Delhi plans to ban tobacco ads:

The government of the Indian capital has announced plans to ban eigarette advertisements and said it is considering legislation prohibiting smoking in public places, AFP reports from New Delhi

We are committed to save Delhities from the ill effects of smoking. Madan Lal Khurana, the Chief Minister of New Delhi, said Tuesday on the eve of World no Tobacco Day.

Cambodia to hold confee on mines: Cambodia plans to hold an international conference on land mines, which kill and maim hundreds of people every year

in the country, a government official said Wednesday, AP reports from Phnom Penh. Information Ministry's spokesman Sieng Lapresse called

land mines a threat to Cambodian people," at a press briefing Wednesday.

Cannabis seized in Malaysia: In the biggest Malaysian drug haul this year, police seized 106 kilograms (234 pounds) of cannabis left abandoned on a resort island in northern Malaysia, a newspaper reported

Wednesday, AP says from Kuala Lumpur. The cannabis was neatly wrapped in a bag and was believed left on Pulau Langkawi by a drug syndicate "from a neighbouring country." the Star newspaper reported quoting Langkawi

marine police chief Zakaria Embi. Mudslide kills 15 in Brazil: A raging

wall of mud buried a shantytown in northeastern Brazil, killing at least 15 people. Rescuers pulled 12 survivors from the muck and said another 40 people were missing. AP reports from Rio De Janeiro.

A 50-metre-high (150-foot-high) shelf of earth gave way at midday Tuesday after weeks of heavy rains, covering the slum in the outlying Bom Jua de Retiro district of Salvador, capital of the state of Bahia 1.600 kilometers (1,000 miles) northeast of Rio.

Neo-Nazi leader to be tried again: One of Germany's most notorious neo-Nazis. Guenter Deckert, has been ordered to stand trial once again on charges of inciting racial hatred, a newspaper reported on Wednesday, AP reports from Mannheim, Germany.

This time it's for an open letter Deckert wrote last year suggesting a leading German Jew "pack your bag and go where you belong: To Israel," the Mannheimer Morgen

3 die in Philippines clash: At least three people died and scores were wounded during a clash early Wednesday between two political clans fighting over the governorship of an island in the southern Philippines. the military and witnesses said, reports from Zamboanga.

Results in the election of the governorship of Sulu province is still being contested 23 days after the May 8 polls. Election officials said in the official count former Rep. Abdu Sakur Tan is leading incumbent Gov. Habib Tupay Loong by 13,000 votes.

Al asks Yangon to free 9 inmates: The London-based human rights group Amnesty International

has called for the release of nine young people jailed for seven years after they delivered a eulogy at the funeral of a former prime minister. Reuter reports from Bangkok.

Amnesty, in a statement received in Bangkok vesterday said the nine were present at the funeral of former Premier U Nu in Yangon on February 20 but were not attempting to demonstrate or make an overt political statement.

Mine blast kills 6 in Kashmir: An Indian army colonel and four soldiers were killed when their

vehicle was blown up by a land mine in Kashmir overnight, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported yesterday, AFP reports from New Delhi

All five died instantly along with a civilian in the explosion on a highway linking Srinagar and Jammu, the state's Summer and Winter capitals, the News agency said.

2 extremists to die in Egypt: A military court Wednesday sentenced two Muslim extremists to death and hoped out prison terms of up to life to 28 others, AP

reports from Cairo. Twelve other Muslim fundamentalists on trial were acquit-

ted. All 42 defendants were charged with being members of the outlawed Jihad group, which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981. There of them already were serving life terms for Sadat's killing. They were accused of leading the group and teaching supporters through letters sent from prison on how to use explosives and weapons.

Nun beaten to death in Tibet: A 15-

year-old Tibetan Buddhist nun who had been imprisoned since she was 12 has died as a result of a beating, reports said on Wednesday. AP reports from Beijing.

Sherab Ngawang, who was believed to have been the youngest political prisoner in Tibet, had been released from prison in February after serving a three-year sentence and died on May 15 as a result of injuries she suffered in prison. the Tibet Information Network reported.

