### Benazir to visit Gulf Arab states: Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will tour Gulf Arab states this month for talks on bilateral economic cooperation and international issues, official said today. AFP reports from

Islamabad Bhutto, who visited Saudi Arabia and met King Fahd this week, will leave for Qatar on August 16, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

25 executed in China in a day: Twenty-five criminals were executed in three Chinese cities in a single day, according to official newspaper reports Wednesday. AP reports from Beijing.

In the southern city of Guangzhou, 15 thieves and murderers were executed Tuesday. Executions in China are by a bullet to the back of the head.

### Kurdish rebels capture 4 Finns:

Kurdish separatists said they were holding two Finnish tourists, missing since the weekend, for travelling without permission in a region claimed by the rebels, the pro-Kurdish newspaper Ozgur Ulke said yesterday. Reuter reports from Ankara.

### Russian officer slain in Dushanbe: A Russian army officer teaching in the military faculty of

Dushanbe University, Tajikistan, was murdered Tuesday, bringing to eight the number of Russian officers killed by the Islamic opposition there since May, Itar-Tass said, reports AFP from Moscow.

Lieutenant-Colonel Vladimir Kotsar, 44, was shot dead while he was walking his dog in a suburb of Dushanbe, the news agency said.

VOA broadcasts on computer: The Voice of America's news and regional reports in 15 languages will be available on a global computer network beginning August 15, a senior official announced Tuesday, AP reports from Washington.

Joseph B Bruns, acting director of broadcasting for the US government-funded service, said this will be the first time an international broadcaster offers a full service on Internet computer system.

### Mock air raids on S Lebanon: Israeli warplanes staged mock air raids over South Lebanon today, drawing Lebanese army anti-aircraft fire, security sources said. Reuter reports from Sidon.

They said none of the planes flying low over Iglim al-Toufah ridge and areas to the east of the Port of Sidon, 40 kms (25 miles) south of Beirut, were hit.

### 50 US Marines to stay in Somalia: Fifty US Marine guards will remain in Mogadishu to protect American government personnel instead of being withdrawn from Somalia next week as planned, the defence department said Tuesday, reports Reuter from Washington.

Pentagon spokesman Dennis Boxx told reporters decision was reached in talks between Defence Secretary William Perry and Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the continuing unrest in Somalia's capital.

### Quake jolts southern Iran: A moderate earthquake shook Iran's southern province of Hormzgan Wednesday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage, AP reports from Nicosia.

The Islamic Republic News Agency said the tremor occurred at 6:53 am (0323 GMT), registering a preliminary magnitude of 4.6, according to Tehran University's geophysics institute.

### US, UK to develop military jet: The United States and Britain Tuesday agreed to continue cooperation on possible development of a common lightweight fighter jet which could be modified for use by both naval and land-based forces, Reuter reports from Washington.

The joint effort by the Pentagon and British Defence Ministry is to develop a modular aircraft design with variants for a vertical and short take off jet for navy and marine forces from alreraft carriers and a conventional take off jet for land forces.

#### Volcanic eruptions rock Bali: Eruptions of a volcano that have rocked Bali since Saturday are expected to intensify, officials said Wednesday, reports AP from Jakarta.

But officials said there is no need to evacuate citizens or tourists from the area around Mount Batur.

"It erupts with an average of four explosions a minute, spewing ash as high as 200 meters (537 feet)," said

Suratman, deputy director of volcanology. None of the ash has been flung out of the crater, he said.

#### Egypt eases sentences on 3: An Egyptian appeal court on Tuesday softened sentences imposed on three men convicted of libelling\*the Grand Mufti, Egypt's highest religious authority, court sources said. Reuter reports from Cairo.

The three - Shaaban Ismail of Al-Azhar University in Cairo, Ali Al-Salous of Qatar University and Ali Farouk Ali Hassan, Editor-in-chief of the defunct fundamentalist newspaper Al-Nour - had their six-month jail sentences cut to six months suspended after they apologised to the Mufti.

#### Floods claim 27 in Niger: Floods triggered by torrential rains in normally bone-dry Niger have killed 27 people and left another 20,000 homeless over the past two weeks, the government said Tuesday, reports AFP from Niamey.

Jericho mayor resigns: The mayor of Palestinian-ruled Jericho has submitted his resignation to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, Palestinian sources said yesterday, Reuter reports from Jericho.

