

# BRIEFLY

**Arafat arrives in Cairo :** Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived in Cairo from Algiers yesterday and called on Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak before heading back towards the Gaza Strip, official sources said. Reuter reports from Cairo.

Arafat did not speak to reporters at Mubarak's palace in northeastern Cairo. He frequently briefs the Egyptians on the state on negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians.

**'Superman' actor hospitalised :** Actor Christopher Reeve, best known for his starring role in a series of Superman movies, was thrown from his steed during a horse jumping competition and was in stable condition on Sunday, AP reports from Charlottesville, Virginia.

The actor was admitted to the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville after the accident on Saturday, said his publicist, Lisa Kasteler.

**Quake shakes Cyprus :** An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale shook the coastal resort town of Paphos in Cyprus yesterday, causing people to run into the streets in panic. Reuter reports from Nicosia.

Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CYBC), quoting preliminary figures released by the Athens Observatory and the Seismological Centre of Salonica, gave the estimate of the quake's strength and said it struck at 7:58 am (0458 GMT).

**Armenia plans to reopen N-plant :** Desperate for energy Armenia is pushing ahead with plans to recommission a nuclear power station despite concerns that it could be a time bomb threatening the region, AP reports from Medzamor, Armenia.

Citing the republic's history of violent earthquakes, the United States has become the most vocal Western opponent of the Medzamor plant, scheduled to resume operations in July.

**China detains 6, more dissidents :** A student whose legs were crushed by a tank when the military cracked down on the 1989 pro-democracy protests has been detained in southern China along with five other activists, a human rights group reported on Monday. AP says from Beijing.

The six are among several dozen dissidents who have been detained this month as the government tries to prevent activism in the period around the anniversary of the June 4, 1989 crackdown. Some have been released, while others remain in custody.

**35 Lankan soldiers missing :** All 35 Sri-Lankan soldiers reported missing after Tamil Tiger Guerrillas overran an isolated army camp have been accounted for, the army said yesterday. Reuter reports from Colombo.

Twenty-two soldiers and 16 guerrillas were killed in Sunday's seven-hour battle for the Taravikulam camp in the eastern district of Batticaloa, a military spokesman told Reuters. Twelve of the bodies had been burnt. Ten soldiers were wounded.

**Tajik talks yield no results :** Peace talks between Tajikistan's government and the exiled opposition aimed at ending a three-year conflict have made no progress and may end without concrete results, UN mediator Ramiro Priz Ballon said. Reuter reports from Alma Ata.

"So far, there has been no agreement between the two sides on any small constructive step," Priz Ballon said on Sunday evening after one week of talks.

**22 fugitives to die in Algeria :** An Algerian court condemned 22 fugitive Muslim rebels to death for threatening state security and for murders committed during an ambush, the Algerian state news agency APS said on Sunday. Reuter reports from Tunis.

The death sentence imposed by the Criminal Tribunal in the town of Bouira, some 90 km (56 miles) east of Algiers, means that 55 fugitive guerrillas have been condemned to death since Algeria abolished its feared special courts in February.

**7 die as boat capsizes in Sweden :** Seven white-water rafters drowned and an eighth was missing on Sunday after their rubber dinghies capsized in icy waters in northeast Sweden, police said. Reuter reports from Stockholm.

The victims were among 14 braving the fierce-flowing Rude river, near Boden, about 90 km (60 miles) south of the Arctic Circle.

**First library in Tibet opens :** Tibet's first library has opened in Lhasa with books donated by Chinese publishing houses, an official report said on Monday. AP reports from Beijing.

An opening ceremony was held in the capital on Friday for the 18.8 million yuan (2.3 million dollars) library. The new library has 590,000 books, mostly donated by 500 Chinese companies, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

**4 French tourists in Senegal die :** Four French tourists missing since April 6 in Senegal's separatist southern province of Casamance are dead, an authoritative source said on Sunday, quoting rebels. Reuter reports from Dakar.

The bodies of French couples Catherine and Claude Cave and Jean Paul and Martine Gagnaire had not yet been found but the source said they were apparently buried in Senegal and a rebel who had taken refuge in neighbouring Guinea Bissau knew where.

**Iran to improve ties with Iraq :** A senior Iranian official on Sunday stressed Tehran's willingness to improve ties with Baghdad after leading a delegation to Iraq last week for meetings with ministers, the official news agency IRNA reported. AFP says from Tehran.

Ali Khorram, an advisor to Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, said the meetings had produced a "positive result."

Iraq would soon send a delegation to Tehran following his delegation's visit to Baghdad last week in an effort to heal divisions between the countries following their 1980-88 war, he said.

**21 MNLF men held in Philippines :** Twenty-one suspected members of a Muslim extremist group were captured in a military raid on the southern island town, a military official said yesterday, amid charges the raid would jeopardise peace talks between the government and a Muslim insurgent group. AFP reports from Zamboanga, Philippines.

**Opposition wins Spanish local polls**

**MADRID, Spain, May 29:** The centre-right Popular Party scored a resounding victory over Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez's ruling Socialists Sunday in regional and municipal elections, reports AP.

