# BRIFFIN

Rosa Parks assaulted: Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man sparked the US civil rights movement, was assaulted at home Tuesday night and treated for facial injuries, AP reports from Detroit.

Parks, 81, was taken to Detroit Receiving Hospital, where she was initially listed in good condition with swelling on the right side of her face. She was released later Tuesday.

8 Indian policemen drowned: Eight policemen drowned when bandits fired on a boat ferrying them across a river in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, a newspaper reported yesterday. AFP reports from New Delhi.

The boat capsize following sustained gunfire near the Nepal frontier at midnight on Monday, the Asian Age reported.

Fire razes Sumatra: Drought-induced fires have razed around 1,400 hectares (around 3,458 acres) of forest in Indonesia's southern Sumatra province over the last two weeks, a local police officials said yesterday. AFP reports from Jakarta.

A spokesman for the south Sumatra police, Lieutenant Suyanto, said by telephone that the precise extent of the fires was as yet unknown, but that around 1,400 hectares of forest in five districts in the province had burned.

Army frees 36 Indians: The army freed 36 Indians held captive by Maoist rebels and destroyed four guerilla camps in a remote region of Peru's Amazon jungle, the military said Tuesday, AP reports from Lima.

A military communique said army patrols captured two members of the Shining Path guerillas and confiscated 54 firearms during a four-day operation last week.

UK to join Haiti invasion: Britain is prepared to join a US-led multinational invasion of Haiti to topple the Caribbean island's military regime and restore democracy, a Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday. AFP reports from London.

London will provide a royal navy frigate and a contingent of specialist military advisers to train troops for the UN-approved intervention, the spokesman said.

Syrian hanged: A 26-year-old Syrian convicted of murder and robbery was hanged early Wednesday in the northern city of Homs, the official newspaper Al-Baath said. reports from Damascus.

It said that Tareq bin Mohammed Rifaei had been tried and sentenced to death in connection with the March 4 fatal shooting of Faysal al-Zaim, a gold merchant in Homs, 180 kilometers (110 miles) north of Damascus.

Sudan offers ties with Egypt: Sudan's military leader Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, has offered to normalise relations with neighbouring Egypt in the interests of Arab unity, Libya's official Jana news agency reported on Tuesday, Reuter says from Tunis.

Bashir made his offer after arriving in Libya on Monday for festivities marking the 25th anniversary of the September coup that brought Muammar Gaddafi to power there Jana

Cambodian party expels 3: The Cambodian People's Party, political win of the former Vietnamese-installed government, has expelled three exministers in connection with last month's coup attempt. Reuter reports from Phnom Penh.

The decision to oust Prince Norodom Chakrapong, Sinsong and Sin Sen was announced in a statement dated August 30 at the end of a two-day party meeting.

Police beat Wang: A preminent political dissi dent said he was beaten by police who took him into eustody Wednesday, the day after a high-level US official left Beijing, AP reports from Beijing.

Police have been stationed outside dissident Wang Dan's home for the past three months. Last week, he issued a statement to the press detailing police harassment and saying that he planned to lodge a forntal complaint with Beijing courts if the surveillance did not stop.

Japan to set up \$1b fund: Japan announced yesterday it was setting up one billion dollars fund for cultural and vocational projects across Asia over the next decade as a token of apology for victims of Japan's aggression before 1945. Reuter reports from Tokyo.

"It is imperative for us Japanese to look squarely to our history with the peoples of neighbouring Asia and elsewhere. Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said in a statement an nouncing the plan

Filipino blast death toll 79: The death toll following a coal mine blast in the southern Philippines has reached 79 and could exceed 100, police said on Wednesday disputing lower casualty figures issued by the state-run colliery. AFP reports from Cebu, Philippines.

Police also alleged that a dynamite blast triggered the methane gas underground explosion near Malangas town line Monday, which officials of the Philippine National Oil (o (PNOC) strongly dispute.

Angolan forces capture Belize: Angolan government forces have captured the town of Belize in the northern oil enclave of Cabinda from FLEC separatists and UNITA rebels, state radio said on Tuesday, Reuter reports from Luandda.

At the end of Tuesday morning after heavy fighting government ernment forces took the town, it said.

Quake rocks Hokkaido: A strong earthquake rocked the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido vesterday, measuring five on the Japanese scale of one to seven: the Meteorological Agency said. AFP reports from

The agency said the earthquake occurred at 6:07 pm (0907 GMT) and was centred on the city of Kushiro in east ern Hokkaido.

