

## BRIEFLY

**Ghali to meet Clinton, Yeltsin:** UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will meet separately on Sunday with US President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the United Nations announced late Friday. AFP reports from United Nations.

The two presidents will be in New York to address the 49th session of the UN General Assembly which opens on Monday. Boutros-Ghali is scheduled to meet with Clinton at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel Sunday afternoon.

**10 more executed in China:** Beijing authorities said yesterday they had executed 10 people convicted of murdering a policeman and other violent crimes after their appeals were rejected. Reuter reports from Beijing.

The official Beijing Daily said the condemned were put to death on Friday in the Chinese capital in the usual manner — a bullet fired into the back of the head.

**Gerry Adams leaves for US:** Gerry Adams leader of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein set off for the United States yesterday on a two-week tour that is sure to capitalise on the group's ceasefire and role of the British government. Reuter reports from London.

The US embassy in London confirmed on Friday that Adams would be granted a visa on the stipulation he does not engage in fund raising, and despite London's disapproval.

**Nagpur road mishap claims 7:** Seven persons were killed and three others seriously injured when an autorickshaw was hit by a truck near Dumri railway station on Nagpur-Jabalpur highway on Friday night, PTI reports from Nagpur.

Police said the accident occurred when the autorickshaw, with eleven passengers, who were returning from 'urs' ramed into the truck.

**Lankan faces beheading:** A Sri Lankan faces probable beheading after two American women implicated him as the man who tried to rape them, security sources said Friday. AP reports from Dhahran.

The man, an illegal alien Sri Lankan who was not further identified, was also suspected of trying to sexually assault other women in recent weeks among the community of expatriate workers employed by the Saudi Aramco oil company.

**Filipino avalanches toll 16:** Officials warned residents living near rivers straddling Mount Pinatubo to flee their homes on Saturday as rain threatens to unleash more steaming avalanches from the volcano's slopes, AP reports from Manila.

Early Saturday, rescuers found three more bodies, bringing the death toll in Friday's volcanic avalanche to 16. At least seven people were still missing, said Maj Ramon Victoriano, an officer of the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council.

**5 Singaporeans held:** Five Singaporeans, including a 20-year-old woman, were charged with drug trafficking yesterday and face the death penalty if convicted, authorities said, Reuter reports from Singapore.

The five, all ethnic Malays, were among nine people arrested on Thursday during a raid that netted 414 grams (14.6 ounces) of heroin, said Masbollah Fazal, Deputy Director of the Central Narcotics Bureau.

**Cartoonist Sagendorf dies:** Forrest C. "Bud" Sagendorf, a cartoonist who drew the comic strip "Popeye" for 46 years, has died of brain cancer at 79, AP reports from Sun City Centre, Florida.

Sagendorf, who died on Thursday, was the assistant to "Popeye" creator Elzie C. Segar, who began the strip in 1929 under the title "Thimble Theatre." After Segar's death in 1938, other cartoonists drew "Popeye" for two decades before Sagendorf took it over in 1958 and introduced new characters, such as Granny and Dufus.

**2 die in Vietnamese air crash:** A Vietnamese military jet crashed into a house near Bien Hoa Airport in southern Vietnam, killing two people and injuring four, the state-owned newspaper Tuoi Tre reported yesterday. Reuter says from Hanoi.

The Soviet-made Mig-21 fighter slid off the tarmac and through the airport fence after an abortive takeoff attempt on Friday morning, the report said.

**US student murdered in Moscow:** An American exchange student in Moscow was murdered, news reports said Saturday. AP reports from Moscow.

Anthony Riccio, 21, of Glastonbury, Conn., was strangled with a rope, then tossed off a 16th-story dormitory balcony, the reports said, quoting a US Embassy statement.

**'Psycho' author Bloch dies:** Robert Bloch, a master of fantasy and horror whose novel "Psycho" became a classic Alfred Hitchcock film, died Friday. He was 76, AP reports from Los Angeles.

Bloch died of cancer of the liver and esophagus, said his longtime friend, Harlan Ellison. Bloch, who sold his first story at 17, was among a generation of writers nourished by magazines of the 1930s and 40s dedicated to fiction.

**Romanian wins lawsuit in Hague:** A Romanian man who suffered brain damage when police taped his mouth during a deportation attempt on Friday won a lawsuit against the Dutch government, AP reports from Amsterdam.