ROK appeals to free captives: south Korea, communicating through a Red Cross organisation. appealed Wednesday to rival North Korea to return a southern

fishing boat and eight crewmen that violated the North's territorial waters. AP reports from Seoul. South Korea, which lacks any official channel of dialogue with its northern communist neighbour, made the appeal in a

telephone message to the North's Red Cross Society. Hours after the message was sent through the border village of Panmunjon: there was no response from the North, said officials at the South Korean Red Cross Society.

Arafat meets King Fahd: PLO chief Yasser Arafat met Tuesday with King Fahd to review the Middle East peace process. Palestinian officials said. AFP reports from Jeddah

They discussed the Palestinians' autonomy negotiations with Israel, the situation in the self-rule areas and the question of Jerusalem, said a member of Arafat's delegation.

Colombian rebels kill 2 cops: Around 30 Marxist guerillas attacked a police post on Tuesday night in a poor suburb of Bogota with grenades and submachine guns, killing two police and wounding a third, police said,

Reuter reports from Bogota. A police spokesman said the rebels, apparently belonging to urban units of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), attacked the police station in the suburb of Ciudad Kennedy at 9:20 pm local time (8:20 p.m. edt) (0220 GMT),

Russia finally joins NATO partnership for peace

NOORDWIJK, Netherlands, May 31: Russia started a new era of military and political cooperation with NATO today when it finally joined the alliance's partnership for peace programme, reports Reuter.

NATO officials said Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev announced Moscow's full participation in the scheme at a meeting with alliance foreign minister in this Dutch seaside resort.

"Kozyrev accepted the two documents." said one NATO source. The first document pro-

vides for military cooperation within the partnership for peace, the second for broader political ties.

Russia had delayed developing cooperation with NATO because of Moscow's opposition to alliance plans to take in new members from Eastern

in the wake of the hostage crisis.

WASHINGTON, May 31; In a

move that could put American

troops in the line of fire, the

United Sates said on Tuesday

it would consider dispatching

ground troops to Bosnia to

help redeploy or rescue out-

gunned and demoralised UN

there. We will be there to re-

spond." White House press

secretary Mike McCurry said.

"We understand what our obli-

gations are as the leader of the

alliance, and the president

would be prepared to act on

military muscle the United

States was prepared to use

now, although the White House

underscored the policy of both

the Bush and Clinton adminis-

trations not to deploy US com-

but forces for the peacekeep-

It was unclear how much

that type of request."

"We've said that we will be

peacekeepers, reports AP.

meeting with his 16 NATO counterparts, Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev exchanged documents to conclude the agreement, and gave a list of military and political cooperation activities for the Partnership for Peace pro-

gramme. Kozyrev also endorsed a document laying out the special relationship that Russia is to have with NATO - which includes the United States. France, Britain, and Germany - on issues ranging from

peacekeeping to arms control. The most visible expression of that will be regular consultations between NATO and Russian foreign ministers.

NATO's special relationship with Russia reflects the fact the country is a nuclear power entitled to be consulted on major issues. But Russia gets no veto right over NATO

Two temale members of 30th Signal Regiment, Tracy Farr (C) and Susan Taylor (R), march

with their colleagues to board one of five Hercules transport planes to Bosnia Tuesday from

RAF Lyneham. United Kingdom. They form part of the increased UNPROFOR deployment

US may use ground troops to

aid UN forces in Bosnia

Perry said the only contin-

gency" that would involve

sending US ground forces into

Bosnia would be "as part of a

NATO operation in order to

extract UN forces that are in

danger from the place that

that the president made,"

Perry said on PBS "McNeil-

Lehrer NewsHour." "Even in

that commitment, it has to be

part of a NATO operation un-

der NATO command control,

and we would go to the

Congress for support on that

publican majority in the US

Senate who was campaigning

in New Hampshire for his

party's nomination to run for

president against Clinton next

Bob Dole, leader of the Re-

"That was the commitment

they are in danger.

before we did it.

view of NATO's plans to take in East European members in the years ahead.

Russia opposes such an expansion eastward. Kozyrev told the NATO ministers they should stop their enlargement drive.

"Instead of considering ways of NATO expansion, we need to focus on methods of building jointly a single Eu-

rope." he told the meeting. "In other words," we suggest (NATO should) halt and think, rather than act hastily and blindly."