Popular Party leader Jose Maria Aznar said his party's triumph in at least 10 of 13 regions and 42 of 52 provincial capitals would pave the way for the conservatives to oust the Socialists in the next general election.

"We have obtained a clear and ample victory," Aznar told thousands.

## International

# NATO plans to send 40,000 troops to rescue UN peacekeepers in Bosnia

**BRUSSELS, May 29:** NATO is refining contingency plans to send up to 40,000 troops, backed by tanks, warships and air power, to rescue U.N. peacekeepers if they are overwhelmed by the conflict in Bosnia, reports AP.

A full-scale evacuation would be the biggest military operation in the 46-year history of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and would almost certainly involve NATO troops directly in the fighting.

The United States offered to provide 25,000 troops for the evacuation plan.

France and Britain are also expected to be major contributors — partly by switching the approximately 7,000 troops they already have in Bosnia from UN to NATO command.

Germany has offered Tornado ground attack planes and 2,000 backup troops, including medical units.

Most other allies have also said they will send troops.

Now that Serbs have seized more than 300 peacekeepers

as human shields and increased attacks on others, the deadline for a NATO decision is looming.

This situation is completely unacceptable and it can't continue like this," Foreign Minister Herve de Charette of France said Friday. "We will study all options, including that of withdrawal."

Much of Plan 40,401, as the evacuation project is known at NATO military headquarters, is secret. But some details have filtered out.

The operation, which planners believe could last up to three months, will likely be code-named "Determined Effort."

NATO insists the alliance will have sole command, in contrast to the current system requiring a U.N. request for NATO air strikes in Bosnia.

The heavy firepower is considered necessary to deter all sides in the conflict from trying to stop the peacekeepers.

Overall command would be given to U.S. Adm. Leighton Smith, NATO's southern Europe commander. Troops in

Bosnia will likely be led by British Gen. Michel Walker, who commands NATO's rapid reaction force.

The NATO troops will seek to secure routes leading out of Bosnia to the Croatian seaports of Split and Ploce. Helicopter units will be on standby to evacuate trapped peacekeepers.

The operation's headquarters will be in the Croatian capital, Zagreb. A frontline base is planned in the Bosnian town of Kiseljak, near Sarajevo.

Warplanes flying out of bases in Italy and from aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea will provide air cover. Naval vessels patrolling the coast of former Yugoslavia will also back up the operation.

The heavy firepower is considered necessary to deter all sides in the conflict from trying to stop the peacekeepers.

Most other allies have also

said they will send troops.

Now that Serbs have seized

more than 300 peacekeepers

as human shields and increased attacks on others, the deadline for a NATO decision is looming.

This situation is completely unacceptable and it can't continue like this," Foreign Minister Herve de Charette of France said Friday. "We will study all options, including that of withdrawal."

Much of Plan 40,401, as the evacuation project is known at NATO military headquarters, is secret. But some details have filtered out.

The operation, which planners believe could last up to three months, will likely be code-named "Determined Effort."

NATO insists the alliance will have sole command, in contrast to the current system requiring a U.N. request for NATO air strikes in Bosnia.

The heavy firepower is considered necessary to deter all sides in the conflict from trying to stop the peacekeepers.

Overall command would be given to U.S. Adm. Leighton Smith, NATO's southern Europe commander. Troops in

Bosnia will likely be led by British Gen. Michel Walker, who commands NATO's rapid reaction force.

The NATO troops will seek to secure routes leading out of Bosnia to the Croatian seaports of Split and Ploce. Helicopter units will be on standby to evacuate trapped peacekeepers.

The operation's headquarters will be in the Croatian capital, Zagreb. A frontline base is planned in the Bosnian town of Kiseljak, near Sarajevo.

Warplanes flying out of bases in Italy and from aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea will provide air cover. Naval vessels patrolling the coast of former Yugoslavia will also back up the operation.

The heavy firepower is considered necessary to deter all sides in the conflict from trying to stop the peacekeepers.

Most other allies have also

said they will send troops.

Now that Serbs have seized

more than 300 peacekeepers

as human shields and increased attacks on others, the deadline for a NATO decision is looming.

This situation is completely unacceptable and it can't continue like this," Foreign Minister Herve de Charette of France said Friday. "We will study all options, including that of withdrawal."

Much of Plan 40,401, as the evacuation project is known at NATO military headquarters, is secret. But some details have filtered out.

The operation, which planners believe could last up to three months, will likely be code-named "Determined Effort."

NATO insists the alliance will have sole command, in contrast to the current system requiring a U.N. request for NATO air strikes in Bosnia.

The heavy firepower is considered necessary to deter all sides in the conflict from trying to stop the peacekeepers.

Overall command would be given to U.S. Adm. Leighton Smith, NATO's southern Europe commander. Troops in

Bosnia will likely be led by British Gen. Michel Walker, who commands NATO's rapid reaction force.

The NATO troops will seek to secure routes leading out of Bosnia to the Croatian seaports of Split and Ploce. Helicopter units will be on standby to evacuate trapped peacekeepers.