Mayor Jamil Sabri Khalaf cited health reasons for the resignation, they said. But sources close to Khalaf said the step was a result of Arafat's firing last week of a Palestinian police commander who had filled a central role in administering the

### Typhoon Doug reaches S Korea: Typhoon Doug weakened into a tropical storm Wednesday as

it approached South Korea, but still managed to dump heavy rains and cause considerable damage, reports AP from Seoul. No deaths were reported in South Korea, with hundreds of thousands of vacationers evacuated to safety well ahead of the typhoon.

Souther regions received up to 17 centimeters of rain. and as many as 15 more centimeters were expected by Friday morning, weather officials said.

# Hindus begin pilgrimage despite threats from Kashmiri rebels

Ignoring a death threat from Islamic militants, hundreds of Hindus began a pilgrimage Wednesday to a cave in the mountains of Kashmir to wor-

To protect the pilgrims and prevent attacks that could spark Hindu-Muslim riots in India, thousands of soldiers have been deployed to travel with the pilgrims or guard their routes

pilgrims shouted as their ten chartered buses and nine taxis in a convoy escorted by vehicles carrying policemen and

Every year, tens of thousands of Hindus drive to Pahalgam, a tourist area in Kashmir. From there, they hike or ride ponies 30 miles [49 kilometres] up a 13,000foot (4,000-metre) mountain where an ancient Lord Shiva shrine sits inside an icv cave.

But this is the first year that one of the militant groups in Kashmir has threatened to kill the Hindu pilgrims since the than four years ago.

The threat was made last month by Harkat al-Ansar, a pro-Pakistani rebel group that kidnapped two British tourists in the same area in July and held them for two weeks in an effort to discourage tourists from visiting Jammu-Kashnfir state.

Other militant groups fighting in Jammu-Kashmir, the only state in mostly Hindu India with a Muslim majority, have urged Harkat al-Ansar to lift its death threat against the

That should happen, they say, because India recently met the group's primary demand by removing military bunkers from H z atbal shrine, the biggest Muslim religious site in Kashmir.

to lift the threat, saying India also must reopen Muslim mosques that have been closed or damaged in Srinagar and Jammu, the state's summer

The military commander of the operation, Kunnath Natrajan Menon of the Border Security Force, said Tuesday that Harkat al-Ansar has 150 men armed with machine guns and mortars operating on hilltops from Pahalgam to the cave. But he predicted that his 5,000 soldiers would keep them out of range of the pilgrims.

"My men are ready to defy

In addition to protecting pilgrimage.

### Al Argam chief plans to return home soon

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 10: The leader of a banned Islamic sect who went into self-imposed exile in Jordan plans to return to Malaysia soon, a newspaper reported on Wednesday, says AP.

The announcement by Al Argam Chief Ashaari Muhammad appeared to be an attempt to pre-empt the government. which might try and extradite

After imposing the ban on Al Argam on Friday for allegedly spreading deviationist teachings, the government. said it is waiting for legal advise on whether to bring Ashaari to Malaysia and try

"We believe truth will always prevail and Allah will always protect us," said Ashaari, 57, in an interview with the local Star daily newspaper conducted in Jordan on Tuesday.

Ashaari went there on July 25 from Thailand, where he had been living since 1988 although he founded his group in Malaysia in 1968 and expanded it into a wide network of about 100,000 followers.

Asked if he feared being arrested under the Internal Security Act, which allows indefinite detention without trial, Ashaari said: "If we had not submitted our faith to Allah all this while, we would have been taken in by the authorities ever since we started."

Ashaari's followers in Malaysia and some other Southeast Asian countries revere him as miracle-maker, which the government says goes against the tenets of Islam.

Ashaari's claim that he has talked with Prophet Mohammed and that he himself is a messiah with divine powers prohibited chemical weapons.

was also deemed deviationist. The ban on the group has made it illegal for the group members to propagate their teachings or other Malaysians to associate with them.

All its 237 schools and a large number of social and re-

ligious institutions run by Al Argam will now be disbanded. In the Star interview. Ashaari refused to say if he had

any political ambitions. "If it (the government) is sincere (about) upholding the Islamic faith, why, don't they start correcting their own wrongdoings instead of picking on Al Argam, whose akidah

(faith), according to them, is

still questionable," he said. Although the group is nonviolent and never broke laws in the past, a senior government religious leader, Zainal Abidin Abdul Kadi, claimed in June that the sect had trained 313member suicide squad to bring down the government.