NATO Secretary General Willy Claes told the meeting that, NATO's expansion plan is not "directed against Russia nor does it diminish the national security interests of

Russia." He said NATO and Russia "have it in their power to become valued friends. leaving

AFP/UNB photo

year, agreed that US troops

"Under certain conditions,

ves, to help rescue personnel.

Dole said. "Personnel is one

About 2,000 Marines, espe-

cially trained for amphibious

operations, were headed for

the Adriatic Sea. The aircraft

carrier USS Theodore Roo-

sevelt, with 50 warplanes, al

ready is on station in the Adri-

ingness to dispatch troops was

triggered by the Bosnian Serbs'

seizure of about 370 UN

peacekeepers in retaliation for

NATO air strikes last Friday.

The United Stats, Britain, Fra-

nce. Russia and Germany reso-

lve to reinforce the 22,000-

member UN force in Bosnia.

The administration's will-

but not to rescue equipment,

thing, equipment is another."

Defence Secretary William | could be used under limited

circumstances.

behind for good the remnants of past mistrust and suspi-

But Kozyrev warned that hasty moves toward expansion "may threaten the establishment of truly mutually advantageous and constructive relations between Russia and NATO."

Also, Kozyrev urged the transformation of NATO from a military organization into a political one.

"If not, he said, "we have to clarify whom NATO is going to defend itself against. If one has in mind Russia, it is obvious that this would mean creating

new dividing lines in Europe." In a joint statement, he and the NATO allies said constructive cooperative relations of mutual respect, benefit and friendship between the alliance and Russia are ... a key element for security and

Japan confirms

China's ICBM

test fire

fired an Intercontinental Bal-

listic Missile (ICBM) in late

May, Japan's top government

spokesman Kozo Igarashi con-

conducted a ballistic missile

related test in late May,"

lgarashi told a news confer-

ence, when asked about

China's reported test launch of

an ICBM, Igarashi declined to

front-page article, and Jiji, in a

recent dispatch from Beijing.

said that China test launched a

new type of ICBM on Monday.

Dong Feng (East Wind) 31.

used solid fuel as propellant

and a mobile launcher, the

first such Chinese ICBM, the

NATO asks Russia

to hold elections

in Chechnya

NATO called on Russia to hold

elections in Chechnya and to ensure that humanitarian assis-

tance got through to civilians

in the breakaway republic, re-

ritorial integrity of the Rus-

sians Federation, we remain

deeply concerned about the

"While respecting the ter-

NETHERLANDS, May 31:

The ICBM, believed to be a

The Sankei newspaper, in a

comment further.

reports said.

ports AFP.

leased here.

"We assume that China

firmed today, reports AFP.

TOKYO, May 31: China test

stability in Europe."

Hills estate said last month that he'd slit her throat after being refused entry, the Daily News reported Wednesday. Citing a Los Angeles police report, the News said Robert Dewey Hoskins made the

April. when he showed up at her gate. On Monday, the intruder was shot by a private security guard after he scaled the fence of the compound while

> Madonna was away. Hoskins also allegedly broke into the estate on April 7, then returned to the gate the next day and demanded to see the pop star.

> > When the guard refused him entry, according to the police report, he threatened to kill Madonna, saying: "I'll slice her throat from ear to ear".

NEW YORK. May 31: An ob-

week on Madonna's Hollywood



According to the News, police said Hoskins then scribbled a note that read, "I love you Madonna. I want you to marry me. I love you. You love

. The 37-year-old man reportedly left the note on the gate call box and told a guard. "Give Madonna the note."

The entertainer was not at home at that time, either.

Lefts lose West Bengal city council polls

Intruder threatens to

NEW DELHI, May 31: firdian communists were in shock today after suffering unexpected setbacks in city council elections in the eastern state of West Bengal which they have ruled since 1977. reports AFP.

The Communist Party of India (Marxist) admitted that the defeats in more than two dozen municipalities across the agrarian state was a cause for concern ahead of the state assembly elections due next year.

"They are a setback," CPI (M) General Secretary Harkishan Singh Surject said, "the state unit of the party will take stock of the position. Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) party, which is the main opposition in West

Some four million of the state's 40 million voters cast their ballots in the municipal elections.