Indian students' march: Some 250 students marched to the US embassy in New Delhi demanding Pakistan be declared a "terrorist state" by President Bill Clinton's administration for supporting insurgency in India, witnesses said, AFP reports from New

The activists of the students action committee also denounced a statement by former Premier Nawaz Sharif that Islamabad had a nuclear bomb and could use it against India in the event of war over the disputed northern state of Kashmir.

Chakrapong in France: Cambodian Prince Norodom Chakrapong, linked to a coup attempt last month in his homeland and declared unwelcome in two countries where he took refuge, arrived Tuesday in France. AP reports from Paris.

The prince arrived in Paris on a flight from Helsinki. Finland, and headed immediately for Montpellier from where he issued a statement saying he was "forced to leave my country." He took up residence with his son-in-law, a former Socialist member of parliament, Jean-Marie Cambaceres.

380 S Yemeni soldiers return: More than 380 South Yemeni soldiers who fled to Saudi Arabia after the civil war returned to Sanaa Tuesday nearly two weeks after the deadline for an amnesty proclaimed by President Ali

Abdallah Salah, AFP reports from Sanaa. Yemeni television said that the 383 soldiers who flew in on two Saudia airline jet, would be pardoned even though they had come home late.

Quake jolts E Indonesia: An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter Scale rocked the Alor Islands in eastern indonesia early yesterday, the local meteorological and geophysical agency said. Reuter reports from Jakarta.

There were no immediate report of casualties. The quake was centred in the Flores Sea. 70 km (45 miles) northwest of the Kalabahi town of Alor, and occurred at 6.42 am (19:42

## Saudi Islamic scholars'call to boycott Cairo confce

RIYADH, Aug 31: The kingdom's top Islamic scholars Wednesday asked all Muslims to boycott a UN population conference in Cairo and called on them to help stop "the spread of sin," reports AP.

They said a draft document to be presented at the conference encourages abortion, contraception, premarital sex and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

"All the document contained was a vicious assault on Muslim society and a violent confrontation with it," the Supreme Council of Ulemas, or religious scholars, said in a statement.

They said the UN draft was aimed at turning Islamic society "into one of disease-ridden sex perverts without morals."

The council, led by the kingdom's chief Islamic legis-

lator Shetk Abdul-Aziz bin Baz. huddled for four days in emergency session in the resort city of Taif before issuing the statement.

They said the draft docu-

ment prepared at the United Nations for the conference "is immoral and heretical." The statement, distributed by the official Saudi Press

radio, said Muslims must boycott'the conference. "Muslims, governments and peoples, individuals, and groups, should stand one line in face against any call for loose morals, permissiveness

Agency and read on state-run

and the spread of sin," it said. Saudi Arabia and at least one other Islamic nation. Sudan, have said they are boycotting the conference, which is to open Saturday. Lebanon also is not participating and

Israeli border guards and soldiers keep a tight security around the toinb of the Patriarchs in

Hebron on August 30 as the Interior Committee of the Israeli Parliament visits the site

Strike paralyses Kashmir

lists yesterday demanded a

judicial invest fation into the

murder of an Indian news-

paperman who claimed an

army officer had threatened

his life unless he stopped re-

porting on troops movements

Thousands of people at-

tended the funeral vesterday of

35-year-old Gulam Mohammad

Lone and his seven-year old

son who were shot dead by

masked gunmen on Monday

night in their house in the

town of Kanagan near Kash-

mir's summer capital Srinagar.

Lone was a newspaper

salesman who also reported in

journalists in Srinagar and his

newspaper employers that

during a search operation an

army major had publicly threa-

tened to kill him unless he

stopped sending reports on

BERLIN, Aug 31: The com-

mander in chief of the Russian

army in Germany today for-

mally ended almost half a cen-

tury of Russian and Soviet mili-

tary presence an German soil.

"I report to you that the in-

ternational agreement on the

temporary stay and the com-

plete withdrawal of the Soviet

army in Germany has been ful-

filled." General Matvei Burla-

kov told Russian President

Boris Yeltsin and German

Chancellor Helmut Kohl

gathered with guests of honour

on Berlin's Gendarmenmarkt

eastern Germany as an occupa-

tion force after helping to de-

feat Hitler and conquering

Berlin at the end of World War

Two Later they were kept in

East Germany as part of the

Moscow controlled Warsaw from Germany.

Soviet troops stayed in

reports Reuter.

in Kashmir

he local press

Reute reports : Journa-

where an Israeli settler murdered 29 Muslims last February.

