

# BRIEFLY

**Kazakh N-heads moved to Russia:** All the nuclear heads deployed in Kazakhstan by the former Soviet Union have been moved to Russia for destruction, a Russian defence official announced Tuesday. Xinhua reports from Moscow.

According to Viktor Esin, chief of staff of the Russian Strategic Missile Force, the disbandment of the strategic force in Kazakhstan has been undertaken in line with the Lisbon Agreement on the first stage of limiting offensive strategic weapons signed in May 1992.

**Albright goes to ME next week:** US Ambassador Madeleine Albright head to the Middle East next week to review UN operations and discuss the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, the US mission said on Tuesday in a press release. AP reports from United Nations.

Albright plans to meet with the leaders of Israel, Egypt and Jordan and will hold talks on issues that also will include peacekeeping and UN economic sanctions against Iraq, the statement said. Albright is to arrive in Israel next Monday and will spend Tuesday in Jordan and Wednesday in Egypt.

**Zhirinovskiy turns 49:** Admirals, generals and a few diplomats crowded around Russian ultra nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to congratulate him on Tuesday at a big, noisy birthday party. Reuter reports from Moscow.

Zhirinovskiy invited hundreds of guests to the Rossiya Hotel, a short distance from the Kremlin, to mark his 49th birthday and show that he is still a force to be reckoned with.

**Alija rejects Carter's offer:** President of the Muslim-led Bosnian government Alija Izetbegovic has rejected former US President Jimmy Carter's offer of a new mediation to the three-year long Bosnian conflict, the Bosnian Serbs said. Xinhua reports from Belgrade.

According to the Serb radio Tuesday Carter sent a letter to the Serb leader Radovan Karadzic early this month, offering a shuttle mission to try to bring the conflicting parties to the negotiating table again, but the proposal was rejected by the Muslim leaders.

**India works on 'hyperplane':** India is working on a "hyperplane" capable of putting a 15-tonne, payload in low earth orbit, a top Indian scientist was yesterday quoted as saying. AFP reports from New Delhi.

A P J Abdul Kalam, the government's Defence Science Adviser, told a meeting in Delhi Tuesday that the "hyperplane" would take off like a rocket and land like an aircraft using atmospheric oxygen as part of its fuel.

**Toxic fumes sicken 20 in Tokyo:** Toxic fumes sickened 20 people north of Tokyo Wednesday, in what police suspect may have been a prank inspired by last month's deadly nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subways. AP reports from Tokyo.

**Kim's remains to be on display:** The embalming of North Korea's late leader Kim Il Sung is almost complete, and his remains will be ready for display by the first anniversary of his death, a news report said on Wednesday. AP reports from Seoul.

Kim, who ruled North Korea with an iron fist for nearly a half century, died of a heart attack on July 8 last year at age 82. Until today, the reclusive Communist state has not disclosed what happened to his remains. It had been widely believed that North Korea would preserve Kim's body permanently, as the Soviet Union did with Lenin, and China did with Mao Tse-tung.

**Rwanda bans int'l TV transmission:** The Rwandan government, increasingly concerned about bad publicity abroad, has barred television news crews from sending images home by satellite dishes. AP reports from Kigali.

The Rwandan telephone company yesterday declared off limits two satellite dishes, which are used by Cable News Network, ABC, CBS and Associated Press Television, as well as the British Broadcasting Corp. and the Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

**Chinese forest fire continues:** Thousands of people are fighting a "catastrophic" forest fire in China's southwestern Yunnan province, the China News Service reported yesterday. Reuter reports from Beijing.

More than 4,000 local garrisons, forest policemen and local residents were trying to put out the blaze, which broke out on April 17 in Anning county, the agency said.

**US actor Fleming dies of cancer:** Art Fleming, the original host of the popular television game show "Jeopardy," died of pancreatic cancer at the age of 70, his lawyer said. AFP reports from Crystal River, Florida.

Fleming, who as an actor appeared in 48 movies, theater productions and numerous television shows including "starky and Hutch," died on Tuesday at his home. Steve Hurm said.

**Killer escapes Haiti prison:** A former security guard arrested in the killing of two US Embassy workers escaped from prison in a bizarre break when policemen left the lockup door open, police sources said Tuesday. AP reports from Petionville, Haiti.

College Francois and 10 others escaped from Petionville prison Monday night, the police and diplomatic sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Francois, 25, is accused of killing two US Embassy employees and wounding another in a Nov. 10 holdup staged while the three were transporting the embassy payroll.

**Police defuses grenade:** The police bomb squad exploded a hand grenade on Tuesday that was discovered in a newspaper vending box outside the Albuquerque Journal building. AP reports from Albuquerque.