### UN arms experts resume missions in Iraq

MANAMA, Aug 10: After a brief summer lull. UN weapons inspectors have resumed their missions in Iraq to prepare for the September launch of a long-term monitoring programme of the country's arms industry, reports AP.

Cynthia Valenzuela, the Bahrain-based regional officer in charge of the inspectors, and a 12-member team of UN chemical weapons experts left early Wednesday for Baghdad. The team, led by Dutchman

Cees Wolterbeek, will spend two weeks in Iraq inspecting sites that may be used for future manufacture of the

## UN threatens NATO air strikes against Bosnian govt, Serbs

Lal Kishen Advani (2nd L) gives four jeeps and a check for one million rupees to BJP leader

Chamanlal Gupta (far L) on Tuesday in Bombay, to fight against "Pakistani agents" in

SARAJEVO, Aug 10: The United Nations has threatened to call in NATO air strikes against both Bosnian government and rebel Serb forces for fighting within Sarajevo's weapons-exclusion zone. UN officials said on Wednesday. reports Reuter.

Jammu and Kashmir.

Heavy shelling erupted at the weekend within the porthern part of the 20 kms (12 miles) zone around the capital in a Serb-Muslims battle for the Visoko Breza region, prompting a stern warning from the UN peacekeeping commander in Bosnia.

It was the first known occasion on which the Muslim led Bosnian government army has been threatened with air

time. ace April

Lieutenant-General Sir Mi- had since abated. chael Rose, the UN com-

"There has been heavy shelling at least 30 artillery rounds were recorded within the exclusion zone vesterday. the firing coming from both

strikes. NATO war planes have " he would use all necessary measures to stop it; including air power," she said. Fighting

- AFP photo

Bosnian capital, the UN said on Wednesday.

protection force spokesman, said it was not clear if the tank was Serb or Bosnian. This is the first report of an

exclusion zone violation since NATO planes destroyed a Serb armoured vehicle there last

(12 miles) exclusion zone and was moving southeast towards Sarajevo, the spokesman said.

### AI asks India to stop attacks on HR activists

NEW DELHI, Aug 10: Amnesty International urged India on Wednesday to stop police who are attacking human rights activisfs to prevent them from investigating abuses. reports AP.

The appeal came three days after a human rights activist was beaten by plainclothes policemen in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh where more than 8.000 people are in prison without trial:

The attack occurred while members of the Andhra Pradesh Civil Liberties Committee were meeting officials of the National Human Rights Commission to discuss detentions without trial and police killings of suspected terrorists.

### 'The burial party included 2,000 people, and when the funeral was completed they were all slaughtered by 800 soldiers rode back ... they were greeted outside the city and slaughtered to the last man."

Kravitz said.

in 1227.

A Japanese team, granted search rights in 1989, abandoned its quest last year after expeditions with helicopters and high-tech gear proved fruitless.

Off the Record

Search for Genghis

Khan's grave

2.800 people died to keep - the place where Genghis Khan is

Murray Kravitz, 62, has obtained rights from the govern-

At 5-foot-7 (1.7 meters) and 263 pounds (119 kilos), the

Most of what is known about Genghis Khan and his cam

paigns of plunder and conquest was written by people he

conquered from China westward to Moscow, Baghdad and be-

yond. Clues to his burial place can be found in those writings

Extreme measures were taken to keep the burial site se-

ment of Mongolia for five years to search for the tomb of the

great Mongol warrior, who died while looting north of Tibet

bearded Chicagoan is an unlikely figure to star in his own ac-

tion adventure in the mountain wilderness of Mongolia.

buried, perhaps with a cache of looted treasure, reports AP.

CHICAGO: A commodities trader thinks he knows a secret

Kravitz recently visited the region where he believes Genghis Khan is buried, to check it out. He hopes to organise an expedition by mid-1996.