A CPI (M)-led leftist combine won only 32 municipalities, indicating the party's declining popularity in the urban areas of the West Bengal, a sprawling state bordering Bangladesh.

Counting of seats was on in 15 others.

The results stunned the CPI (M). country's most influential communist party, mainly because the West Bengal Congress Party was a divided house in the run-up to the elections and was expected to be routed.

"The left front losses are a setback to it, and do not augur

300 rebels killed since LTTE-govt truce fails

COLOMBO. May 31: Sri Lankan armed forces have killed more than 300 Tamil Tiger rebels in the six weeks since a shaky ceasefire collapsed, the state-run news agency Lankapuwath said to-

developments in Chechnya. which are causing so much day, reports Reuter. suffering and so many casualties in the civilian population." the 16 foreign ministers said in their final communique re-The ministers were holding rebel jungle hideouts, the agency quoted a senior military

their spring meeting in Noordwijk on the west coast of the Netherlands. officer as saying. "We call for an immediate

ceaselire and urge the parties to pursue negotiations," the ministers said.

Murayama may break up coalition

TOKYO, May 31: Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has indicated he might break up his ruling coalition if parliament fails to pass a pending war apology resolution, the Kyodo News agency reported today, says Reuter.

Kyodo said Murayama told political colleagues he would act with grave determination if parliament failed to pass the resolution, a phrase which in Japanese political language denotes either resignation or calling snap general elections. Murayama's socialists have

repeatedly warned they might withdraw from the three-way alliance if the Liberal Demoratic Party (LDP), senior partner in the coalition, blocks his plan to adopt an unambiguous war apology.

It would be the first time Murayama himself said anything publicly alluding to a possible dissolution of the coalition.

"just as easy" for authorities to

arrange as convictions that oc-

curred, he said, with little re-

30 million lives, and main-

tained that he had a right to

Yu again defended his own

Bengal, won 28 out of 75 muwell for its prospects in the nicipalities that went to the state assembly and parliamenpolls on Sunday, snatching tary elections a year away." The Hindustan Times newspaper more than 10 from the com munists. warned in an editorial.

The rebels were so hard pressed in the island's east that guerilla chief Velupillai Prabhakaran had sent his elite "Charles Anthony brigade" to fight army commandos raiding

Isolated Army outposts in the region were protected by mine fields and "obstacle belts," it quoted the officer as

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam have stepped up attacks in the east after the raid.

rebels abruptly ended the truce on April 19 with the sinking of two navy gunboats. military sources said. The rebels are fighting for

their own homeland in the north and east in a 12-year campaign that has so fare cost at least 30,000 lives. Military sources said gueril-

las killed one civilian and wounded another when they overran a small army guard post protecting a village in the eastern Weliova district early on Wednesday, but military officials denied the report.

The sources said rebels burned the camp and escaped with captured weapons, but the army later reoccupied the camp, but a military official said troops repulsed the rebel

Off the Record

Bribery for dowry!

COLOMBO: A local government official swallowed a currency note he had accepted as a bribe when detectives pounced on him, then bit a policeman who tried to retrieve the money authorities said Wednesday, reports AP.

The suspect. A.M Navaratne, ended up swallowing the money on Tuesday, and he was charged with accepting a bribe and resisting arrest, said Rienzie Perera, a spokesman for the Permanent Commission on Bribery and Corruption. The policeman who reached into Navaratne's mouth was only slightly injured. The suspect, a local government official in Rambukkana,

70 kilometers (45 miles) northeast of the capital, Colombo. had demanded a bribe of Rs 500 (dlrs 10) from a local resident to transfer a land title deed.

Bribery officials set a trap with a marked currency note after being tipped off by the landowner who had promised to return the following day with the money. He needed the deed to given the land to his teen-age daughter as a dowry for her impending marriage.

Life terms plus 625 yrs

WAUKESHA. Wis: A man who robbed banks with his teenage son and jumped out of a getaway car to kill a policeman has been given what amounts to a death sentence, reports

"You in fact are going to die in prison," Circuit Judge Lee S. Dreyfus Jr. told James Oswald on Tuesday as he sentenced him to two consecutive life terms plus 625 years.