The device had no detonating pin, and authorities weren't sure if it would have gone off. They said it could take up to two months of tests by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to find out for sure.

**EU slates Rwandan massacre:** The European Union (EU) condemned on Tuesday the killing of several thousand refugees during Rwandan army operations to clear the country's Kibeho camp. Reuter reports from Brussels.

The European Union utterly condemns the violence which led to several thousand civilian deaths in the Kibeho camp," it said in a statement. The 15-country EU called on Rwandan authorities to launch an immediate inquiry into the killings "to identify those responsible for the massacre."

## World anti-drug strategies failing

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, Apr 26: The world's anti-drug strategies are failing, the director of the US Drug Enforcement Administration said Tuesday, reports AP.

Thomas Constantine is attending the 13th International Drug Control Conference with anti-drug officials from some 40 nations in the Caribbean, Central and South America and Europe.

"Drug-trafficking organisations continue to corrupt our democratic institutions and substance abuse, as well as violent crimes, are increasing in all of our countries," Constantine said in a speech to the conference.

## Oklahoma tragedy opens new chapter on US nat'l security

WASHINGTON, Apr 26: The Oklahoma City tragedy has pulled the rug out from under traditional ways of thinking about terrorism as a national security problem, reports AP.

The unmatched might of the American military and the global reach of US intelligence agencies are of little use in fighting native-born terrorists inside our own borders.

The CIA can't legally use its satellites and spies to monitor domestic hate groups, and no amount of warships, nuclear missiles and jet bombers can make a difference if the threat is a single bomb placed by homegrown terrorists.

Throughout the Cold War, national security was defined almost entirely by the fight against communist expansion, the threat of massive attack by the Soviet Union. The tools to

respond were pretty obvious: armed forces to deter, and if necessary, answer an attack, and spy networks to provide warning.

The same tools were used when terrorism struck. For example, when President Reagan concluded that Libya was behind the bombing of a Berlin disco frequented by US servicemen in 1986, he sent warplanes to bomb Tripoli. In June 1993, President Clinton ordered a Navy cruise missile attack on Baghdad after deciding that Iraq had tried to kill former President Bush in Kuwait.

How do you retaliate for Oklahoma City?

Perhaps more importantly, how do you get advance warning of a domestic terrorist attack in the way the CIA is supposed to warn of a foreign military attack?

"The issue of what is security has now changed," said Richard Shultz, director of international security studies at Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy.

Terrorism, of course, has long been a threat to Americans' security. But it was assumed that the attacks would come from abroad. And so, naturally, the US military and the CIA and other intelligence agencies had key roles.

Bomb attacks to make a political point certainly aren't new to this country, either. And while the Oklahoma City case is not necessarily a harbinger of more widespread domestic terrorism, the scale of the destruction from this single bomb has driven home the point that old remedies no longer apply.

Republican Larry Combest,

chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, said in a recent interview that it's time to start thinking of new ways to deal with domestic terrorism, a distinct form of assault on American targets from abroad.

"With the greatest military might in the world you cannot prevent these things," the Texas Republican said, whether the terror originates at home or abroad.

The United States is not the only country learning the limits of preventing homegrown terrorism. Japan has been deeply shaken by a wave of domestic violence, most recently the fatal stabbing Sunday of the top scientist in the doomsday cult suspected in the lethal nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subways.

Roy Godson, president of the National Strategy Informa-

tion Centre in Washington, told a congressional committee just days before the Oklahoma City bombing that the United States is ill-prepared to deal with nontraditional terrorism.

"We are not used to dealing with this type of threat," Godson said.

Part of the solution, he said, is to give law enforcement more powers, and to supplement that with more effective and creative use of other government agencies.

"The alternative is to be caught flat-footed again and again — unable to respond until the bombs have exploded," Godson said.

He recommended a "strategy of disruption" against terrorist organisations. Examples: stopping, or at least minimising, transfers of terrorist money, and tampering with or

interrupting communications within terror groups. While those tactics make sense in an international setting, they raise difficult civil liberties questions when applied to US citizens at home.

As horrible as the Oklahoma City disaster was, it was not what US authorities would consider a worst-case example — a terrorist attack using nuclear, chemical or biological weapons. It is one of the paradoxes of the post-Cold War world that while the threat of global nuclear war has all but disappeared, the risk of a terrorist group getting and using a nuclear bomb may have grown.

Defence Secretary William Perry has said the Pentagon sees a realistic possibility that within the next decade a terrorist group will use a nuclear weapon.

