

BRIEFLY

Pakistan detains 19 Arabs: Pakistani police have detained 19 Arabs in the latest crackdown on unauthorised aliens living in the northwest, amid complaints that Arabs who fought in Afghanistan have been involved in Middle East terrorism. AFP reports from Peshawar.

Police rounded up 19 Arabs, including Egyptians and Moroccans, in three days, officials said on Wednesday. Pakistani authorities periodically launch sweeps to pick up Arab veterans of the Afghanistan war who are living in the North West Frontier Province, they said.

Quake rocks Myanmar: Hong Kong's Royal Observatory said it had recorded an earthquake in northwest Myanmar on Wednesday night. Reuter reports from Hong Kong.

The magnitude was estimated at 5.6 on the Richter scale and the epicentre was about 220 km (136 miles) southwest of Mandalay. It was recorded at 9.34 pm Myanmar Time (1504 GMT).

2 men to die in Sudan: A Sudanese court sentenced two men to death on Wednesday on charges of killing 16 Muslim worshippers in an attack on a mosque last February. AP reports from Khartoum.

Civil Court Judge Abdul-Rahaman Sharif read that verdicts of guilty and a court order sentencing Mohamed al-Khilaifi, a Libyan, and Mohamed Ahmed, a Sudanese, to death by hanging. The execution date was not set.

Anti-govt riots in Iran: Iran's main opposition group said on Wednesday that violent anti-government riots had erupted in a northwestern Iranian city over worsening economic and social conditions. AP reports from Nicosia.

A spokesman for the Iraq-based Mujahideen Khalq said "large crowds" poured into the streets of Qazvin, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) northwest of Tehran, and began chanting anti-government slogans on Wednesday.

Russian actor Smoktunovsky dies: Innocent Smoktunovsky, one of the most well-known and widely-admired stage and screen actors of the post-war period in the former Soviet Union, died on Wednesday near Moscow at the age of 70. Itar-Tass said, AFP reports from Moscow.

He began his career in Siberia before moving in 1957 to the stage in the northern Russian city formerly known as Leningrad — now St Petersburg.

US executes 3 killers: The first of three killers scheduled for execution on Wednesday night was put to death after declining to make a final statement. The other two men were expected to follow him within hours. AP reports from Varner, Arkansas.

Holmes, 37; Cline, 37; and Darryl Richley, 43, were scheduled to die one by one for killing a businessman in front of his family during a 1981 robbery. The three convicts were the first scheduled triple execution in the United States in 32 years.

Norway frees Greenpeace ships: Two Greenpeace vessels confiscated by Norwegian authorities last month for interfering with a whale hunt have been released and are free to leave Norway, police said on Wednesday. AFP reports from Stavanger.

The Sirius and Solo were seized on July 20 and July 23 respectively and towed into the port of Egersund, 300 kilometers (180 miles) southwest of Oslo, after they illegally tried to interfere with a whale hunt.

3 terrorists killed in Istanbul: Police killed three leftist guerrillas during a raid on an apartment on the outskirts of Istanbul on Thursday, the Anatolia news agency reported. AP says from Istanbul.

Insurgents opened fire when the security forces used loudspeakers to call for their surrender.

The dispatch said a civilian passerby was slightly injured during the shoot-out.

The terrorists shouted slogans in support of the leftist group Dev-Sol during the operation, journalists at the scene told The Associated Press.

Storm claims 5 in Taiwan: Tropical Storm Caitlin battered Taiwan on Wednesday night, leaving five people dead and three missing in the south of the island, police said on Thursday. AP reports from Taipei.

The Central Weather Bureau said the storm lashed Taiwan with sustained winds of 90 kilometers per hour (55.8 mph). It was 140 kilometers (86.8 miles) northwest of the Pescadore Islands on Thursday morning, moving toward Fuzhou in southern China with sustained winds of 72 kilometers per hour (44.6 mph).

Police said two men died trapped in their car in floods, a man and a woman, drowned, and a man was electrocuted while operating a water pump.

5 Tibetans get 15 yrs jail: Five Tibetan activists seeking independence for their homeland have been sentenced to jail terms of up to 15 years, Amnesty International reported on Thursday. AP says from Beijing.

Amnesty said the five had smashed a government building sign and posted pro-independence slogans in March. They were convicted of anti-government crimes. Word of the harsh sentences comes after a nationwide conference last month attended by top Chinese leaders reaffirmed Beijing's determination to "stamp out separatist movements."

US fire likely to continue: Wildfires raging across eight western US states are expected to continue to pose a threat to the region throughout August and September, firefighters said on Wednesday. AFP reports from Leavenworth.

More than 15,200 civilian firefighters backed by US Marines and soldiers were battling 26 major fires burning more than 204,000 acres (82,000 hectares) the National Interagency Fire Centre in Idaho said.