SRINAGAR: A strike called

by Muslim separatists to

mourn the death of nine of

their comrades paralysed the

troubled Kashmir valley today.

police and residents said, re-

government offices, banks and

post offices were shut in this

Kashmir summer capital and

other Muslim majority towns

in the valley, police sources

roads in Srinagar, the urban

hub of a four-year-old Muslim

separatist campaign which has

left more than 10,000 people

the outlawed Hizbul

Mujahideen in memory of nine

of its members who were shot

dead by Indian security forces

in north Kashmir on Sunday.

One of the dead was a foreign

France expels

20 Algerians

expelled 20 Algerians who

have been interned as sus-

per ted Muslim guerilla sympa

thisers, the Interior Ministry

men, held for upto three

weeks at a disused army camp

Earlier this month the gov-

ernment interned a total of 26

Algerians in the village of

Folembray until they could be

"The country of destina

tion having been decided, the

expulsions were carried out

today for 20' of the 26 people

under forced residence at

Folembray, the ministry said.

tained in police swoops follow

ing the killing of five French

government workers by

Muslim guerillas at a French

embassy housing compound in

Alguers on August 3.

The Algerians were de-

deported to a third country.

mortheast of Paris, were sent

II did not say where the

aid reports Reuter.

PARIS. Aug 31: France today

mercenary, the group said.

The shutdown was called by

dead in Kashmir since 1989.

Civilian traffic went off the

All shops and businesses,

ports AFP.

Pakistan is undecided. But several other Muslim nations, which like Egypt are

weighed down economically by high population growth rates. are participating.

The harsh stand of the Saudi scholars will encourage a stiff hostility to the conference in some parts of the Muslim world. Decisions by Saudi scholars are revered because of the kingdom's leadership role in Islam and its custody of the holy sites at Mecca and Medina.

The scholars said the draft document from the United Nations concentrated on two matters it saw as a remedy for exploding population growth rates.

They said the first was a call for equality between men and women "Which would eliminate any differences between

- AFP photo

troop movements in Kashmir.

lished by almost all the Srina

gar newspapers.

than 17,000 lives.

died later.

the killings

investigation.

Last week he complained to an emergency meeting on

Russia completes troops

pullout from Germany

His statement was pub-

Indian forces have been

struggling to put down a four-

vear separatist rebellion in

India's northern Jammu and

Kashmir state that police and

hospitals say has claimed more

Monday evening masked gun-

men broke into their bedroom

and fired automatic weapons

Lone was killed immediately

and his son, Tariq Ahmed

An army spokesman said

Kashmir's press corps held

the major was not involved in

Tuesday to demand judicial

probe into the murders. Auth

orities said police had regis-

tered a case against unknown

murderers and launched an

Pact military alliance.

The fall of the Berlin Wall

and the end of East Germany's

Communist regime in 1989

brought the four war victors -

the Soviet Union, the United

States, Britain and France to-

gether to agree the withdrawal

of all their troops and give

united Germany full

sovereignty over its own terri-

soldiers and their equipment,

now under the control of

Russia as successor to the

Soviet Union, took four years

and represented one of the

biggest troop movements in

Yeltsin praised the German

people Tuesday as he arrived

in Berlin for ceremonies mark-

ing the completion of the

withdrawal of Russian troops

AFP adds: President Boris

The pullout of over 340,000

tory once more.

history.

Lone's wife said that late on

woman."

The second was "to open the door to sinful sex relations, allowing cohabitation without wedlock, discouraging early marriage by punishing those who marry before legal ages, spreading contraception and limiting man's fertility... and sanctioning abortion.

General Boutros Boutros Ghali the UN population and devel-Muslim states.

The UN chief who will open - the September 5-13 event in his native Egypt, said it was natural for controversies to grow out of such discussions.

the sexes, even those decreed by heavenly Sharia, by nature and the nature and biology of

AFP Adds: Secretary voiced optimism Tuesday about opment conference in Cairo despite Vatican abortion opposition and boycotts by some

## UNHCR official

BANGKOK, Aug 31: A senior official for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) met leaders of Myanmar's ruling junta in Yangon on Tuesday, state-run radio Yangon reported, says

The meeting, held in the Minister, Ohn Gyaw and Di-Manpower Department. Maung Aung.

### talks with Yangon junta leaders

Werner Blatter, the Genevabased UNHCR director for Asia-Oceania, held talks with Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Secretary General of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) - official name of ruling Myanmar's military regime the radio said in a dispatch monitored here.

Defence Ministry, was also attended by Myanmar Foreign rector General of Immigration

China's top legislature. The committee also dis-

increased regional tensions. They sought New Delhi's support for the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which tries to prevent the spread of nuclear

Delhi's alleged programme had

It was the first visit by a MTCR team to New Delhi. which has long spurned international pressure to renounce nuclear arms.

