded Friday in northern bombardments of Aden, hospital workers said.

Twenty children were among the wounded, workers at the city's main Al-Jumburiya Hospital said.

The city's northern suburbs of Dar Saad and Mansuran on the frontline were the worst hit by northern shells and rockets.

Meanwhile, Southern leaders made an urgent appeal Friday to the international community to help save the besieged city of Aden, which they said was "on fire."

The "presidential council"

## Israel ready to talk extension of self-rule

TEL AVIV, July 2: Israeli leaders said Friday they were ready to begin negotiations with the PLO on extending Palestinian self-rule throughout the West Bank, an official here said, reports AFP.

Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) began preparatory talks Tuesday at Erez, on the edge of the Gaza Strip, ahead of negotiations on the next stage of autonomy which was launched by the Cairo accord on May 4.

But the two sides have not yet discussed extending self-rule from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho to the rest of the occupied West Bank.

Israeli military and government leaders told Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin during a meeting that talks could start on widening autonomy, the official said.

of the breakaway Yemen Democratic Republic (YDR) said in a televised statement: "Suburbs of Aden, including Omar al-Mokhtar, Al-Mansura and Dar Saad, are on fire and the entire world does nothing more than call on the two parties for a ceasefire."

"We call on the world to arrest and judge for war crimes the Sanaa leaders, who claim to accept the ceasefire while violating international standards."

An earlier report said: Four civilians were killed and 12 wounded late Friday when a shell fired by northern Yemeni troops exploded in a school in the besieged southern city of Aden, an AFP correspondent reported.

## Iran expels German

NICOSIA, July 2: Iran has expelled a German whom it had pardoned after convicting him of spying, the official Iranian News Agency (IRNA) said today, Germany had said his pardon removed a problem in relations between the two nations, reports Reuter.

"Helmut Szimkus, the German national who was convicted of espionage activities against Iran was pardoned and immediately expelled from the country Friday night," IRNA said.

Szimkus, an expert in heavy machinery, was arrested in 1989 and sentenced to death by an Iranian revolutionary court last year on charges of spying for Iraq during its 1980-88 war with Iran.

His pardon was announced in Tehran and Bonn on June 14, with Iran saying it hoped for a new chapter in ties with Germany.

## France introduces French-only language law

The legislation was introduced by Culture Minister Jacques Toubon after Conservatives won an overwhelming majority in parliament in March 1993.

Numerous government campaigns in the past have urged the public and private sectors to avoid words, such as "snack bar," "weekend" or "jogging." Toubon's aim is to codify limitations on such terms and introduce penalties for letting them through.

The National Assembly passed the law easily as the Conservative government has an overwhelming majority in the legislative body.

The ally for the Republic and Union for French Democracy which dominate the Conservative assembly voted for the law, with the Socialists

abstaining and Communists boycotting the vote.

The law says ads may not be produced only in a foreign language but must be accompanied by French translation. Manufacturers cannot sell goods without instructions in French, and broadcasters must not use English on television and radio when French equivalents exist.

A "dictionary of official terms" was published in March with 3,500 French words for business, science and the media that must be used instead of foreign equivalents, mostly from English.

Under the new law French must also be used in classrooms and exams. Work contracts and corporate regulations must be done in French when they concern French

workers.

The law also requires conference organisers to provide resumes in French of speeches presented in other languages.

One British lawmaker said he would introduce a bill to ban French words such as "laissez-faire" and "ambiance" from the English language.

Even among the French, Toubon has become known to some as "Monsieur Allgood," a play on his name which sounds like "tout bon," or "all good."

Toubon calls the law "an investment in the future."

But the legislation has triggered widespread concerns such as that voiced Friday by the French Academy of Sciences, which noted it would be impossible to provide translations of all scientific and technological work, and risked

"gravely compromising the spread of French science throughout the world."

Others say it is impossible to purge a language's use. Socialist lawmaker Francois Autin noted that in France's 1789 Declaration of Human Rights stated that "None shall have the power to dictate to others the forms in which they must speak, write or publish."

Fellow Socialist Assemblywoman Francoise Seligmann accused Toubon of "building a kind of Maginot line of language."

Communist lawmakers issued a statement urging reflection "on why French is fading in scientific use," a trend that cannot be fought "by simple directives and repressive measures."

A Louis Harris poll pub-

## Off the Record

### Brezhnev's daughter to marry for the fourth time

MOSCOW: Galina Brezhnev, aged 64 and only daughter of the late Soviet leader, is to marry a man of 29, the daily Komsomolskaya Pravda reported Friday, says AFP.