6 die in Canadian plane crash: A small plane crashed into a hill near Quebec City on Wednesday night, killing at least six people, a provincial police officer said. Reuter reports from Montreal.

"Six bodies have been found," Surete du Quebec supervisor Jacques Toulouse said from Quebec City. "We must still investigate... but we hope that is all."

Rwanda to try 30,000 people for genocide

PARIS, Aug. 4: Rwanda wants to try more than 30,000 people for genocide under its own laws because an international tribunal would take too long, Rwanda's new premier said in an interview published on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

"Our law covers this type of crime, and we cannot wait for the creation of an international court which could take three years," Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu told the French daily Le Monde.

An estimated half a million Rwandans, most of them Tutsis, were slaughtered following the April 6 assassination of President Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu.

Top experts gather to discuss AIDS from Asian point of view

YOHAMA, Japan, Aug. 4: The world's leading AIDS experts gathered Sunday for their first conference in Asia, where the disease is spreading fastest, to assess the global campaign against the pandemic, reports AP.

Participants say hopes of good news are modest at best. With no breakthroughs expected in the development of treatments or vaccines, this conference is likely to emphasize the only real weapon against the disease — keeping people from catching it.

Numerous smaller AIDS gatherings take place throughout the year. But the biggest and certainly the most watched is this, the 10th International Conference on AIDS. About 10,000 people are

Congress disapproves US invasion of Haiti

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4: The Senate unanimously approved a pointed statement to President Clinton on Wednesday that Congress has not approved an invasion of Haiti, reports Reuter.

It passed by 100-0 a non-binding "sense of the Senate" resolution stating that UN approval last Sunday of the use of all necessary means to oust Haiti's military leaders does not constitute approval by the US Congress of an invasion.

The resolution was proposed by senate Republican leader Bob Dole who accused Clinton of seeking UN approval of a Haiti invasion but rejecting calls for prior approval by Congress. "There should be no

mistake — the UN action on Sunday does not give the president legal authority to invade Haiti," Dole said.

Several senators said they opposed restricting Clinton's power to invade Haiti if that becomes necessary but said they supported Dole's amendment because it only states the obvious. UN approval of a Haiti invasion is not Congress's approval.

Senator Claiborne Pell, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a Rhode Island Democrat, noted that the senate has already approved resolutions stating that any US invasion should have the advance ap-

proval of Congress.

Meanwhile, President Clinton on Wednesday night said it was "premature" to consider seeking congressional approval for a US-led invasion of Haiti but did not rule out seeking such backing.

"I would welcome the support of the Congress and I hope that I will have it," Clinton said in response to a question at a nationally televised news conference.

The UN Security Council on Sunday voted to authorise a US-led invasion of Haiti of the military leaders, there refused to restore exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power, some members of Congress have asked for their

approval before ordering such military action.

"Like my predecessors in both parties, I have not agreed that I was constitutionally mandated to get it," Clinton said.

"But at this moment, I think we have done all we need to do."

As for seeking congressional approval, Clinton said, "I don't want to cross that bridge until we come to it."

"We have kept force on the table. We have continued to move it up as an option as the dangers there have been more obstinate, but it is premature in my judgement to go beyond that now," he said.

Rabbani's forces kill 700 militias in Doshi

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 4: Forces loyal to Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani killed 700 opposing militiamen in two weeks of fighting in the town of Doshi, in Baghlan Province, official Kabul Radio said on Wednesday, reports Reuter.

The broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, said thousands of militiamen of northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum entered Baghlan Province in northeast Afghanistan two weeks ago to attack the president's forces.

In Doshi Dostum has lost 700 militiamen so far, the radio said fighting is continuing. The Islamic forces are defending their positions and have not yet started their attack.

No independent confirmation of the battle was available.

Palestinian minister visits Jerusalem secretly

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4: The Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo made a secret visit to east Jerusalem on Wednesday without informing Israeli authorities, Israeli television said, reports AP.

Rabbo stopped over in the eastern part of the city captured by Israel from Jordanian rule in the 1967 Middle East war on his way to the self-rule enclave of Jericho, it said.

Abed Rabbo moved to the autonomous Gaza Strip in July to take up his duties in line with the May 4 Israel-PLO autonomy accord.

Meanwhile, Social Affairs Minister Juntissar Al-Wazir, known as Oum Jihad, chaired a conference of Palestinian women in a hotel in east Jerusalem, an AFP correspondent reported.

Israel has opposed any visit to Jerusalem by the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, although it has said he has the right "in principle" to visit the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam after Mecca and Medina.

ROK police launch anti-leftist campaign

SEOUL, Aug. 4: South Korean riot police, in a country-wide anti-leftist campaign, raided provincial universities today, as police in Seoul arrested leaders of what they called an underground pro-North Korean group, reports Reuter.

