BREFIY

Rose Kennedy buried: In a symbolic end of an epoch. Rose Kennedy, mother of an American President.



the media.

wife of an ambassador and daughter of a Boston Mayor was buried Tuesday after a funeral in the church where she was bapused more than a century ago. Reuter reports from Boston.

Over 100 Kennedy family members and some 800 invited guests attended the funeral at St. Stephens Roman catholic church in Boston's historic north end. where Rose Kennedy was born on July 22, 1890. She died at her home in Hyannisport, Massachusetts on Sunday of complications from pneumonia, she was

A funeral cortege under police escort carried her body to Boston from Hyannisport on cape cod for the funeral

Pope against use of sex in cinema: Pope John Paul warned on Tuesday against the harmful effects of sex and violence in cinema and called on the film industry not to titillate audiences with degraded human

behaviour. Reuter reports from Rome. "The cinema can oppress freedom when it distorts the truth, and when it presents itself as the mirror of negative types of behaviour, using scenes of violences and sex offensive to human dignity." the Pope said in a speech addressed to

Taiwan SC upholds death of 4: Taiwan's High Court on Wednesday upheld the death penalty imposed on three Chinese defectors for killing a Taiwanese businessman four years ago. AP reports from Taipei.

Zhuo Changren. 48. and Jiang Honjgun. 35. and Shi Xiaoning. 34, were sentenced in 1992 for murdering Wang Chun-chief in Taipei a year earlier. Zhuo and Jiang hijacked a Chinese airliner to Seoul with four other Chinese in 1983. They were welcomed as heroes in Taiwan. which gave them political asylum.

Six rebels killed in Lebanon: Six Muslim guerillas were killed and two Israeli soldiers were wounded in fighting in South Lebanon early yesterday, security sources said. Reuter reports from Marjayoun. Lebanon.

They said the casualties occurred after guerrillas of the Hizbollah led Islamic Resistance ambushed Israeli troops in the western sectors of Israel's 15-km (nine mile) wide South Lebanon occupation zone.

Japan's quake death toll 5072: The death toll from the earthquake in western Japan reached 5.072 on Wednesday, eight days after the disaster, with 69 people still missing, the national police agency said, AFP

reports from Tokyo. As many as 26.509 people had been injured and 74,365 houses and buildings had been destroyed in the quake measuring 7.2 on the richter scale.

More than 300,000 people are still living in makeshift shelters in the city of Kobe and surrounding areas.

7 to die in Algeria: A special anti-terrorism court on Tuesday issued death sentences to seven Islamic militants - six of them still at large - for the 1993 kidnapping of three French consular employees. AP reports from Algiers.

Five other defendants received prison terms ranging from six months to life, and five more were acquitted.

Of the seven men sentenced to death, the only one in the courtroom was Mohamed Ait-Bellouk, accused of driving the car which carried off the hostages on October 24, 1993.

15000 Iranian POWs in Iraq: Iraq is (POWs) captured in their 1980-1988 conflict, an Iranian official said quoted by the official news agency IRNA on Tuesday, AFP reports from Tehran.

The head of the Iranian POW Commission Abdollah Najali told IRNA that the figure had been determined based on the latest studies of the situation.



File picture dated October 10, 1993 of Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou kissing his wife Dimitra (C) after he won the general elections and completed a political comeback. A luxury villa acquired by Greece's aging Premier Andreas Papandreou for his young wife Dimitra Liani Papandreou, which was reportedly financed with the aid of cash put up by ministers and "friends" has become a national joke. "Guess what is large, pink and hidden in the woods?" began one newspaper article devoted to the "Villa-Liani affair which has amused the country for the past ten days and been a boon to cartoonists. -AFP photo

House to house search in Kashmir

50 militants held ahead of India's Republic Day

SRINAGAR, Jan 25: Indian troops arrested 50 suspected Muslim militants on Tuesday during a house to house sweep of this (Kashmir) summer capital ahead of India's Republic Day, police said, reports AFP.

Hundreds of soldiers in battle fatigues, paramilitary border guard police began a search of residential neighbourhoods for Muslim guerillas who have threatened to disrupt Republic Day celebrations on Thursday, police said.

The sweep was concentrated on areas around the Bakshi Sports Stadium, where senior Kashmir government officials are to watch a parade by units of the army, paramilitary forces and police, police

Muslim separatist groups fighting to end Indian rule

over Kashmir have targeted the Republic Day celebrations during the past few years and a rocket was fired at the stadium late Monday but fell short and caused no damage.

Armoured vehicles were stationed around the stadium on Tuesday as troops fanned out in the heart of Srinagar, a bastion of Muslim militants fighting for the secession of Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state.