The Hague District Court ruled the state was guilty of "wrongful behaviour" and awarded Constantin Rudaru preliminary damages of 75,000 guilders (43,352 dollars). Rudaru, 25, arrived in the Netherlands in February 1992 seeking political asylum. His application was rejected two weeks later and he was forcibly deported in April 1992.

**Call for better Sino-US ties:** China's Defence Minister, hosting the first US air force commander to visit Beijing since the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown, called yesterday for a further than in Sino-US military ties, Reuter reports from Beijing.

**Probe on Khmers' genocide:** A special agency set up by the US government to document genocide committed by the Communist Khmer Rouge has a limited mandate and will contract out most of its work, its director said Saturday. AP reports from Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The office of Cambodian Genocide Investigation was established in April after approval by the US Congress and President Clinton.

## 42 rebels killed in Peru's jungle

LIMA, Sept 24: Army patrols killed 42 Maoist guerrillas in a week of battles in the northeastern jungles of Peru's cocoa-growing Upper Haulaga Valley, military sources said Friday, reports Reuter.

Army Chief of Staff Nicolas De Bari Hermsosa said 14 Shining Path rebels were captured and two soldiers were wounded in the skirmishes that began September 15.

The heaviest fighting was reported near Totache, some 160 miles (250 km) northeast of Lima, where troops have killed 36 guerrillas in running battles, the military said.

An army patrol discovered, surrounded and attacked a Shining Path base where rebels were gathering for a strategy session, he said.

## N-security, START treaties to dominate US-Russian summit

WASHINGTON, Sept 24: Nuclear security and implementation of the START treaties top the list of defence issues to be discussed between President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin in summit talks beginning Tuesday, reports AFP.

The United States plans to offer more money to Russia to dismantle nuclear missiles, officials said, amid reports that Moscow is not meeting the timetable set under START-I to scrap its strategic nuclear weapons.

Defence Secretary William Perry stressed ahead of the two-day summit meeting that despite the end of the Cold War, Russia with its nearly 25,000 nuclear weapons still poses a threat to the security of the United States.

BELGRADE, Sept 24: Bosnian Serbs will retaliate against a NATO strike on a Serb tank, the general commanding the Bosnian Serb army warned UN troops, reports AFP.

General Ratko Mladic, speaking on Bosnian Serb television on Friday evening, said the UN protection force in Bosnia-Herzegovina had sided with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) "even though the Serbs are in no way menacing its peace mission," the Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA reported.

AP from Sarajevo says: UN peacekeepers have been attacked with mortar and artillery fire, but it was unclear if the incidents were linked to

Serb threats of retaliation for a NATO air strike.

Friday's attacks included mortar rounds fired by Serb forces at a Canadian post north of Sarajevo; artillery fired at a UN armoured personnel carrier in Zivince, and machine-gun rounds fired at a French observation post in the north-western Bihac area.

Only one French observation post was hit. There were no casualties, though four people were killed and 19 wounded in separate Serb shelling of Zivince, police said.

The attacks came a day after US and British planes targeted a Serb tank near Sarajevo, in retaliation for Serb attacks on French peacekeepers.

Senior UN officials warned that further attacks on UN personnel would bring a similar response.

Serbs responded to the air strike by threatening to attack UN personnel, and the Serb military claimed NATO planes hit a civilian target.

But Maj Herve Gourmelon, a UN spokesman, refused to immediately link Friday's attacks and Thursday's air strike, saying only: "It could be significant... if this activity would continue."

Another UN spokesman, Lt Col Tim Spicer, said the T-55 tank apparently was hit in Thursday's air raid, "although we don't have a detailed damage assessment."

He emphasised the resolve

of UN forces to retaliate if peacekeepers were attacked, again.

"We hope they (Serbs) will understand that if they conduct military activities... we will retaliate," said Spicer, an aide to the UN commander in Bosnia, Lt Gen Sir Michael Rose.

The NATO airstrike the fourth in the 29-month Bosnian war, was ordered after a Bosnian Serb assault on a French armoured vehicle, on UN peacekeeping duty in a northeastern district of the capital and two other attacks on French peacekeepers. One French soldier was seriously wounded.