An upbeat assessment, Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman Arif Khan said the meeting was "useful and comprehensive," and the government would consider future talks with the MTCR.

Some of the MTCR officials later left for Pakistan India's old enemy, to deliver the same

Former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said last week that Islamabad already had the stornic bomb.

## Chinese vote to disband HK legislature

India, Pakistan urged

to halt N-plans

NEW DELHI, Aug 31: Inter-

national mediators pressed

India and Pakistan on Tuesday

to renounce their alleged

atomic weapons programmes

as Islamabad and Delhi were

each reported to have expelled

one of the other's diplomats in

A meeting in New Delhi of a

a spying row, reports Reuter.

US-led group of nations seek-

ing to stem the spread of mis-

sile technology urged India to

halt its alleged nuclear warfare

United States. Britain, Switze-

rland and Australia told the

Indian government that New

Honduras to accept

5000 Cubans

TEGUCIGALPA, Aug 31:

Honduras will accept 5,000

Cubans blocked from entering

the United States, the foreign

minister said Tuesday, reports

Senior officials from the

project.

BEIJING. Aug 31: Fulfilling earlier threats. Chinese legislators voted Wednesday to disband Hong Kong's legislature and other elected institutions when the colony reverts to Chinese rule in 1997, reports

The vote means that democratic reforms implemented in Hong Kong by Chris Patten, the colony's London-appointed governor, are unlikely to survive the Chinese takeover.

The vote, reported by the official Xinhua news agency, came on the final day of an eight-day session of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress

cussed major financial legisla tion, including laws on commercial banking, advertising,

arbitration and auditing. The proposal to disband Hong Kong's legislature, district and city councils when China takes over on July 1. 1997 was put forward last

March by legislators from Guangdong Province, just across the border from Hong It calls for a new legislature to be established on that date. based on China's "Basic Law," a

mini-constitution for the colony, and on decisions by the National People's Congress. Hong Kong radio reported that the proposal received

unanimous approval, as expreted. The well-orchestrated committee usually either approves all the items on its preestablished agenda or tables thein for further consideration.

### Ravi Shankar honoured

Sitar maestro Ravi Shankar, a legend in his lifetime, was con-ferred an honorary Doctorate of Music by the University of Victoria, Canada, at a special convocation on the eve of the XV Commonwealth Games, reports PTL

live in Encinitas near San Diego. California joined world renowned personalities in the fields of sports, performing arts social work, music and academics from England, Australia. Canada, Malavsia and Nigeria in receiving the honorary doctorate.

## Last Russian troops leave

MOSCOW, Aug 31: The last

The withdrawal came as

Wednesday's withdrawal, an nounced in a terse Russian Defence Ministry statement the real end of World War II

who resisted Soviet rule were killed or exiled during the decades of occupation, and many remained bitter about the presence of Russian troops more than two years after the Soviet Union collapsed. Many Russians were them-

selves angry about being forced to leave the Baltics.

In marked contrast to the Russian pullout this week in Germany, Russia's soldiers left the Bultics quietly without ceremonies or parades. Baltic citi zen- however, planned several events to mark the withdrawal

## WASHINGTON, Aug 31:

Pandit Ravi Shankar, who

# Latvia, Estonia

Russian troops quietly left Latvia and Estonia on Wednesday, 54 years after Soviet forces invaded and annexed the Baltic states under a secret pact with Nazi Germany, reports AP.

president Boris Yeltsin spoke in Berlin at a ceremony marking the departure of Russian troops from Germany. Baltic leaders called

for their tiny nations. Tens of thousands of people

# Off the Record

Unprecedented climb!

TEHRAN: A group of Iranian women, Jully covered in keeping with Islamic tradition, climbed to the top of the country's highest mountain for the first time since the 1979 revolution. a newspaper reported Tuesday, says AFP. The group of 16 students from Tehran universities

eastern Iran to the peak. 5.671 meters (18.710 feet) above ground, the daily Hamshahri said. It was an unprecedented climb for women who had been increasingly excluded from sports since the revolution be-

climbed the northeastern flank of the Damavand in much

cause of religious restrictions. But mountain climbing has become considered a practical

sport for women because they can take part fully covered meeting Islamic standards. The team had already climbed several mountain tops in

Iran this year, the paper added. 3 days in bank vault

NEW DELHI: An Indian woman survived nearly three days locked in a Calcutta bank vault by chanting religious verses and swallowing her saliva, the Indian Express newspaper reported Wednesday, says Reuter.

It said Pushpa Singhania, 52, was going through her safety deposit box on Saturday when the lights went out and the vault door closed.

