day in Srebrenica town.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbe-

govic sent letters Sunday to the lead-

ers of the United States, Germany

England and France, asking for help

for Srebrenica, one of six 'safe areas

declared by the United Nations in

although Gorazde and Bihac came

under similar intensive Serb assaults

last year. Both those assaults tapered

ters, Col Milovan Milutinovic charged

that government forces have used the

designated safe areas at Srebrenica.

Zepa and Gorazde to attack Serb po-

Bosnian Serbs rebelled against seces-

sion from Serb-dominated Yu-

goslavia. An estimated 200,000 peo-

Sharon said in an interview published

not been any military manoeuvres and

stimulation exercises in which the

Golan has been included, along with

its water resources, in the defensive

system," Sharon told The Davar

systematically considered it essential

to control the old volcanic ridge

which runs across the middle of the

of Lebanon, accused Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin of having politicised

the army, and having incited civil war

by making provocative statements

withdrawal from the heights, but has

not defined the scope of the pullout,

in exchange for a full peace treaty.

Rabin has offered Syria a phased

Dennis Ross, the US State De-

partment's Middle East coordinator

was expected to arrive in Jerusalem

heights, he said.

against the settlers."

In the past all army chiefs of staff

Sharon, who led the 1982 invasion

For several months there have

ple are believed dead or missing.

War broke out in April 1992 when

At Bosnian Serb Army headquar-

off after NATO airstrikes.

sitions over the past month.

No 'safe area' has yet fallen,

# BRIFFIY

US diplomat meets Harry Wu:A senior US diplomat yesterday met Chinese-American human rights activist Harry Wu, who was arrested by Chinese police last week on espionage charges, Xinhua reported, AFP says from Beijing.

The US Consul General in Beijing, Arturo Macias, spoke with Wu in the central city of Wuhan where he is being held.

Floods claim 11 in Assam: Floods have killed 11 people, forced thousands from their homes and affected one million in India's far eastern state of Assam, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported yesterday, AFP says from New Delhi.

Indian army troops were rescuing people stranded in floods across the state as the Brahmaputra river rose meancingly after heavy monsoon rains, the news agency said. The floods have also destroyed vast areas of crops and caused widespread destruction to property.

Iraqi opposition for new leader:
A senior Iraqi opposition figure said Sunday that a rebel alliance seeking to topple Saddam Hussein will shortly form a new "field leadership" to replace the Iraqi National Congress, the umbrella group for anti-Saddam forces, AP reports from Damascus.

Bayan Jabr, a representative of the Iran-based Supreme Assembly for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, told the Associated Press that consultations on the new leadership will begin July 21. Jabr said assembly leader Hojatoleslam Mohammad Bakr al-Hakim will be in Syria July 21.

Gingrich against ban on China: House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich said Sunday he would oppose broad sanctions against China in response to the arrest of Chinese American human rights activist Harry Wu, AFP reports from Washington.

I would look for specific places that hurt the Chinese I would not look for general overall sanctions, Gingrich told a television interviewer. I would look at a series of sanctions but I would be very careful.

20 bear cubs rescued in Shanghai: Police and forestry officers in northern Hebei province recently rescued 20 black bear cubs which were being taken to a farm to be bred for their gall bladders, a newspaper reported Monday, AFP reports from Shanghai.

The Wen Hui Bao reported that Zhao Lianshan, a businessman, was on his way to northern Jilin province with the bear cubs when police and forestry officers topped him in Shijiazhuang city and arrested him and his accomplice Sun Jinfu.

Worker rewarded in China: worker was rewarded this week for calling to report a gas leak last month in this capital city of East China's Zhejiang province, Xinhua reports from

Li Weimin, a worker from the Jingpin Glass Trading Company, smelled the lead from a sewer pipe on June 7 and immediately called the emergency repair centre of the city gas company.

Filipino vice-mayor shot dead: Four gunmen shot dead a vice-mayor while he was having his shoes shined in a busy commercial district in the southern Philippines, police said yesterday, Reuter reports from Iligan, Philippines.

Panic broke out among shoppers in the city of Marawi when the assassins, armed with pistols, suddenly fired on Camilo Sultan on Sunday, hitting him three times in the head.