Galina's choice is a young man from the provinces who runs a small business in Moscow, said the popular Moscow daily citing reliable sources.

The newspaper said Galina is presently undergoing treatment for alcoholism in a Moscow hospital, where a bed is reserved permanently for her.

The Russian press has covered the scandals caused by Leonid Brezhnev's daughter since the times she used to get drunk in the communist leaders' private parties.

Galina's previous three marriages included one to an ex-Soviet official, Yuri Churbanov, who was jailed for corruption.

### Real life spiderman flees jail

CHARLESTON: Robert Shepard didn't need a file baked in a cake to get out of jail. Dental floss worked just fine, reports AP.

While cameras, guards and computer-controlled doors were keeping other inmates in, Shepard braided the floss into a rope as thick as a telephone cord and used it to scale an 18-foot (5.4-meter) wall.

Now, townspeople are talking of Shepard as a real-life Spiderman — the comic-book hero who spins his web and hangs from ceilings — and dreaming up 1,001 new uses for floss.

"I just wonder how he got a hold of so much dental floss," said Mike Reiser, who lives near the South Central Regional Jail in South Charleston. "What did this guy do? Walk around with stuff in his mouth all the time?"

Shepard escaped from the recreation yard, which is topped by a chain-link fence.

The inmate apparently attached a weight to his waxed and minty-fresh cord and hurled it upward to loop it through the fence. He then apparently used it to help him climb the cinder block wall, and hung from the cord while he cut through the fence with a 3-inch (7.6-cm) piece of hacksaw blade.

Shepard, 34, remained at large Friday, two days after the breakout. He had been awaiting trial on charges of robbing a post office, and his record includes convictions for manslaughter and armed robbery.

### First example of printing sold for 3.2m pounds

LONDON: One of the finest collections of incunabula — books printed before 1500 — including the first example of printing in Vienna, sold at Sotheby's London for 3.2 million pounds (4.8 million dollars) Friday, reports AFP.

The 400 books were from the library at Donaueschingen, home of the Furstenberg family, southern Germany.

Four were inscribed by Count Wolfgang, the founder of the house, and of the court library.

Perhaps the rarest offering was a broadside printed in Vienna in 1461 giving the most suitable days in the year for medicinal blood-letting. It is the first known example of printing in Vienna, and sold for just below forecast at 221,500 pounds (332,250 US dollars) to a New York dealer.



Former First Lady Imelda Marcos acknowledges cheers from supporters yesterday as she celebrated her 65th birthday with a visit to Manila's slum district of Tondo which is being transformed into a model housing community. Imelda Marcos has taken a low profile lately. — AFP photo

## US, Vietnam try to resolve MIA issue

HANOI, July 2: Vietnamese and US officials met today to try to resolve the issue of American servicemen listed as missing in action (MIA) in the Vietnam War, the main stumbling block to normalising diplomatic relations, reports Reuter.

The US delegation, led by war veteran Hershel Gober of the Department of Veterans Affairs and Winston Lord, Assistant Secretary of State for Asia Pacific Affairs, met with Vietnam's Deputy Foreign Minister, Le Mai.

Representatives of the families of those still unaccounted for and leaders of six US veterans groups were also present.

Disabled American veterans' representative Richard Schultz, who lost both legs to a

landmine in southern Vietnam in 1968, said his 1.2 million members would not be satisfied until the fullest possible accounting of MIAs was achieved.

"I think there is more that they (the Vietnamese) can do and that is why we are here," said Schultz, on his first trip back to Vietnam since he was airlifted home at the age of 22.

Resolving the fate of 2,231 US servicemen whose remains have never been found is the main hurdle to normalisation of relations between Vietnam and the United States.

Clinton lifted a trade embargo against Vietnam in February and both sides agreed to open diplomatic liaison offices in each other's capital soon.

### Kohl to press Major to accept Dehaene as EC chief

LUXEMBOURG, July 2: German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will bring heavy pressure next week on British Prime Minister John Major to accept Jean-Luc Dehaene as the next head of the European Commission, the German and Luxembourg Foreign Ministers said here after talks Friday, reports AFP.

Major vetoed Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, at last month's Corfu summit of the European Union, saying he would never accept him because of his federalist views.

Kohl, whose country took over the rotating EU presidency Friday from Greece, has called a special summit in Brussels for July 15 to resolve the matter.