

BRIEFLY



Turkish soldiers are on position as an army helicopter monitors the area some 20 km inside Iraq as the Turkish armed forces start a new crackdown operation on Kurdish PKK rebels in the Turkish-Iraqi border region on Tuesday. Reportedly 119 terrorists were killed and 33 were arrested in the operation. — AFP/UNB photo

Srebrenica would never be UN safe haven again: Karadzic

PALE, Bosnia-Herzegovina, July 13: Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic said here Wednesday that the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica which his troops overran Tuesday would never again be a UN safe haven, reports AFP.

For the Serbs to recognise them as safe areas they would have to be demilitarised, he said, adding that they would never again be used for attacks against the Serbs.

Chief UN civilian spokesman Alexander Ivanovic said in Sarajevo: 'There are currently 1,400 refugees in Tuzla airbase and another 1,000 people in Kladanj.'

UN officials said. UN spokesman Rida Ettarshany said the wounded were part of a group that didn't make it to government-held territory.

Higgins to sit on ICJ as first woman judge

UNITED NATIONS, July 13: The Security Council, voting concurrently yesterday with the General Assembly, elected Rosalyn Higgins of the United Kingdom to the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the first woman to sit on the court, reports Xinhua.

Taiwanese wins Magsaysay: A Taiwanese philanthropist who built more than 200 bridges in rural Taiwan has won the Ramon Magsaysay award for community leadership, the foundation announced yesterday. AFP reports from Manila.

Ho Ming-Teh, 73, founder of Taiwan's Chiayi City Philanthropy Group, was recognised for improving rural Taiwan with good deeds and sturdy bridges over the past 25 years, the Ramon Magsaysay foundation said.

Dilip Kumar awarded: The Dadasaheb Phalke Award for 1994 has been awarded to the veteran film personality, Dilip Kumar (Mohammad Yusuf Khan), PTI reports from New Delhi.

The well-known film actor will be the 26th recipient of the prestigious award, according to an official announcement. Instituted in 1969, the award is given annually to a film personality for outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema.

Pak tribesmen release 2 Germans: Tribesmen in northwestern Pakistan Thursday released two German engineers after keeping them hostage for more than two weeks, officials Peshawar said. AFP reports from Peshawar.

The two, named Friedrich Kochler and Horst Amon, were in good health. Diplomatic sources in Islamabad confirmed their release.

Rebels kill 4 cops in Tripura: Tribal guerillas shot dead four police and injured six others yesterday in the northeastern Indian state of Tripura, the Press Trust of India said, AFP reports from New Delhi.

An unspecified number of tribal separatists ambushed a police patrol on a highway in the state's Hezamara district and showered bullets killing four officers and injuring five other security personnel, it said.

Lagos newspaper editor freed: The editor of A M News a Lagos-based newspaper, arrested by security agents last week, has been released, the newspaper announced Wednesday, AFP reports from Lagos.

Babajimi Ojodu was released on bail Tuesday after being detained by the police for six days, the source said. He was arrested last week Wednesday over a report carried by the newspaper a few days earlier in which it said that soldiers took over a local police station in Lagos in protest against an alleged killing, by the police of a Nigerian who had just returned to the country.

2 Taiwanese held with drugs: A Taiwanese couple has been arrested at Bangkok International Airport after attempting to smuggle two kilograms (4.4 pounds) of heroin into Thailand, Thai narcotics police said yesterday. AFP reports from Bangkok.

Kuo Yeh Lee-fong and her husband Kuo Shing-nan, both 27 and from Taipei, were arrested Wednesday in the departure lounge after the heroin was found taped to the woman's thighs, the police said at a news conference. The couple was charged with drug possession and trafficking, they said.

4 executed in Vietnam: Four men convicted of armed attacks on vehicles on Vietnam's main North-South Highway have been executed in central Quang Nam-Danang province, press reports said Thursday. AFP says from Hanoi.

The four were executed by firing squad on July 7, convicted on charges of 61 attacks on the highway linking Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi in 1993 and 1994.