Lebanese rockets hit Israel: About 20 Katyusha rockets hit northern Israel from Lebanon Sunday, provoking an artillery barrage by Israeli forces as the circle of deadly violence escalated. military officials said, AFP reports from Israel.

The rockets which caused neither casualties nor damage were fired in reprisal for Israeli shelling which killed two Lebanese teenages and wounded five more late Saturday.

Strong quake rocks Russia: A strong earthquake measuring 6.4 points on the open-ended Righter Scale was recorded in the Pacific Ocean some 470 kilometres (290 miles) from the Russian far eastern island of Sakhalin early Monday, Interfax News Agency reported, AFP reports from Moscow.

The quake, which occurred at 00:39 am Moscow time (2039 GMT Sun day), caused no casualties or damage, officials at the far eastern regional centre for emergencies told Interfax.

3 Iranian dissidents killed: Gunmen on Monday shot and killed three officials of Iran's main armed opposition group in Iraq, the People's Mujahadeen Group said, AFP reports from

The four attackers sprayed the three men with machinegun fire as they travelled in a car in the Iraqi capital around 8 am (0400 GMT), the group said in a statement.

Earthquake shakes Myanmar An earthquake measuring 6.6 on the open-ended Richter scale hit northeastern Myanmar early yesterday, a Thai official said, Reuter reports from

The earthquake, detected by Thailand's meteorological department struck at 3.32am local time (2032 GMT Sunday) and was centred in Myanmar's Shan state, about 320 km north of Chiang Mai, northwest Thailand, a spokesman for the department said.

Seoul store collapse death toll 177: The official death toll in the Seoul department store collapse rose to 1" yesterday, as rescues working in driving monsoon rain recovered 1" bodies overnight, television and news reports said, AFP reports from Seoul.

The number missing in the tragedy stood at 248, while more than 900 were injured in the June 29 collapse of the five-story Smapoong Store.

3 Palestinians held in Hebron Israeli police on Sunday arrested two Palestinian cameramen and a women journalist as they were filming a rally organised by the left-wing peace now group in Hebron, AFP reports from Hebron.

Chirs Slaney, head of the Jerusalem Bureau of the British television channel WTN told AFP the three had been arrested when scuffles broke out between demonstrators and Israeli settlers in the West Bank town.

Diarrhoea claims 700 in Liberia A brutal diarrhoea fever has killed 700 people in the past two months across an isolated region in the north of this war-torn African country, a health of ficial announced, AFP reports from Liberia.

The disease first struck May 2 in Fassama, a town of 10,000 situated 160 kilometres (100 miles) northeast of the Liberian capital Monrovia, and quickly spread through outlying districts and villages, Issac Zazay said here

Ali Mahdi for imposing Sharia: Clan militia leader Ali Mahdi Mohamed wants Islamic Sharia law, with amputations for theft to execution for murder, imposed across Somalia to bring law and order to the anarchic country, Reuter reports Mogadishu.

Modadishu radio, which supports Ali Mahdi, quoted him late on Sunday as saying "implementation of Islamic Sharia law is the only way out of the present economic and socio-political problems in the country".

He made this call during talks with religious leaders in the northern enclave of Mogadishu which is controlled by his militias and where Sharia courts have been functioning since August 1994.

Serbs advance on Srebrenica SARAJEVO, July 10: Bosnian Serbs faced a threat of NATO airstrikes after advancing on Srebrenica, a UN-

declared 'safe area" for more than

40,000 Muslims, reports AP. The United Nations said Sunday it would call for air power if the Serbs attacked a line of peacekeepers hastily moved to protect the town.

After seizing 30 UN peacekeepers as possible hostages against any airstrike, Bosnian Serb forces pushed within one kilometre (half a mile) of Srebrenica on Sunday and fired artillery shells into the area, where civilians are supposedly protected from

"The advance must stop where it is," said a UN letter sent Sunday night to Bosnian Serb Army commander Gen Ratko Mladic.

It said Dutch peacekeepers equipped with anti-tank weapons took up "a blocking position" along the city's southern perimeter.