## Argentine army apologises for 'dirty war'

BUENOS AIRES, Apr 26: The Argentine army apologised to the nation for the first time on Tuesday for the "dirty war" against leftists in the 1970s in which thousands of people were kidnapped and killed, reports Reuter.

"We must no longer deny the horror we lived through," army commander General Martin Balza said in a televised speech. "I can only offer... the firm commitment that we shall not repeat the mistakes of the past."

Some 10,000 people went missing under military rule from 1976 to 1983, most of them kidnapped, tortured and killed. Military leaders at the time were tried and jailed in 1985 but have since been pardoned and freed.

# Israeli army chief tells Knesset body Arafat's self-rule may fail if closure of Gaza, WB continues

JERUSALEM, Apr 26: Israel's army chief told a parliament committee that Yasser Arafat's self rule government could fail if Israel maintains a closure that has kept most Palestinians from their jobs, reports AP.

Lt. Gen. Amnon Shahak told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, which met behind closed doors on Tuesday, that the closure imposed to halt suicide bomb attacks in Israel could boomerang.

"The closure is creating hatred among hundreds of people in the Gaza Strip. They have anger against the Palestinian Authority but it is obvious that the attacks will be turned on us," Shahak said.

Shahak, according to a briefing Wednesday by an official spokesman, warned that

in the long run Arafat's Palestinian Authority could be toppled.

Shahak also said Islamic Jihad, or Holy War, which has carried out a series of suicide bombings against Israelis, has threatened to attack the heads of the Palestinian Authority.

Arafat, under pressure from Israel and the United States, ordered a crackdown on Islamic militants following the wave of attacks. A total of 124 Israelis have been killed since the Israel-PLO accord was signed in September 1993, and Israel has warned that it will not be able to withdraw from West Bank cities without more security.

Since January, Israel has imposed a series of closures on the West Bank and Gaza and imported Romanian and Thai workers to cut Israeli dependence on Palestinian workers.

More than 120,000 West Bank and Gaza residents worked in Israel before the Israel-PLO accord, but Wednesday only 14,000 Gazans and 15,000 West Bank residents have permits to cross.

Unemployment in the impoverished Gaza Strip is about 50 per cent. Palestinians say the closure is costing 3 million dollars a day in lost revenues, offsetting any benefit from foreign aid.

Arafat spokesman, Nabil Abu Irdeineh, dismissed Shahak's warning, saying the closure was threatening the peace process and not Arafat.

"Such measures will lead to the destruction of the whole peace process and not the Palestinian Authority," he said.



UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali (L) and Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating hold up a presentation of a United Nations stamp in Sydney on Wednesday, which is due to be released in Australia in May. Boutros-Ghali is in Australia to attend a conference on global and cultural diversity. — AFP/UNB photo

## Ghali for building a world culture of peace

SYDNEY, Apr 26: UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali warned on Wednesday that the world must urgently build a culture of peace of risk returning to the worst problems of the past, reports AFP.

The United Nations chief told an Australian government sponsored conference that the cause of cooperation and progress could only be set back by intolerance to other cultures.

"Building a culture of peace is, perhaps, the most urgent task facing us today," he told

the Global Cultural Diversity Conference here.

Boutros-Ghali said a wave of global emergencies had arisen in the wake of the Cold War.

"The United Nations is undertaking more activities for peace, development and democracy than ever before in its history, and under conditions of far from adequate resources," he said.

"Today the world is faced with terrible regional conflicts, with an urgent necessity to achieve sustainable development, and with an unprecedented range of political, social and economic concerns."

Cultural diversity, based on mutual respect and creative exchange, was an immediate concern of humanity that was necessary for the creation of global culture of peace.

"Ethnic, religious and cultural separatism threatens a return of some of the worst problems of the past: Intolerance or antagonism toward other cultures, opposition to practices unlike one's own and an inability to conduct productive dialogue across the global range of diverse cultures," Boutros-Ghali said.

## US welcomes Turkey's pullout from N Iraq

WASHINGTON, Apr 26: The United States welcomed Turkey's announcement Tuesday that it was pulling out the bulk of its invasion force from northern Iraq and indicated it would like to see all the troops leave soon, reports Reuter.

Turkey said it had withdrawn some 20,000 troops, leaving about 12,000 of the 35,000 who crossed the border on March 20 to attack bases of the separatist PKK guerrilla group. But Prime Minister Tansu Ciller warned they could return if needed.

"This is obviously a positive development," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told a news briefing.