Hundreds of riot police searched Chosun University in the southwestern city of Kwangju and nearby Mokpo University in separate pre-dawn raids, a local police spokesman said.

They failed to find the student leaders they were looking for



Chiao-Jen-Ho (L) vice-chairman and secretary general of Taiwan's semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation, shakes hands with Tang Shubei, his counterpart from China's Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, before opening high-level talks in Taipei yesterday. Tang is the highest-ranking Chinese official to visit this nationalist island since the two sides were separated by a civil war ending in 1949. — AFP photo

King Hussein pilots into Israeli airspace

HERZLIYA, Israel, Aug. 4: Jordan's King Hussein on Wednesday flew his plane over Israel for the first time as soldiers on the ground breached the border following the end of 46 years of war between the two states, reports AFP.

King Hussein piloted the plane into Israeli airspace at 5,400 km (14,000 ft) for 25 minutes and circled above Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, accompanied by three Israeli F-15 aircraft.

Air traffic was suspended for the duration of Hussein's flight.

"Your majesty, welcome to Israel, even though from the air," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said in a radio message from the Giloit air base, at Herzliya north of Tel Aviv.

Rabin told the king that the Israeli parliament on Wednesday had overwhelmingly approved the declaration the two men signed on July 25 in Washington ending 46 years of war between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Israel and

Jordan for the first time smashed a hole in their barbed wire border fence to allow foreigners to travel to Red Sea.



tourist resorts on both sides for the first time in 45 years.

The declaration calls for a road linking Agaba and Eilat. Hussein answered Rabin using the Hebrew greeting, shalom, or peace.

"It is wonderful to hear you, I am very, very happy indeed to learn from you that the Washington declaration has been approved."

"I thank you so much for the wonderful welcome, shalom," he said.

In their radio conversation, Hussein described Tel Aviv as a "beautiful city."

Rabin pointed out changes in Jerusalem: "I hope... you will see the tremendous development of this city, a lot of work has been done and let's hope that the city will be the city of peace for the future of all the peoples in the region."

Hussein replied: "We will do everything we can in our region."

Jerusalem remains a thorny subject, with both Israel and the Palestinians claiming rights over it. And the Israeli Jordanian declaration has angered Palestinians by granting Jordan a role in the future of Jerusalem.

The Israeli parliament also adopted a resolution on Wednesday reaffirming Jerusalem's status as the "eternal capital" of Israel.

Before flying out, Hussein thanked Rabin again, and the pilots of the Israeli planes escorting him.

US-DPRK resume N-talks today

GENEVA, Aug. 4: Robert Gallucci, the US chief negotiator, arrived here today to resume talks with North Korea on nuclear issues Friday after a four-week break due to the death of North Korean leader Kim Il Sung, reports AP.

The North Korean delegation led by Deputy Premier Kang Sok Ju arrived Wednesday night in Geneva.

The assistant secretary of state, who has said the United States is seeking "an overall settlement" with Pyongyang on nuclear inspections and other political and economic issues, told journalists at the airport he was "looking forward to the

resumption of the talks with the DPRK."

"I hope that we will be able to pick up where we left off" when the talks broke up on July 8, and to resume in the same way "we were proceeding in a professional and businesslike way."

According to the American mission in Geneva, where the first day of negotiations will start on at 0800 GMT Friday morning, the only press briefing will be held there in the evening at the end of the first session.

A second day of talks will take place Saturday at the North Korean mission in a

beautiful setting overlooking Lake Geneva, before a probable suspension of negotiations for a couple of days.

President Bill Clinton said Wednesday the United States would know if North Korea violated its pledge to freeze its nuclear programme during this third round of high-level talks.

The agreement made in June by late President Kim Il Sung with former US President Jimmy Carter on freezing the refuelling of its nuclear plant and reprocessing plutonium "is still holding," he said.

Bosnian Serbs denounce int'l peace plan

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Aug. 4: Bosnian Serb leaders denounced an international peace plan in their harshest terms yet, defying their patrons in Serbia, reports AP.

A self-described Bosnian Serb assembly followed the leaders' recommendation Wednesday and voted unanimously to put the plan before Bosnian Serbs in a referendum August 27-28, a tactic decried by Serbia as a ruse to buy time.

The assembly had rejected the plan twice before.

UN officials, meanwhile, reported a surge in fighting in northern and northeastern Bosnia and the highest level of cease-fire violations in Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, since spring.

Serb leaders said the plan was an attempt to get Serbs "to sign their own death warrant."

"Acceptance of such a thing would represent a masochistic crime at which the devil would laugh," they said in a statement issued by the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA from the Serb stronghold of Pale, just east of Sarajevo.