#### high round above the road and Communists win Syria rejects Israeli presence on Calcutta City

--- International -

UN threatens NATO airstrikes as

three monitoring positions, Coward

In a pincer movement that

severely limits the ability of govern-

ment forces to counterattack, Serb-

units also advanced up a second road

toward the village of Slapovic, UN of-

The Bosnian government has asked for NATO air strikes and ap-

pealed to Western governments to

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Sila-

mate of casualties in the enclave.

Osman Sulic, a Srebrenica city coun-

cillor, told Sarajevo media that eight civilians had been killed and 27

2,000 to 4,000 civilians who fled the

fighting in the southeast arrived Sun-

its soil as part of peace deal

just and global peace are clear," the

reported Ross would try to prepare

for a new round of talks between Is-

raeli and Syrian military experts to

last two weeks from July 20 in Wash-

tary staff held talks in Washington at

the end of June, following a first such

meeting in December, to discuss se-

curity arrangements in the event of a

where 13,000 settlers live, have been a

major stumbling block in negotia-

Rabin has offered Syria a phased

withdrawal from the heights, but has

not defined the scope of the pullout,

army no longer includes the Golan

Heights as part of its defence strat-

egy, former defence minister Ariel

in exchange for a full peace treaty.

The heights annexed in 1981,

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak

Meanwhile, the Israeli

withdrawal from the Golan.

tions launched in 1991.

Israeli and Syrian chiefs of mili-

In Israel the Haaretz newspaper

jdzic said: "It's good news."

wounded since Thursday.

Informed of the UN's warning,

The United Nations had no esti-

UN spokesman Jim Landale said

ficials said.

save the town.

UN envoy Yasushi Akashi and mil-

itary commander Lt Gen Bernard Jan-

vier ordered that if Bosnian Serb

forces attack this position, "NATO

close air support will be employed,"

UN spokesman Lt Col Gary Coward

peacekeepers and two armoured per-

sonnel carriers in their drive Sunday,

the United Nations said, adding them

to the 15 seized in attacks Saturday

fensive Thursday. The UN letter de-

manded they withdraw to their earlier

positions and release the peacekeep-

Serb forces might have wanted at

first only to secure a supply road near

kilometres (1.5 miles), taking the

Coward suggested earlier that the

But they advanced another 2.5

DAMASCUS, July 10: Syria today

rejected out of hand any Israeli pres-

ence on its territory as part of a

peace deal ahead of a new Middle

East shuttle mission by US envoy

Heights, occupied by Israel since

1967 and the rejection of any Israeli

presence on Syria's soil" were condi-

tions for any peace accord with Is-

Middle East coordinator, was to ar-

rive later today in Jerusalem in a re-

newed bid to push forward the peace

later in the week and aimed to set a

date for a resumption of military

talks in Washington, diplomats said.

ing Baath Party, said the Ross visit

"was expected to advance the peace

process on the right track towards re-

"Our conditions for establishing a

alising tangible progress."

He was expected in Damascus

Al-Baath, mouthpiece of the rul-

Ross, the US State Department's

The return of all the Golan

Dennis Ross, reports AFP.

rael, the daily Al-Baath said.

talks between Israel and Syria.

ers and their equipment.

the Serbian border.

The Bosnian Serbs began their of-

night on two UN observation posts.

Bosnian Serbs seized 15 Dutch

quoted the letter as saying.

NEW DELHI, July 10: Indian communists scored a narrow win to retain control of the Calcutta City Council but a state party leader said he was disappointed with the margin of victory, the Press Trust of India (PII) reported today, says AFP.

Council polls

A leftist coalition which rules the castern state of West Bengal won 70 scats while the Congress (I) Party of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao took 66 to finish a close second in the 141-member civic body.

The rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party retained its two seats and candidates not affiliated to any political party won in three constituencies.

The communists, who had suffered a series of defeats in earlier elections to municipal bodies in West Bengal towns, had been expected to lose control of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation.

A leader of West Bengal's ruling Communist Party of India (Marxist). or CPI(M), admitted he was disappointed by the victory which saw the leftists concede 26 seats to the Congress, the main opposition party.