Sweden to boycott women's summit: A fifth Swedish Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) said Wednesday it would boycott the UN World Summit on Women in China in September because of Beijing's decision to move an alternative NGO conference far from the UN summit. AFP reports from Uppsala, Sweden.

The Centre for Women's Research from Uppsala University will not attend the NGO conference because the distance would prevent it having any influence on the official delegations, organisation head Denise Malmberg said. Chinese authorities decided June 8 to move the alternative summit 60 kilometres (40 miles) from the official UN conference in Beijing.

2 held with heroin in Cambodia: Cambodian anti-drug police have arrested two African men for possession of two kg (4.4 lb) of heroin which was to be smuggled out of the country, a senior government spokesman said on Thursday. Reuter reports from Phnom Penh.

The two were arrested on July 8 in Phnom Penh. Ministry of Information spokesman Sieng Lapresse said. Lapresse said the two had been identified as Elommat Lontaga, 38, from Zaire, and Peter Brown, 35, from Nigeria.

NZ likely to send naval vessel to French N-test site

WELLINGTON, July 13: New Zealand is likely to send a naval vessel with a flotilla of yachts to the French nuclear test site at Mururoa Atoll. Prime Minister Geoffrey Whitlam said today, reports AFP.

He stressed that if a ship were sent, it would probably be a non-combatant naval vessel.

Speaking after a government caucus meeting, Bolger noted there were calls for the protest movement to muster a flotilla of yachts in Auckland.

Russian troops summarily executed many Chechen civilians

GROZNY, July 13: Aslambek weeps as he scrapes the earth away from the half-decomposed corpse of his brother, who disappeared two months ago, reports AFP.

bouring village. Their families launched a search for them when they failed to return.

"We went to the Russian post which was situated at that time between the two villages," recalls Aslambek.

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three captives." Aslambek says the field is "only one of the places where bodies have been dug up."

Clinton calls for strengthening ban on Libya

WASHINGTON, July 13: President Bill Clinton called for strengthening international sanctions against Libya Wednesday, indicating a global oil embargo may be needed to punish the country, reports AFP.

Abandoned civil war mines kill hundreds of Yemenis

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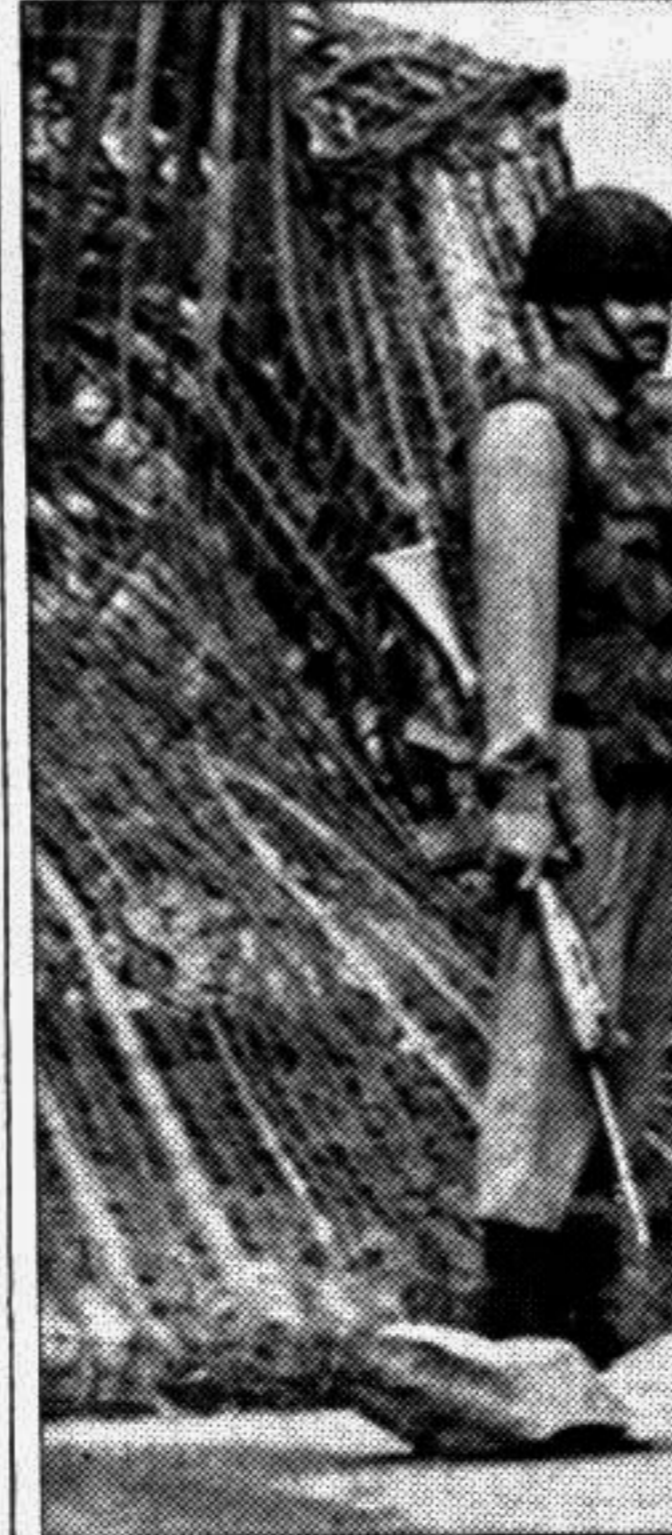
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A Kashmiri woman walks past an Indian security force bunker, in down town Srinagar on Wednesday. Six Western tourists have been kidnapped in the past week. One of the kidnapped tourists, an American, managed to escape from his Muslim militant captors Saturday and reach Srinagar. — AFP/UNB photo