The operation's headquarters will be in the Croatian capital, Zagreb. A frontline base is planned in the Bosnian town of Kiseljak, near Sarajevo.

Warplanes flying out of bases in Italy and from aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea will provide air cover. Naval vessels patrolling the coast of former Yugoslavia will also back up the operation.

The heavy firepower is considered necessary to deter all sides in the conflict from trying to stop the peacekeepers.

Overall command would be given to U.S. Adm. Leighton Smith, NATO's southern Europe commander. Troops in

Bosnia will likely be led by British Gen. Michel Walker, who commands NATO's rapid reaction force.

The NATO troops will seek to secure routes leading out of Bosnia to the Croatian seaports of Split and Ploce. Helicopter units will be on standby to evacuate trapped peacekeepers.

The operation's headquarters will be in the Croatian capital, Zagreb. A frontline base is planned in the Bosnian town of Kiseljak, near Sarajevo.

Warplanes flying out of bases in Italy and from aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea will provide air cover. Naval vessels patrolling the coast of former Yugoslavia will also back up the operation.

The heavy firepower is considered necessary to deter all sides in the conflict from trying to stop the peacekeepers.

Overall command would be given to U.S. Adm. Leighton Smith, NATO's southern Europe commander. Troops in

Bosnia will likely be led by British Gen. Michel Walker, who commands NATO's rapid reaction force.

The NATO troops will seek to secure routes leading out of Bosnia to the Croatian seaports of Split and Ploce. Helicopter units will be on standby to evacuate trapped peacekeepers.

The operation's headquarters will be in the Croatian capital, Zagreb. A frontline base is planned in the Bosnian town of Kiseljak, near Sarajevo.

Warplanes flying out of bases in Italy and from aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea will provide air cover. Naval vessels patrolling the coast of former Yugoslavia will also back up the operation.

The heavy firepower is considered necessary to deter all sides in the conflict from trying to stop the peacekeepers.

Overall command would be given to U.S. Adm. Leighton Smith, NATO's southern Europe commander. Troops in

Bosnia will likely be led by British Gen. Michel Walker, who commands NATO's rapid reaction force.

The NATO troops will seek to secure routes leading out of Bosnia to the Croatian seaports of Split and Ploce. Helicopter units will be on standby to evacuate trapped peacekeepers.

The operation's headquarters will be in the Croatian capital, Zagreb. A frontline base is planned in the Bosnian town of Kiseljak, near Sarajevo.

Warplanes flying out of bases in Italy and from aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea will provide air cover. Naval vessels patrolling the coast of former Yugoslavia will also back up the operation.

The heavy firepower is considered necessary to deter all sides in the conflict from trying to stop the peacekeepers.

Overall command would be given to U.S. Adm. Leighton Smith, NATO's southern Europe commander. Troops in

Bosnia will likely be led by British Gen. Michel Walker, who commands NATO's rapid reaction force.

The NATO troops will seek to secure routes leading out of Bosnia to the Croatian seaports of Split and Ploce. Helicopter units will be on standby to evacuate trapped peacekeepers.

The operation's headquarters will be in the Croatian capital, Zagreb. A frontline base is planned in the Bosnian town of Kiseljak, near Sarajevo.

Warplanes flying out of bases in Italy and from aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea will provide air cover. Naval vessels patrolling the coast of former Yugoslavia will also back up the operation.

The heavy firepower is considered necessary to deter all sides in the conflict from trying to stop the peacekeepers.

Overall command would be given to U.S. Adm. Leighton Smith, NATO's southern Europe commander. Troops in

Bosnia will likely be led by British Gen. Michel Walker, who commands NATO's rapid reaction force.

The NATO troops will seek to secure routes leading out of Bosnia to the Croatian seaports of Split and Ploce. Helicopter units will be on standby to evacuate trapped peacekeepers.

The operation's headquarters will be in the Croatian capital, Zagreb. A frontline base is planned in the Bosnian town of Kiseljak, near Sarajevo.

Warplanes flying out of bases in Italy and from aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea will provide air cover. Naval vessels patrolling the coast of former Yugoslavia will also back up the operation.

The heavy firepower is considered necessary to deter all sides in the conflict from trying to stop the peacekeepers.

Overall command would be given to U.S. Adm. Leighton Smith, NATO's southern Europe commander. Troops in

Bosnia will likely be led by British Gen. Michel Walker, who commands NATO's rapid reaction force.

The NATO troops will seek to secure routes leading out of Bosnia to the Croatian seaports of Split and Ploce. Helicopter units will be on standby to evacuate trapped peacekeepers.

The operation's headquarters will be in the Croatian capital, Zagreb. A frontline base is planned in the Bosnian town of Kiseljak, near Sarajevo.

Warplanes flying out of bases in Italy and from aircraft carriers in the Adriatic Sea will provide air cover. Naval vessels patrolling the coast of former Yugoslavia will also back up the operation.

The heavy firepower is considered necessary to deter all sides in the conflict from trying to stop the peacekeepers.