#### MQM calls off strike

KARACHI, July 10: The ethnic based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) called off a general strike planned for today, the party announced here late Sunday, reports

The decision has been taken as a "goodwill gesture" ahead of the government MQM talks scheduled for Tuesday, a party official said. I spoke to MQM chief Altaf Hus-

sain, who told me to call off today's strike, the head of the MQM negotiating team Ajmal Delhvi said. Hussain is in self exile in London. The strike was called by the MQM

to mourn the death of a party leader in police custody, MQM said Aslam Subzwari, 35, was "tortured" to death, but police said he died of heart failure. Life remained paralysed for the

third day Sunday as the MOM extended a two-day strike on Friday and Saturday to protest the alleged gang rape of the sister of a party activist and murder of a local MQM leader last month.

#### Turkey to continue military actions

against PKK rebels

TASHKENT, July 10: Turkey will continue military action to drive Kurdish rebels out of northern Iraq as long as needed to complete the job Prime Minister, Tansu Ciller told a news conference here late on Sunday. reports Reuter.

Ciller, on a two day visit to Uzbekistan, said the attack had been necessary because Baghdad had failed to stop fighters from the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) from using northern Iraq as a base for terrorism inside Turkey.

They launched terrorist activists into Turkey and the Iraqi government was not able to control them. That is why we had to act to protect our territorial integrity, Ciller said.

"We are going to continue our operations there until we are safe and secure, and we are going to fight as long as the PKK is there, she said in remarks translated into Russian.

Turkish troops backed by air power, pushed into northern Iraq last Wednesday in the first big assault on PKK rebels since a six week operation in March.

open to all Arabs without conditions," Sudanese government spokesman Abdel-Basit Sabdarat

"The Sudan's doors will remain

CAIRO, July 10: Egypt said it

foiled an attempt Sunday to

smuggle bomb-making material

through Cairo International Air-

port to Egyptian Islamic extrem-

Airport security officials also

said they discovered undeclared

telecommunications equipment

in a Sudanese diplomat's ship-

enforcing new regulations by

turning away eight Sudanese who

arrived at Cairo International air-

port without visas. Until Sunday,

Sudanese had been welcome in

cials expressed regret over the

visa situation but said they would

In Khartoum, Sudanese offi-

Egypt without permits.

not retaliate.

At the same time, Egypt began

ists in Sudan, reports AP.

ment.

The Sudanese Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, criticised what

it termed, "a series of escalations by the Egyptian regime against

PLO leader Yasser Arafat tours with World Bank President James Wolfensohn (R)

the beach of Gaza City Sunday. The World Bank granted a 20 million US dollars aid to

the Palestinian authority through an agreement signed between Arafat and Wolfen-

Bid to ship bomb-making materials

It accused Egypt of violating aviation agreements by cutting Sudan Airways flights to Egypt to two per week, banning Sudanese cargo flights and barring Sudan's national carrier from flying its traditional Cairo-Rome route. Egypt has long accused Sudan

of harbouring Muslim extremists who have waged a three-year insurgency to try to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. But tensions have risen since

gunmen on June 26 attempted to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as he arrived in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa to attend an Africa summit. Mubarak has accused the Is-

lamic regime in Sudan of orchestrating the attack, and Foreign Minister Amr Moussa has called for Sudan, to be isolated until it abandons policies that threaten neighbouring countries.

to Khartoum foiled Sudan has denied involvement

AFP/UNB photo

in the plot. Egyptian airport officials said Sunday they had intercepted bomb-making literature and equipment, and fake Egyptian stamps and special ink used on official documents. They said the material was headed to Egyptian Islamic militants in Sudan.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the shipment came from a foreign country they would not name, and refused to disclose other details.

Airport security forces also confiscated wireless telecommunications equipment being brought into Egypt by a diplomat assigned to the Sudanese Em-

The officials said the diplomat had informed Egyptian officials he was bringing a television a radio and a video recorder but had not mentioned telecommunications equipment. The exact type of equipment was not dis-

# Off the Record



Nina Ricer's Gerard Pipart honours red for afternoons in a gown whose plunging neckline anchors in a roseknotted corset, stretching the silhouette, under a sunflower hat of plumes for the Fall-Winter 1995-1996 high-fashion collection shown in Paris Sun-AFP/UNB photo

#### It's a royal barbecue!

LONDON: Fifty firemen and no fewer than ten fire engines rushed Sunday to Buckingham Palace after a fire alert only to find that the flames were from a barbecue in the royal stables, the fire service said, reports AFP.