The peacekeepers were to observe fighting between



The United Nations Security Council votes on Friday in favour of a resolution suspending some sanctions levied against the Republic of Serbia and Montenegro for its role in the Bosnian conflict. — AFP photo

## Tokyo film festival opens

KYOTO, Japan, Sept 24: The seventh annual Tokyo International Film Festival opened in this western Japanese city today with entries vying for prizes in two categories, reports AFP.

The venue of the festival, which originated in Tokyo to promote international exchanges, shifted to Kyoto this year as one of the events commemorating the 1,200th anniversary of the founding of the city.

Prizes will be awarded in two categories — one for international entries and another for new talent.

Organisers said 12 films selected from among 206 entries from 46 countries would be screened in the international category.

The nine-day event will end on October 2, with the awarding of the Grand Prix to the winner in the international competition and gold prize of 20 million yen (200,000 dollars) to the best film in the young cinema category.

## Syria, Israel have secret deal: Sharon

JERUSALEM, Sept 24: Right-wing Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon said on Friday the Jewish state and Syria had entered into what he said was a secret agreement, reports Reuter.

But Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres denied any secret deal had been struck saying peace talks between the neighbouring states had so far not made progress.

Sharon, a former Defence Minister, known for his uncompromising views on security issues told Israel television. "There was already an agreement between the Israeli government and Syria a secret agreement still unwritten, still unsigned."

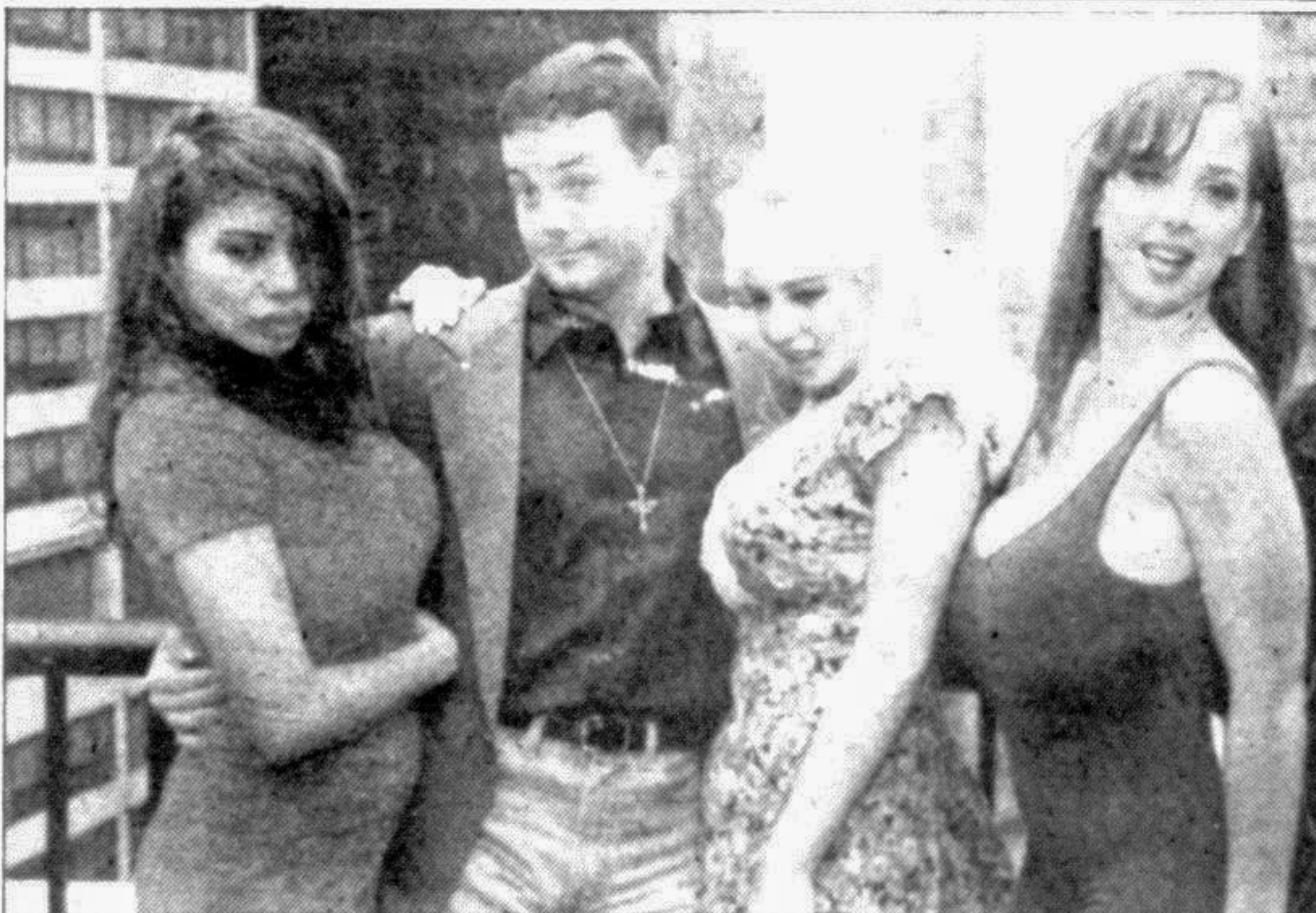
A Likud parliamentarian Sharon said only extensive, vigorous public activity in Israel could reverse the deal for a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in exchange for peace with Damascus.