### When you have six ... it's easy to lose one and forget ...

RIYADH: A two-year-old girl aroused concern and confusion after she was found crying in an airport departure area. the English-language Saudi Gazette reported Tuesday, reports

Officials at King Khaled International Airport grew increasingly anxious when no one responded to repeated announcements searching for the toddler's parents or guardian. Eventually the airport controller contacted the captain of a

Saudi fetliner that was taking off for the western city of Jeddah on Saudi Arabia's Red Sea coast, the daily said. When the pilot asked if anyone aboard had lost a child, a Saudt man jumped from his seat, the Gazette said.

It quoted him as saying he had six children and "you know that with such a number it's easy to lose one of them in a crowded place like an airport and forget about them."

The girl was flown to Jeddah on the next flight with another family and reunited with her own.

### Canine heir locked in bitter legal battle

SYDNEY: A one-eyed, six-year-old dog named Blackie has inherited Australian 50,000 dollars (37,000 US dollars) but the windfall has bought him no sweet homes, just a bitter legal battle, reports Reuter. A

Blackie's owner, John Goodchild, died of hung cancer in February, 1993, but before he passed away he made sure his trusty companion would be taken care of, the West Australian newspaper reported yesterday.

Goodchild left 50,000 dollars in a trust account for Blackie, to be administered by dog kennel-owner Barbara Norris. However, his son David has since contested the will.

Blackie snoozed under the bar table in the Western Australian Supreme Court on Tuesday as Norris and David Goodchild argued over who should take care of him, the newspaper reported.

### Govt-UNITA sign 11-point accord

LUSAKA, Aug 10: Angolan overnment negotiators signed an 11-point procedural agreement with UNITA rebels on Tuesday but thorny questions of power-sharing still stand in the way of a peace pact.

UNITA spokesman Jorge Valentim and government spokesman General Higino Carneiro told Reuters they were adopting the procedural accord before moving on to the next agenda item at long-running peace talks - the security of UNITA leaders.

"We are adopting today the 11 points on the modalities on national reconciliation,

ceath wagons assemble early each morning on a side street. Their destination is always the same and their messy mission never varies: retrieving bodies in the world's biggest refugee catastrophe. reports AP.

After nearly one million Rwandan refugees and defeated government troops surged across the border last month, aid groups arranged for mobile crews to serve as undertakers.

They filled their trucks with corpses within a matter of hours during the height of a cholera epidemic that swept through the camp.

and flatbeds provide evidence of a climbing death rate from dysentery. On Tuesday. UN refugees officials also said a ty-After the cholera we tho-

welcome such a cool-down.

ught we may not be needed. but the people keep dying and the bodies are still out there." said Maurice Boaraneu, one of the young Zatreans paid about 10 dollars a day to search the camps and aid compounds for bodies. The UN refugee agency es-

timates about 500 people are dying each day in the camps around Goma. But they predict attacked Serb targets three

mander in Bosnia, wrote to both sides on anday ordering them to stop fighting with heavy weapons banned within the security zone or face NATO air raids. UN spokeswoman Claire Grimes said.

sides," she told Reuters.

"That led to a warning shot from General Rose that NATO aircraft would be over the area and if the shelling continued

AFP adds: A tank has been spotted in the heavy weaponsexclusion zone around the

Major Dacre Holloway, UN

The tank was in the nor-thern region of the 20 kms

### Argentina orders arrest of 4 ex-Iranian diplomats

BUENOS AIRES, Aug 10: Argentine justice officials have ordered the arrest of four former Iranian diplomats suspected of involvement in the deadly July 18 car bombing. officials said on Tuesday, reports AFP.

Argentine authorities are seeking the capture Here, or abroad, of Ahmad Falsafi. Mahvash Gholamreza, Akbar Parvaresh and Abbas Zarrabi Krorasani, officials said.

The four were named in a 156-page report by lead investigator and federal judge Juan Jose Galenano on the bomb attack that had originally been reported to have killed 95 people, left 10 missing and injured 250. The report lists the casual-

ties as 88 dead, 13 missing and 159 injured and said the bomb was placed in a T-310 Renault by someone on a suicide mission or "an individual sent to his death through deception.

The powerful bomb that reduced the building housing the Jewish Argentina Mutual Association was made up of an unknown quantity of ammonium nitrate and aluminium.