Oswald, 50, showed no visible reaction to the sentence. He was convicted Monday of 20 felony counts for the mur-

Oswald's 19-year-old son, Theodore, had already been convicted of 19 counts. He will be sentenced June 6.

After the Oswalds robbed a bank on April 28, 1994, Capt James Lutz saw them driving a stolen car. When the car suddenly stopped in a sub-division. Lutz pulled up behind it and the Oswalds got out and opened fire with semiautomatic ri-The pair then commandeered a van and led authorities on

a chase that ended when they crashed into a tree at a roadblock. A person they had taken hostage safely jumped out of the vehicle.

February and December 1993.

Iraman President Ali Akhar Hashemi Rafsanjani (R) meets with North Korean Foreign

Minister Kun Ying-Nam (L) in Tehran on Tuesday. The two leaders agreed on Wednesday to strengthen relations to stand firm against the US.

- AFP/UNB photo Dissidents, held for Tiananmen egg-throwing, appeal for freedom

BEIJING, May 31: Seven- 1989 pro-democracy demon- and arrest, activists, have isteen Chinese imprisoned for strations, which were crushed sued several petitions in the and 14 activists given terms of political acts during the 1989 by the army on June 4 with Tiananmen democracy protests have appealed to par liament for their freedom - or a least better conditions while

still in prison, reports Reuter. The handwritten appeal to the national People's Congress and its Chairman, Qiao Shi, was issued by Yu Zhijian, imprisoned for life in 1989 for throwing eggs at the huge portrait of Chairman Mao Tse-Tung that hands in central Tiananmen square in Beijing.

Yu said his appeal - Reuters was provided with a copy today -represented 54 activists imprisoned for their part in the

heavy casualties.

In these six years, we have never regretted the road we have taken or the things we have done". Yu wrote

"Every day, in our hearts, we think of only one thing reverse the verdict on June 4." Beijing still regards the six weeks of massive, peaceful protests as a seditious "counterrevolutionary rebellion and has imprisoned thousands of organisers and particijanits for what was seen as a brazen challenge to Comm-

unist Party rule Risking police harassment

run-up to this year's sixth anniversary of the June 4 crackdown, urging prisoner releases, tolerance of political dissent, a parliamentary reappraisal of June 4 and a public accounting of who died in the

crackdown It was not immediately known how Yu's bold appeal. dated May 23. emerged from number one prison in Yuanjiang in central Hunan province, where the 54 dissidents are imprisoned.

Seventeen inmates put their names on the appeal, including two colleagues sentenced to 20 and 16 years for

the Tiananmen egg-throwing 10 or more years

Thirty-seven dissidents serving shorter terms told Yu they supported the appeal but declined to give their names for fear of jeopardising their release, he wrote. Saving he accepted that ac-

tion would be time-consuming and difficult. Yu suggested that Qiao Shi and parliament take a gradual approach — starting by assuring that a prison law promulgated in December be aggressively enforced. The law forbids prison

beatings and other humiliation.

which Yu said warders at

Yuanjiang employed with im-

should set up a panel to review the 54 prisoners' cases which Yu said were investigated and tried in a climate deeply tainted by the June 4 crackdown. "Few of us even had lawyers. I had a lawyer but rather than

defend me, he only urged me to admit my guilt. How does this kind of lawyer differ from the prosecutor himself?" Finally. "various means" such as early parole and re-

lease for medical treatment "could be used to restore our freedom." Yu wrote, adding more than 10 activists had chronic illnesses.

act of political dissent. He said Mao should be held responsible for modern China's worst calamities - the great leap forward of 1957-60 and the cultural revolution of 1966-76 — which cost up to

course to legal procedure.

As a second step. Congress istrative releases should be

say so.

"Six years ago our objective was to let people realise that Mao Tse-Tung was not a god. but a criminal," Yu wrote.

Wisconsin has no death penalty. Oswald will be eligible for parole in the 24th century.

der, taking a hostage and several robberies and attempted murders.

The two also were convicted or robbing credit unions in

AP adds: At a one-hour decisions. This is important in