The Golan, a strategic plateau barring the way to Damascus and dominating the low-lying Galilee area of Israel, was wrested from Syria by Israeli tanks in the 1967 Middle East war.

Peres, dismissing allegations of secret contacts, told the television that three-year-old talks between the two countries remained stuck.

We haven't yet reached the stage of decision, he said. Stressing that Israel was ready for "territorial compromise," Peres added: "The Syrians want us to begin the negotiations with an announcement of a general withdrawal (from the Golan) ... we refuse to open the negotiations on this basis."

Israeli-Syrian talks are stalled over Syria's demand for a full withdrawal from the Golan and Israeli's counter demand for normal relations before revealing the extent of any pullback.



John Wayne Bobbit (2nd L) poses with adult movie stars (L-R) Veronica Brazil, Tiffany Lords and Letha Weapons after a news conference in New York on Friday to promote his new X-rated film account of the story and events leading up to the night his wife cut off his penis. — AFP photo

## Khmers launch fresh attacks

BANGKOK, Sept 24: Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas said today they had launched fresh attacks overnight against government positions south of the country's second city, Battambang, reports AFP.

In a broadcast monitored in Bangkok, Khmer Rouge radio said that guerrillas had attacked and seized Phnom Thippadie, Phnom Takhot and Phnom Choeng Tea in the early hours today.

The Khmer Rouge said they had confiscated two 76.2 mm artillery pieces and one 14.5 mm piece among other heavy weapons.

On Friday, the Vice-Governor of Battambang Province, Serey Kosal, reported continuing clashes with some 400 to 500 guerrillas in the districts of Banan, Sangke and Mong Russey.

## Papuan volcanoes continue to erupt

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea, Sept 24: Two volcanoes which have covered the port of Rabaul in a thick blanket of ash and pumice rock during the last six days were likely to keep erupting into next week, scientists warned Saturday, reports AP.

Seismologists and volcanologists at the Rabaul Observatory said overall activity was slowly decreasing. However, the danger of flare-ups from the Tavurvur and Vulcan volcanoes remained and would hamper relief efforts.

Huge palls of smoke and ash continued to reach high into the sky.

"The eruption should persist for at least several more days," a government statement said. For the past three days roadblocks have been set up around the city to prevent residents from returning to their devastated homes because of the danger.

Police and soldiers have patrolled the streets to stop looting. Sometimes tear gas has been fired to control crowds, police said.

## SA fears fresh violence in Natal

STANGER, South Africa, Sept 24: South Africa has deployed hundreds of police and troops in the volatile KwaZulu Natal region for this weekend's traditional Zulu ceremonies which have raised fears of a new cycle of killing, reports Reuter.

Police said they were ready to quell any violence in the Zulu heartland amid fears that political rivals could clash over contentious celebrations today and tomorrow to commemorate King Shaka who founded the Zulu nation in the 19th century.

Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini cancelled the annual Shaka Day celebrations last Monday but the royal order was defied by Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party.

The Inkatha dominated provincial legislature said the festivities, held officially since 1974, would go ahead.

Muslim-led government troops and Serbs in the area, under an accord agreed to by the Serbs, UN officials said. The Serbs opened fire after the French defied their order to leave.

The French later withdrew and the UN decided not to try deploying observers Friday. They might try again Saturday, Gourmelon said.

Also Friday, the Security Council eased sanctions against Yugoslavia to reward Belgrade for shutting its border with Bosnia and imposed restrictions on Bosnian Serbs for rejecting a peace plan.