Proposed by the United States, Russia, Germany, France and Britain, the plan requires the Serbs to give up about one-third of the territory they have taken in Bosnia, leaving them 49 per cent of the country.

A federation of Bosnian Muslims and Croats, which has accepted the plan, would get the remainder.

The Bosnian Serb assembly took up the plan for a third time only under heavy pressure from Serbia and Russia, a traditional Serb ally.

Pakistan to partially shut border with Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 4: Pakistan said on Wednesday it would partially shut its southwestern border with Afghanistan to stop the entry of Afghan refugees expelled by Iran, reports Reuter.

Interior Minister Nasseerullah Babar told parliament a small number of such Afghans had entered the southwestern province of Baluchistan but were arrested and deported to Iran.

The Chaman border of the area is being closed to stop the migration of Afghan refugees from Iran, the PPI news agency quoted Babar as saying in a statement to the Senate (Upper House).

Earlier, a senator from Baluchistan, Abdul Haye, said Afghan refugees were responsible for a spread of illegal arms and narcotics in his province and for kidnappings for ransom.

An Afghan guerilla commander released seven Pakistani officials and two Chinese engineers from captivity on July 22 after his men had kidnapped them from Baluchistan during the previous 13 months.

Pakistan played host to more than three million Afghan refugees during 14 years of civil war in Afghanistan, more than a million of them are still living in Pakistan.

Senator Haye said that while the Afghan civil war had ended, Islamabad should decide to oust all the Afghans from Pakistan as has been decided by the government of Iran.

Babar said Islamabad had decided to cancel all identity cards issued by the government since January 1980 and re-issue them only to Pakistani national after thorough checks.

Off the Record

"My dogs are my sanity"

WATERBORO, Maine: In all ways but one, Jake and Tibear are typical mutts, part black Lab, part rottweiler. Theirs are the usual canine passions: dirt, water, bones, birds and squirrels, reports AP.

Periodically, though, the dogs focus shifts from their bones and balls to their master, John Caron, who's learned to translate Tibear's urgent yelps and Jake's anxious stares into a warning: "Shut up and sit down."

It's an order Caron tends to obey. Invariably, five or 10 minutes later, he suffers a seizure so violent and disorienting, he'd come to feeling panicky and confused if not for the familiar, soothing sensation of a dog licking his face.

For Caron, whose seizures are not suppressed by the medication he takes for temporal lobe epilepsy, "My dogs are my sanity."

He's not alone. In the world of epilepsy, a world of waking nightmares and broken bones, dark depression and deep despair, deliverance sometimes comes on four legs, with hot breath and a cold nose. For reasons no human has explained, some dogs seem able to sense seizures in people before they occur.

There is, as yet, no scientific evidence to support such claims, even though they have been surfacing for a decade. Neurologists and others say they worry that the accounts, though widespread, could give people false hope.

7 hrs bypass operation on a conscious man

LONDON: A man who remained conscious during a seven-hour heart bypass operation was on Wednesday awarded compensation of 9,000 pounds (13,820 dollars), reports Reuter.

Norman Dalton, 55, received the money from the royal infirmary in Leeds, northern England, where he underwent the operation in 1990.

He said: "I tried somehow to signal that I was not properly sedated, but I was quite powerless and absolutely terrified. I could feel every cut and saw the doctors made."

Dalton said he was unable to return to his work as an electrician because he was now petrified of any power tool whose sound or vibration reminded him of the operating table.

The miracle foot

JAIPUR: For most people the name of this industrial capital of India's desert state of Rajasthan does not ring any bells. But for thousands of victims of wars across the world this city of exquisite sandstone palaces is now renewed for its most famous export—the Jaipur foot, reports IPS.

This is all thanks to a Jaipur doctor who has helped amputees from the killing fields of Cambodia, Afghanistan, Somalia, El Salvador, Angola, Sri Lanka and Honduras literally get back on their feet.

Dr P K Sethi has lived all his life in Jaipur, 250 km west of New Delhi, and is the designer of the Jaipur limb and Jaipur foot — cheap and durable artificial limbs designed for amputees many of them children, in third world wars.

According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) wars in the developing world have in the last decade alone killed an estimated 1.5 children, and disabled, maimed, blinded and brain-damaged a further four million.

6 Kurd lawmakers on trial in Turkey

ANKARA, Aug. 4: Turkey put six Kurd lawmakers on trial Wednesday on charges of separatism and threatening state security, as it reported killing 150 rebels in air raids, reports AP.

The court rejected an appeal from a defence lawyers that the case be dismissed because it violated "the constitution and all international laws."

The six, on trial in the State Security Court, have been under arrest since their parliamentary immunity was lifted in March, and face possible death sentences.

There was heavy security at the court and police dispersed a crowd of several hundred supporters who had gathered outside for the arrival of the defendants.