Colombia urges US to step up fight against drug consumption

BOGOTA, July 13: President Ernesto Samper urged US President Bill Clinton Wednesday to step up the fight against consumption of drugs in the United States even as Colombia hands out stiffer sentences to drug traffickers, reports AFP.

Senator Mitch McConnell, who heads a key funding panel, said calls for the resumption of economic ties following the release Monday of Myanmar's democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi were "premature and ill-advised."

Clashes between rival Kurdish groups escalate

ANKARA, July 13: Renewed fighting between rival Kurdish groups in northern Iraq appears to be escalating, reports AP.

The fighting has taken place in a section of northern Iraq controlled by Iraqi Kurds who want independence from Baghdad and is out of reach of the Iraqi military.

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SLORC asked to take steps toward democracy or face US trade ban

WASHINGTON, July 13: An influential US senator said Wednesday he would introduce legislation banning commercial ties with Myanmar unless the junta takes concrete steps toward democracy in the next two weeks, reports AFP.

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Off the Record

She needs a phone anyway

YANGON: World leaders everywhere have congratulated Aung San Suu Kyi on being released from six years of house arrest, but she hasn't heard from any of them or even from her family in England, reports AFP.



"I must do something about that right away," she told reporters on Wednesday.

Too old to resist those scenes

MEXICO CITY: Right in the middle of sizzling scenes of 'The Sexy Neighbour,' the roof caved in on customers at a Mexico City porn cinema, injuring seven thoroughly surprised people, reports AFP.

Heavy rain proved too much for a large part of the roof at the 50-year-old Teresa Movie House Tuesday, which collapsed down on part of the crowd. Rescue workers rushed the seven from their seats to hospital beds.

'Jew me' turns into 'Do me'

LOS ANGELES, Michael Jackson on Wednesday gave his record label a cleaned-up version of a song that was criticised as anti-Semitic, a record company executive said Wednesday, reports AP.

The new version will be distributed beginning July 24, said Dan Beck, senior vice president of marketing for Epic Records.

Lankan soldiers hunt for rebels in captured areas

COLOMBO, July 13: Sri Lankan soldiers hunted Thursday for Tamil rebels who may have been trapped in areas the military has captured in a major offensive, officials said, reports AP.

By Wednesday afternoon, troops trying to bring more areas of northern Sri Lanka under the control of Palali military base in Jaffna Peninsula had captured about 50 square kilometres (19 square miles), the military officials said on condition of anonymity.

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