Firemen said that on Sunday evening people living on Buckingham Palace road running beside the palace reported seeing smoke. A man said he had seen clouds of smoke coming out of the buildings inside the palace

"It was our predetermined response to an alert at the palace but when we got there, the only flames were in a barbecue in the yard at the royal news," a fire service spokesman said.

Queen Elizabeth II is not in residence at Buckingham at the moment but is staying at Windsor Castle west of the capital.

> Sex tells nothing expresses everything

VATICAN CITY: Pope John Paul II said Sunday sexuality was the language uniting men and women, an expression of their love and yet also a gift from God to create new life, reports AFP.

"Sexuality affects the very nature of the human person and marital union, far from being reduced to satisfying an instinct, becomes a message allowing the expression of the profound union between two people, male and female," he told the crowds here.

They "give themselves to each other, intimately, to express the total and definitive communion of their bodies, while at the same time being charged by an collaborating with God in the gift of life."

Citing the Bible and "God's desire to give man a companion," he added the difference between the sexes was based on a "key unifying factor: There is one being who exists in different but complementary forms, the male and female."

It was precisely because women were different from men but equal to them that they could be an "aid" to them, he said. "But the aid is not unilateral," he added. "Women is a support to man and man to women."

#### Now Miss Piggy -Kermit romance at sea! SHEPPERTON, England: Ahoy there, me hearties! It's the Muppets at

sea, reports AP.

You'll find them aboard a galleon: Kermit in a curled gray wig and frock coat with tricorn hat, Miss Piggy in full skirts with corset. And Fozzie Bear? Oh, Fozzie Bear is a vision in the lace and velvet costume of an 18th-century squire.

So just what is this latest Muppet caper? The fuzzy troupe is in Britain filming "The Muppet Treasure Island," very loosely based on Robert Louis Stevenson's rollicking adventure yarn of

pirates and treasure, intrigue and disappointment. There are more human stars than in other Muppet feature movies. But as usual it's the puppets - megastars Kermit the frog and Miss Piggy - who

hog the limelight. "I look kind of authoritative, a noble captain of the sea," Kermit recently confided during a break in filming. As Captain Smollet, he com-

mands the mighty galleon Hispaniola which takes kitchen lad Jim Hawkins in search for treasure.

### Must be dinosaur's cousin

PARIS: Archaeologists digging around vineyards in southwestern France say they've found a new dinosaur, looking much like a brontosaurus with heavy protective plates on its back, reports AP. Called the ampelosaurus atacis — "dinosaur of the Aude wine region" —

the creature measuring up to 20 meters (60 feet) long lived about 75 million years ago, archaeologists said Saturday. Eric Buffetaut, researcher at the National Centre for Scientific Re-

search, said the dinosaur was discovered near Carcassone in Campagne-sur-Aude in the France's largest archaeological site. Archaeologists from the centre and the Dinosaur Museum of Esperanza,

in the Aude region, unearthed the remains in an ancient riverbed where animals drowned during flooding. The museum and the European Centre of Paleontological Research said

the site would be opened to tourists beginning Monday, the first time a European archaeological dig would be opened to the general public.

Abolition of Executive Presidency

## Lanka may not meet July 15 deadline

COLOMBO, July 10: The Sri will be transferred to parliament. It is was committed to the abolition of the executive presidency but that it could not meet its self-imposed July 15 deadline, reports Reuter.

Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister GL Peiris said there had been no change of heart in the government, which came to power pledging to abolish the executive presidency.

"The only aspect in respect of which insurmountable difficulties of a practical nature have arisen is the

element of timing, Peiris said. We will abolish the executive

presidency," he told a news conference, but parliament had to be strengthened first.