Another resolution, condemning Bosnian Serb ethnic violence against Muslim civilians was also approved.

## N Korea slams IAEA resolution

SEOUL, Sept 24: South Korea today urged North Korea to allow unrestricted access to its nuclear sites, while North Korea angrily slammed a new IAEA resolution passed Friday, calling it "a blatant expression of double standards," reports AFP.

"The most important way to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons is to reject double standards in the implementation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and to strictly observe the principle of impartiality," the North said late Friday through its official media.

The South's Foreign Ministry welcomed the International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) resolution as "a timely manifestation of the international community's firm stance with regard to North Korea's nuclear problem."

## Off the Record

## Dangerous driving

LONDON: A driver clocked by police at as much as 153 mph (246 kph) on a highway was sentenced Friday to six months in prison for dangerous driving, reports AP.

The speed, which was disputed by the defence, would be the highest recorded by police on a British highway.

Achille Mazzotta, a 30-year-old unemployed builder with a string of previous driving convictions, sped along the highway in Wiltshire, England in November, after a passenger dared him to put his 3.5 litre BMW through its paces.

"He then reacted completely stupidly by seeking to prove himself in that way," said Mazzotta's defence lawyer Oba Nsugbe. "He says his actions were pathetic, stupid and childish."

Police were alerted after two incidents in which drivers had to take evasive action as a result of the way Mazzotta was driving.

A patrolman said he and his colleague, driving flat out at 120 mph (193 kph) in their Vauxhall, recorded the BMW's speed at an average of 153 mph and eventually flagged Mazzotta down.

But the judge said he would deal with the case on the basis that Mazzotta was travelling at 140 mph (225 kph), after defence evidence that the BMW would not reach 153 mph. Mazzotta claimed he was doing between 120 and 125 mph (193 and 201 kph).

## Sarah wants reconciliation

LONDON: The Duchess of York's father says his daughter would love to return to her estranged husband, Prince Andrew, according to a tabloid newspaper on Saturday, reports AP.

Maj Ronald Ferguson was interviewed by the Daily Mail, which is to serialise his book, "The Galloping Major," about his family's relationship with the royal family.

His daughter Sarah separated in March 1992 from Prince Andrew, the second son of Queen Elizabeth II. They appear to enjoy each other's company when they are photographed occasionally with their two young daughters.

"I believe Sarah does love Andrew and he'd have her back tomorrow," Ferguson was quoted as saying.

"Sarah would love to go back to Andrew," he was quoted as saying. "I desperately want it to happen."

"But she's concerned that he isn't strong enough to stand up for her in the face of opposition from the people at the palace and possibly from other members of the family, though not the queen."

"If the outside world could see them together they would fail to understand how they can be apart," Ferguson was quoted as saying that Andrew "has never fallen out of love with her. He's been very long-suffering and patient."

He has made it clear that "the door would always be open for Sarah," Ferguson was quoted as saying.

## Newborn found dead under mother's coat

NEW YORK: When a woman, head home to England, refused to pass through a metal detector before boarding her plane at Kennedy Airport, a policeman became suspicious, reports AP.

And when he ordered the slender, blonde 30-year-old woman searched, she confessed — under her coat was her dead daughter, born just hours before.

The woman was charged Friday with second-degree murder after the medical examiner determined that the baby had been suffocated to death, officials said.

The woman, Carolyn Beal of London, was taken directly from the airport Thursday to Queens Hospital Center, where she was in postpartum care and under psychiatric observation, said hospital spokeswoman Beryl Williams. Beal was "stressed and in tears," Williams said Friday afternoon.

The sad chain of events began September 15, when the woman and three men, also English, checked into the Off SoHo Suites Hotel, a modest but clean brownstone building frequented by European tourists, said the hotel manager, Zeyad Aly.

Aly said they checked out at 11 am Thursday but returned to the hotel at 5:35 pm to take a limousine to the airport. He said he doubted the baby was born in the hotel room.

The woman told police the baby was born Thursday, at full term, and the hospital put the birth at 2 pm.

## Crimes increase in Brazil

BRASILIA, Sept 24: With 10 days to go before national elections Brazilians are reeling from a spate of violent crime that may yet bring the issue to the forefront of the presidential campaign, reports Reuter.