Police sources said 50 suspected Muslim militants were taken into custody on Tuesday and several hundred have been detained in Srinagar since

Although no-one has ever been killed in militant rocket attacks on the Bakshi Stadium officials fear experienced Afghan mercenaries may do

An injured teenage boy flees from the police in panic during a clash between the students of

Karachi University and the riot police on Tuesday. Police used tear gas against the students

who were protesting against the university housing policy. A number of protestors were

Bosnian govt ready to make

slight concessions to Serbs

before any changes are agreed

upon. That is contrary to Serb

wishes that changes be agreed

negotiable, the government

was making a nod to the Serbs.

apparently because of pressure

from the Contact Group made

up of the United States

Russia, France, Germany and

Britain. They have urged all

sides to restart discussions on

the international plan drawn

ences including over the shape

of a future Bosnia chances re-

mained slim of any agreement

soon Ganic Insisted any

changes to the plan would have

But with remaining differ-

up last summer

in saying that the plan was

to before anything is signed.

injured and several were arrested during the clash.

the targeting this year.

Scores of Afghan Mujahideen, veterans of the war against the former Soviet Union have thrown in their lot with Muslim separatist in this northern state.

·Few of them are known to be active in Srinagar but security forces sources said there were reports some Afghans may have sneaked into the city of 700,000 people. Residents said scores of

young Muslim men residing near the Bakshi Stadium had left their homes to avoid the . dragnet.

They said the security forces were being assisted in their search by "spoters". former militants how have become informers.

Police sources said the hunt for suspected militants had

— APP photo

by the government in July.

would give 15 per cent of

Bosnia to the government and

its Croat allies Serbs who new

hold 70 per cent, would be left

The Contact Group origi

nally said its peace plan was a

take-it-or leave-it deal but de-

cided to soften the terms be

cause of Serb opposition. The

Serbs later said they could ac

further talks.
The new US opening to the

Serbs is very dangerous

Ganic said. 'On the other hand

they are taking responsibility

to negotiate great changes to

The Serbs hope to be able

cept the plan only as a basis for

with 49 per cent.

for the outcome

been extended to other towns and villages in the Kashmir valley, where nine soldiers have been killed in attacks by Muslim guerillas since the weekend.

The All India Huriyat (freedom) Conference, an umbrella group of some 30 Muslim groups campaign for an end to Indian rule has called for a strike on Republic

More than 10,000 people have died in Kashmir since 1989, when Muslim guerillas launched a violent separatist campaign.

India accuses Pakistan which disputes Kashmir's ownership of arming and training the militants. Islamabad denies the charge but supports what it calls a legitimate Kashmiri Muslim struggle for self-determination.

Rao regrets Pak actions

NEW DELHI, Jan 25: The Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao yesterday regretted Pakistan's actions in continuing to spurn India's offer of goodwill and cooperation in establishing good neighbourly relations between the two countries, reports PTI.

"Our relations with our neighbours progressed well except, I regret to say, with Pakistan," Rao said in an interview to PTI, here.

Rao said the year 1994 saw many important steps forward in consolidating India's relations with all the major coun tries around the world.

The prime minister said India and the US were building up in the post-Cold War era relationship of understanding and of cooperation in various spheres, particularly in the economic and commercial fields.

Russia supports India's stand on Kashmir

NEW DELHI, Jan 25: Russia has supported india's stand on Kashmir that the issue should be settled through bilateral negotiations, reports PTI.

The reiteration of the Russian stand was made to a visiting high-level six-member delegation of the Standing Committee on External Affairs of Parliament, headed by the leader of the opposition, in Lok Sabha. A B Vajpayee, in Moscow, the Lok Sabha secre tariat said in a press release vesterday

The delegation had wide ranging discussions with the chairman and members of the state Duma Committee on International Affairs of the Russian federation. It also had discussions with the deputies group on relations with China.

Iran-Pak anti-drug campaign soon

NICOSIA, Jan 25: Iran and its eastern neighbour. Pakistan, are to launch a three-year campaign against drug smu ggling across their common border, Tehran Radio reported on Tuesday, says AP.

Quoting an unidentified of ficial of Iran's anti-narcotics agency, it said the two countries had signed an agreement to this effect after three days of talks held under U.N aus pices in Tehran.

The officials said Iran and Pakistan will strengthen their security forces along their frontier, carry out joint opera tions against narcotics smugglers, and build an initial 42 bowder posts along smuggling routes with more to follow

The radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the official as saying Iran intends to begin anti-drugs cooperation with the Central Asian republics in the future, but gave no details.