## Army chief denies rift with Suharto

JAKARTA, Apr 26: Indonesian Army Chief General Raden Hartono has denied any rift between the country's long-serving President Suharto and the armed forces, the official Antara News Agency said today, reports Reuter.

It quoted the newly appointed Hartono as saying in the northwestern province of Aceh that members of the armed forces were duty bound to maintain loyalty to their superiors.

"A gap or conflict between the President and army (armed forces) cannot possibly occur since the head of a state is structurally supreme commander of army," he said on Tuesday.

It was not clear whether Hartono's remarks, made at the inspection of an army missile detachment at Lhokseumawe in northern Aceh, were in response to reporters' questions.

Diplomats and academics have long seen signs of differences between Suharto, a former general who took power in the 1960s, and members of his armed forces seeking greater power.

State Secretary Mardiono said earlier it was time for Indonesia to reduce the number of military legislators.

## Tehran Times backs rally during Hajj

NICOSIA, Apr 26: An Iranian newspaper said on Tuesday that holding a political rally at the annual pilgrimage in the Muslim holy city of Mecca was a religious duty even though it is banned by Saudi Arabia, reports Reuter.

The English-language Tehran Times said that holding the "disavowal of the disbelievers rally" was obeying a verse in the Muslim holy book, the Quran.

"The disavowal ceremony strengthens the unity of the Muslims against their common enemy today, namely the Zionist regime (Israel) and the United States," the official news agency IRNA quoted the paper as saying.

Iranian officials have vowed to hold the rally this year despite a warning by Saudi Arabia to pilgrims not to carry political books, distribute leaflets or stage rallies during the Hajj, attended by more than two million Muslims.

Saudi places tight security around Iranian pilgrims to stop them from inciting a rally similar to 1987 when 402 people, mainly Iranians, died in clashes with security forces in Mecca.

The Hajj this year is due to start in late April, reaching its climax in the second week of May.

## Hanoi reasserts claim on Spratlys

HANOI, Apr 26: Vietnam's President, Le Duc Anh, has reasserted Vietnam's claim to the disputed Spratly Islands and praised the efforts of local people to protect national sovereignty there, Vietnam State Radio reported, says Reuter.

In a transcript made available today from a broadcast late on Tuesday, State Radio said Anh had sent flowers and a letter to local authorities and people of the Spratly Islands district to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War, which falls on Sunday.

Anh said the Spratlys, located in the South China Sea, were part of Vietnam's territory, the radio reported.

The potentially oil-rich Spratlys, viewed by military analysts as a possible regional flashpoint, are claimed wholly or in part by Vietnam, Brunei, China, Malaysia, the Philippines and Taiwan.

During a meeting with foreign journalists on Tuesday, Vietnam's Prime Minister, Vo Van Kiet, said all claimants should refrain from complicating the situation.

"Our policy is to negotiate and talks and create peaceful conditions to settle those problems," he said.

Vietnam clashed with China over the Spratlys in 1988.

## Off the Record

### Bid to search "big foot"

BEIJING: Chinese scientists are setting off on a year-long expedition to resolve the mystery surrounding reports of a "big foot" wandering the wilderness, reports AP.

The 30-member team will set off early next month for the Shennongjia Nature Reserve in central China, where residents have for centuries been reporting sightings of a 2-meter (6 foot 8 inch) creature that is half-man, half ape, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Wednesday.

Some of the scientists really expect to find a creature belonging to a hitherto undiscovered species of ape men, the report said. Others would prefer more proof.

"The most satisfactory thing would be to get a picture or even a videotape of the creature," said Wang Fangchen, the scientist heading the expedition.

### They like... but not getting enough

MOSCOW: These women are young, they're Russian and they like sex. They're the readers of the Russian edition of Cosmopolitan magazine, and in a poll released Tuesday, more than half of them said they did not have sex often enough, reports AP.

Most of the respondents, like most of the magazine's readers, are between 18 and 35 and have university educations, said the magazine's editor-in-chief, Yelena Mayashnikova.

And 77 per cent of them admit to masturbating.

Its success has surprised even its founders, surging from an initial circulation of 60,000 to 400,000.

The magazine is a joint project between Hearst Magazines International and the Moscow-based Independent Media, which also released its first Russian issue, of Good Housekeeping on Tuesday.

Not surprisingly, most readers live in Moscow and St. Petersburg the only Russian cities where readers can purchase fashions advertised in the magazine.



File picture dated August 10, 1938 of US actress Ginger Rogers. The actress and elegant partner of Fred Astaire died on Monday. She was 83. Riverside County Coroner Veronica Martinez said Rogers died at the home in Rancho Mirage, California, apparently of natural causes. — AFP/UNB photo