She survived 68 hours through the normal Sunday closing and Monday's Hindu religious holiday to be overheard chanting by a cleaner as he started work on Tuesday morning, the newspaper said.

Then, things got tricky.

Bank officials summoned to open the vault in front of police and relatives - who had been searching for her frantically - refused to do so until the Singhania family promised in writing not to sue the bank for negligence, the newspaper "We told them that if they did not unlock the door, we

would break it open ourselves," the newspaper quoted brother-in-law Vinod Singhania as saying. "This quietened them and at last they did what they

should have done as soon as they reached the bank," he said. They opened the vault. On Tuesday evening Pushpa Singhania was still in a state of shock and under sedation, the newspaper added

## Military-trained dolphins

flown to new home WASHINGTON: The first military-trained delphins from the US navy mammal fleet were being flown Tuesday to a new home as part of post-coldwar scale down, the navy said, re-

ports Reuter. The two Atlantic bottlenose dolphins were on duty in San Diego, California, home of the navy's 125-strong marine mammal fleet. They were headed for Gulf world, a marine park in the northern Florida panhandle.

The transfer is part of the US military scale down. Each of the navy's dolphins, sea lions and beluga whales costs an estimated 15,000 dollar to 20,000 dollar to feed and maintain. "We have 25 more dolphins than what we need to support

our programme," said Lieutenant Kenneth Ross, a navy spokesman at the Pentagon. He said about 70 dolphins will remain on active duty, for

sonar-related research, to guard ships and help recover underwater objects, Earlier this year, the navy began fishing for new homes for the mammals after congress authorised their de-commission.

### The navy concluded they could not simply be set free because they may lack survival kills developed in the wild. Japan's hottest disco shuts down

TOKYO: A Japanese disco that set off a natiouwide craze for exhibitionistic dancing was closing its cloors Wednesday less than a year after authorities stripped it of its claim to fame. reports AP.

Three years ago, Juliana's disco begin admitting sexily clad females for free, and gave there and elevated stage to Soon, hundreds of young Japanese women with boring,

dead end office jobs were spending their nights gyrating away in G strings and tiny miniskirts - before a crowd of men who paid a 55 dollars (5,500-yen) entry fee to watch Last November, though, police pressured the disco to ban G-strings, ultra-short skirts and stage dancing. They claimed

some women were using the fire escape as a place to change from street clothes into their scanty stripper style outfits.

### Benazir may not attend Cairo confce way that does not offend con sues such as abortion and sex Benazir enjoys the interna-SLAMABAD, Ang 31: Bena tional spotlight that such con-

zir Bliutto, leader of a country that grows by 3.5 million people annually may withdraw from next week's United Nations population conference due to the mounting contro versy surrounding the event. reports AP.

Benazir is scheduled to give one of the main speeches when the conference opens September 5 in Cairo, Egypt. But she's reconsidering her trip as a growing number of Muslim nations and groups complain that the gathering is a Western attempt to advocate "immorality."

"The prime minister's visit

is still under consideration. No

decision has been made.

Shanaz Wazir Ali, a special as-

sistant to the prime minister

for the social sector, said in an

interview Wednesday.

most prominent woman in the Islamic world, will be in an awkward position if she goes to Cairo. Her government advocates family planning, and she would

ferences provide, and her at

tendance was considered a

certainty until the controversy

Benazir, who is probably the

began heating up.

likely face strong criticism from conservative Muslims opposed to the conference. Saudi Arabia and Sudan an nounced this week they would

not participate and other Mus-

lim states may follow suit. Mrs. Ali, who guides Pakistan's family planning programme said the government had reservations about the draft proposal for the Cairo conference, which raises isoutside of marriage We're waiting to see what

influence the prime minister can have over the draft," said Munir Akram, a spokesman for Pakistan's Foreign Ministry. Pakistan is already the

world's seventh most populous nation with 126 million people, and it adds another 3.5 million each year, making it the third largest contributor to world population after China and India. The country is considered

one of the world's "most seri ous family planning failures. according a report issued last vear by Population Action International, a private, USbased group.

Benazir's government has sought to improve family planning services, but in a cautious

servative Muslims. The government, for exam-

ple is adamant that it will not introduce sex education in the schools. The government also runs frequent print and television advertisements about the country's population problem in general terms, but most refrain from giving the details about using contraceptives.

their house.

fundamentalists.

Under the latest programme the government hopes to train at least one woman in each village to handle family planning matters. The newly trained women will then set up mini-clinics in a room at

The government says it does not have the money to build thousands of clinics, and such public facilities could also draw the wrath of religious