Off the Record

Cory to forgive Kris

MANILA: Former President Corazon Aquino said Wednesday she was open to reconciliation with her estranged daughter. Kris, but will not accept her daughter's lover, reports AP.

Kris, 23, the youngest and most outspoken of Corazon's five children, left the family home in November after she became pregnant by actor Philip Salvador, 41.

Salvador has three children with his wife and another child with a former model. He is not yet legally separated from his wife, who lives in New York.

"She is my daughter and will continue to love her and pray for her." Corazon said. "Hopefully the day will come that she will agree with principle that marriage is something permanent and something sacred."

Corazon appeared cheerful as she spoke with reporters at church in suburbart Quezon City

where she attended Mass to celebrate her 62nd birthday. She was accompanied by two of three other daughters. Maria Elena and Pinky.

Corazon said she could still forgive her daughter. "In so far as Kris is concerned, it is more important that she seeks God's forgiveness," she said. "In so far as I am concerned.... I told her she can always call on me when she needs me.

Asked what condition she has set for reconciliation, she replied: "She knows what I am asking for... I will accept her but only her.

Goodbye for good

LONDON: A British singer gave a solo performance of a song called "goodbye" at his choir's annual dinner - then collapsed an died, reports Reuter.

Charles Devies, 67, collapsed as fellow diners applauded his, rendition at the annual dinner of the Cotsweld Male Voice Choir in Eckington. Western England, on Monday.

"Nothing could be done. He just slipped away," said Leslie Burgess, the choir's director of music. He was real trouper who will be greatly missed.

First beating within 3 months of marriage

SEOUL: Nearly half of the South Korean women who have been beaten by their husbands say they experienced their first beating while they were newly-weds, a study showed Wednesday, reports Reuter.

An official at the South Korea's Women's Hotline said that in 1994. 1,680 phone calls, or about 30 per cent of all calls the Hotline received regarded wife beating. A study of the reported cases showed 47.2 per cent of the

women were first beaten by their husbands during the first three months of their marriage and 12.9 per cent said during the first three years.

Some 12.7 per cent said they were also beaten before they got married

A little more than 50 per cent of the women said their husbands would punch them with their fists or throw things while almost 20 per cent said they were threatened with knives and other objects.

The official at the Hotline said wife beating was widespread in South Korea and estimated that last year at least 42 per cent of married women had been beaten and slapped by their husbands

During our mothers time, wife beating was very common.



A model wears a daffodil yellow razmir dress with a laced bustier of white cotton pique and multicoloured embroideries valorised by a magenta stole, during the Olivier Lapidus haute couture collection in Paris on Monday.

AFP photo

standing government condition that the plan be signed Panama to deport 24 more Indians

SARAJEVO, Jan 25: Buck-

ling to diplomatic pressure.

the Bosnian government

signaled Tuesday It was ready

to make slight concessions to

the Serbs in exchange for

peace. But the two sides re-

mained far apart on the terms

Ejup Ganic told the Associated

Press his government would

agree that a long-moribund

peace plan can serve as "the

basis for negotiations" with

Bosnian Serbs - language

identical to that used by the

Serbs in setting conditions for

But Ganic reiterated a long

returning to peace talks.

Bosnian Vice President

of resuming talks, reports AP.

PANAMA CITY, Jan 25: Panama will soon deport an additional 24 Indian nationals who entered the country illegally as a follow-up to the January 21st deportation of 11 illegal aliens back to India. Penamanian immigration authorities announced yesterday. reports Xinhua.

According to a document from the Interior and Justice Ministry, the deportation of the Indian nationals is part of an immigration policy designed to crack down on noncitizens working illegally in the country.

According to a senior Panamanian immigration official, there are 277 illegal aliens from India presently in Panama.

A total of 52 Indian nationals have become Panamanian citizens. In addition there are 1.525 residents aliens with Indian citizenship.

Pak move to ban direct foreign aid

Govt may face resistance

ISLAMABAD Jan 25 A Pakistani government move to ban direct foreign financial assistance to religious schools is likely to face stiff resistance with Islamic groups vowing to block any interference in their affairs, reports AFP.

This week's decision that all foreign donations to the schools, or madrassas, should be routed in future through of ficial channels is yet to be put into effect, but it has already unleashed a storm of criticism.

The government, underlining its determination to curb religious militancy and sectarianism in the country, said it would also control arming and training of cadres by sectarian groups and scrutinise records of madrassas.