'A large volume of authority that is today in the hands of the president

ankan government said on Sunday it therefore necessary that parliament itself be restructured." The delay had long been expected and Peiris has many times said that

the July 15 dead line might be difficult to keep He said the delay was due to the fact that a new constitution, due to be unveiled within a year, had many

'intertwining' facts that cannot be entangled. The government has promised to release any day now its long-awaited

peace package offering widescale devaluation for the country's minority Lamils President Chandrika Bandarnaike

Kumaratunga says she wants to abolish the executive presidency in force

#### French navy commandos storm Greenpeace ship, 21 held MURUROA, French Polynesia, dence leader Oscar Temaru and Meanwhile, French comman-

July 10: The French authorities Tahitian Pastor, Temarama, an dos used tear gas to storm the detained 21 people Sunday from environmental activist. the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior and accompanying zodiacs that tried to approach the French nuclear test base at Mururoa, a military official said, reports AFP. All are being investigated over

violation of French territorial waters, attempting to enter a special defence zone, refusing to obey official orders, and for some rebellion, a military official he added.

An official inquiry has been opened in the French Polynesian capital Papeete.

former Bishop of Evreux, Jacques Gaillot, Polynesian pro-indepen-

In Papeete, Colonel Jean-

Jacques Palnde, head of the French Polynesia gendarmerie, said several of the activists tried to chain themselves to the boat taking them from the Rainbow Warrior to Mururoa.

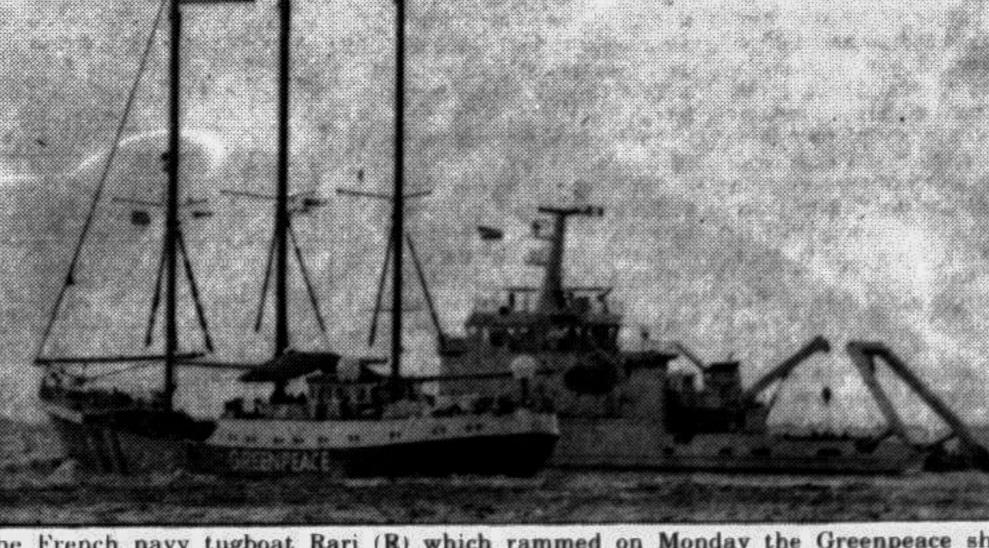
"The investigation has also been complicated because several of them refuse to give their identity or to answer questions, Six journalists on board Rain-

bow Warrior II, were allowed to join their colleagues already at the atoll. The military said they could The detainees include the leave Mururoa as soon as a plane leaves for Papeete on Monday, a military source said.

Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior II here Sunday, which was on a protest voyage to the French nuclear testing site at Mururoa Atoll. The operation took place

after a French military frigate rammed the environmentalist organisation's ship to prevent it from sailing into the lagoon at this atoll on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the sinking of the original Rainbow Warrior by French agents to thwart a similar protest mission.

He defended the use of tear gas saying it was absolutely necessary, "adding that no one was injured and a commando medic had provided all necessary treat-



The French navy tugboat Rari (R) which rammed on Monday the Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior II to prevent it from entering the entrance channel of Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific. French commandos boarded the nuclear protest vessel, arresting 21 passengers and crew members. Four Zodiac rubber launches also managed to get within - AFP/UNB photo the atoll's territorial waters before they too were intercepted.