Brazilians were shocked this week when a stray bullet killed a seven year old girl sitting in a car that drove into a gunfight between drug traffickers and police in Rio De Janeiro.

"The whole city has become a theatre of unacceptable violence," said daily Journal Do Brasil in an editorial.

"How many more deaths are necessary to show that the city has surrendered to the gunmen and that violence has exceeded what is tolerable," it said.

summit meeting is to look at ways to improve the safety and security of nuclear weapons," a senior administration official said this week.

There will be a particular emphasis in this summit on beginning a new set of negotiations to focus on stockpile issues," she added.

Washington has stressed that US-Russian defence initiatives have yielded results, citing the Nunn-Lugar financial aid package for nuclear disarmament and the first joint military exercises held last month on Russian soil.

The Clinton administration lists as its major defence policy triumphs the denuclearisation of Ukraine and the withdrawal of former Soviet troops from the Baltic states, both of which were achieved through close US-Russian cooperation.

Clinton was to press Yeltsin on stopping the bloodshed in Nagorno-Karabakh.

US officials say they hope START-II will be implemented by the end of the year and that START-II which calls for a two-thirds reduction in strategic nuclear weapons will be ratified before the next US-Russian summit to take place next spring.

The White House has been holding talks with congressional leaders to release new funds that would assist in accelerating dismantlement in Russia to ensure full compliance with START-I.

Russia, and the United States will for the first time exchange information on their nuclear stockpiles in a move that will pave the way for inspection of Russian and US sites, officials said.

"The first priority for this

than ours," Perry said.

The United States has already complied with provisions of the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty calling on the two sides to scrap 9,000 warheads, roughly one-third of the US and Russian arsenal.

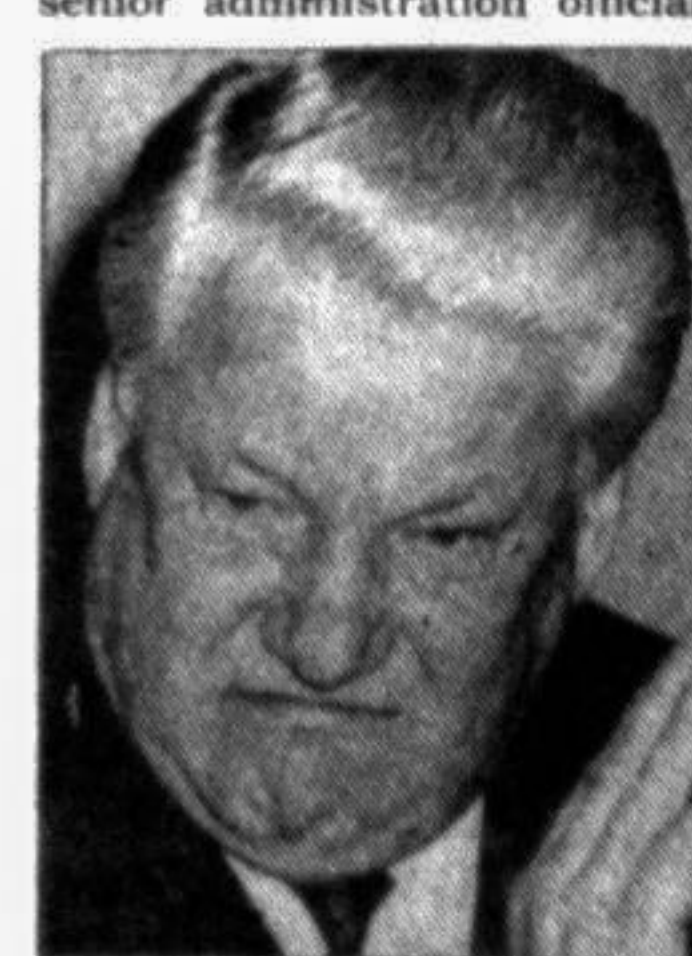
Under START-II, strategic nuclear weapons were to be scaled down to 3,500 on each side but a provision of the treaty calling for the elimination of all land based multiple warhead missiles has brought the Russian level down to about 2,500.

Yeltsin requested in 1992 that the overall level under START-II be set at 2,000 or 2,500 warheads to put the United States on par with Russia but Washington has refused to negotiate a new cel-

Even with a friendly Russia, we are concerned that its overall drawdown of nuclear weapons is going more slowly



Bill Clinton



Boris Yeltsin