Official circles believe a chain of private religious schools across the country are contributing to the growth of sectarianism through ideological indoctrination These schools are believed to be receiving funds and other

aid directly from foreign donors in the oil-rich Gulf Pakistan witnessed an

alarming rise in sectarian violence last year between minority Shi'ites and majority Sunni Muslims, mostly in Karachi where dozens of people died in attacks and clashes. Reports said the govern

ment plan, if implemented, may also see the stoppage of official assistance to institutions whose students are found to be involved in sectarian vio-Only those madrassas which

include science and other subjects on their curricula, as well as religious instruction, will be eligible for government help, the report said.

Russian jets bomb India's beauty pageant craze outrages feminist groups

4 killed NEW DELHI, Jan 25: India's stunning sweep of the world's ISLAMABAD, Jan 25: Rustop two beauty crowns last year has set off a beauty pageant craze in the country outraging a number of women's groups. reports AFP. Feminist groups and women

MPs say the glorification of the beauty business and the money and glamour that goes with it are alien to Indian culture and have no connection with the lifestyle of the vast majority of Indian women.

Beauty pageants are marginal to the lives of most indian women." Indrani Majumdar of the Democratic Women's Association said after three New Delhi women swept the top slots in a Miss India contest in Bombay this month.

"In fact they are an insult to the majority of Indian women whose skins are unprotected. whose hands are calloused. who do back-breaking labour each day to survive." "All this beauty business is a

cruel joke to millions of women, she said.

On January 21, when the three women returned from Bombay and addressed a news conference, some women ac tivists staged a protest outside the office of the newspaper which sponsored the contest

it was the first demonstration since Sushmita Sen. 18. won the Miss Universe title in Manila in May and fellow Indian Aishwarya Rai, 21, was crowned Miss World in South Africa's Sun City in November.

The victories were hailed by newspapers as the coming of age of Indian women and the beauty queens returned home to tumultuous welcomes. Sen and Rai were both re-

ceived by Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, and are considered role models by scores of young Indian girls eager to be seen in the same glamorous

Indian women's groups. however, have a different view.

"What have they achieved?" asked Joya Chatterjee, an activist. They are just parading what they were bestowed with at birth. They have achieved nothing, and there is nothing for an Indian to be proud of." Sushma Swaraj, a legislator

from the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party, said Sushmua Sen's Miss Universe victory, the first title for an Indian in an international pageant, had at first seemed welcome

"Many of us thought this was a one-time event," she said. "Now organisers are giving us an overdose. Miss short hair, long hair, blue eyes ... tha is simply vulgar.

"It is time all this is stopped right now," she said. "Society has gone berserk...

women who achieve more important things are ignored while these girls hog the lime

"We are not against beauty." said another activist. "Our objection is to women being pa

raded as commodities, to women being seen just as sex objects."

Most contestants in Indian beauty contests come from the middle-class and are attracted by the glamour and money that come from modelling, fashion shows and move roles which accompany success.

As in other countries, many ambitious parents push their daughters onto the catwalk.

Although fashion shows are not unknown in largely con servative India, the victories of Sen and Rat have brought a new respectability to beauty pageants. Now there are many more, and newspapers give them plenty of space.

"It has become respectable

and people watch beauty contests without (shame)," said Manpreet Brar, a New Delhi model who beat 28 other contestants on January 14 to win the right to represent India in the next Miss Universe pa

The tragedy is that most girls who run after beauty fail go into modelling, pose for semi nude photographs, and eventually get blackmailed into doing other things," said spokeswoman for the Democratic Women's Association.

The other two witnesses at the hearing were Ted Gold, a member of a Pentagon advisory panel on missile defences, and Kefth Payone, a Georgetown University professor and expert on missile defences.

DPRK proposes talks with ROK

SEOUL, Jan 25: After a sixmonth hiatus since the death of North Korean President Kim Il Sung. Pyongyang has proposed resuming inter-Korean talks, but South Korean officials suspected the offer was a propaganda ploy, reports AFP.

Pyongyarig on Tuesday pro-

posed that the two Koreas and overseas Koreans hold a "grand national conference" around the 50th anniversary this year of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule to discuss ways of national unifica-But the South appeared set

to reject the proposal, with officials here dismissing it as part of the North's old propaganda tactics.

sian jets based in the Central Asian republic of Tajikistan bombed a northern Afghan border village, killing four people and wounding nine others, the official Kabul Radio said on Tuesday, reports

Reuter.

Afghan village:

Monday's raid on Maymay village in Badakhshan province's Darwaz district also destroyed five houses, said the broadcast monitored in Islamabad. Badakhsan borders with

Tajikistan where Russia has deployed about 15,000 troops to help fight anti-government Islamic guerrillas suspected of having bases in Afghanistan.