Already charged in the bombing is Carlos Alberto Telledin, for covering up and falsifying documents, and Marcelo Fabian Jouce and Ariel Nitzcaner for illegally replacing a vehicle motor. Telledin, the only who has

yet been arrested and who is being held in preventive detention, is a businessman accused of having modified the chassis and motor of a van. · Jouce and Nitzcaner owned

the mechanic shop where the modifications were done. Galeano set bail at 100,000

dollars for Telledin and 30,000 dollars each for Jouce and Nitzcaner. Earlier on Tuesday, Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said

Argentina would expel Iranian

diplomats if they were found

responsible for the attack but

it would not break off diplo-

### matic relations with Tehran. 3 Filipino troops killed in clash with NPA

MANILA, Aug 10: Three soldiers were killed and five others wounded in two clashes with communist guerillas in the central and southern Philippines, the official Philippine News Agency (PNA) said today, reports AFP.

PNA quoted army Colonel Froilan Maglya as saying an army patrol were waylaid in Magsaysay town on central Panya island on Sunday by New People's Army (NPA) guerillas, leaving two soldiers dead.

The smell of rotting bodies grew strong. The soldier puiled out a face mask. The truck backed up to the grave. Workers quickly tossed the bodies down. The infant's body was heaved over one of the worker's shoulders.

As the truck pulled away, a swarm of flies settled back over the grave. On the way to the main

refugee camp, Kibumba, the workers passed several bodies placed by the roadside.

### around Chechnya MOSCOW, Aug 10: Russia

has put its security forces on full alert around the tiny rebel region of Chechnya, a breakaway republic in the northern Caucasus, the Russian president said in a statement issued Tuesday, reports AFP.

tion in Chechnya as "explosive" and accused Chechnyan President Dzhokhar Dudayev of "stirring up nationalists hysteria" in his mostly Muslim region.

### Undertakers on messy mission at Goma refugee camps GOMA. Zaire, Aug 10: The In recent days, the growing the body count could shoot up bodies were stored under a out of a banana grove. She car- when rains begin later this piles of bodies on the pickups

Two children give a large tortoise a shower at the Jurques

Zoo in France. In the current heatwave, many animals

phus outbreak may loom.

unless dysentery and other diseases can be kept in check. The trucks gather outside the base of the Irish aid group

GOAL, which is organising the main body recovery squad Workers collect their equipment: surgical masks, rubber gloves, plastic sheets, stretchers and an antiseptic spray.

the back of an old Guinness beer delivery truck. The motto on the hood reads: Guinness is Good for You. Their first stop was a

- AFP photo

the pile. Four teepage boys climb onto the metal cage covering before turning off to a dirt

French-run clinic, where 13

trap. Some of the corpses were sealed in white plastic body bags. Others who had died just hours before were wrapped in blankets or mats. The truck's rear shock absorber squeaked each time a

body was tossed on. An infant's body was the last thrown on Workers picked up two more bodies from the roadside

track leading to the Goma cemetery, where French soldiers have dug mass graves.

As the truck neared the cemetery, a woman stumbled

didn't turn around. "I wanted to tell her next time she has a body to wrap if up," the worker said

At the cemetery, a French

worker shouted. The woman

baby and quickly walked away

ried the body of her daughter.

the driver while pounding on

the roof of the truck cab.

"Stop," a worker yelled to

The woman handed him the

"Madam? Madam?" the

soldier pointed for the truck to turn into an area cleared by bulldozers. The soldier walked ahead. Each footfall stirred up clouds of the powder-fine soil, which will turn to sticky mud

"We'll get them on the way back," Boraneu said.

Russian troops put on alert

The news agency inter fax said President Boris Yeltsin's office had reported the situa-

# ship the God Shiva, reports AP.

"Hail. Lord Shiva!" the 600

soldiers.

insurgency began there more

But Harkat al-Ansar refused and winter capitals.

this guerilla threat," he said in Pahalgam, and predicted that tens of thousands of pilgrims would hike or ride up to the cave as they have in previous

The pilgrimage usually lasts about two weeks, and the largest group is often led by Hindu monks who leave Jammu on Aug 16.

the pilgrims, the military also must supply them with food, lodging, guides and ponies that they normally receive from local Muslim residents, most of whom are too alraid to disobey the guerilla ban on this year's

"For the last four years we have depended on the pilgrims because tourists don't visit here because of the guerilla war," shopkeeper Abdul Khaliq Wagay said in Pahalgam on