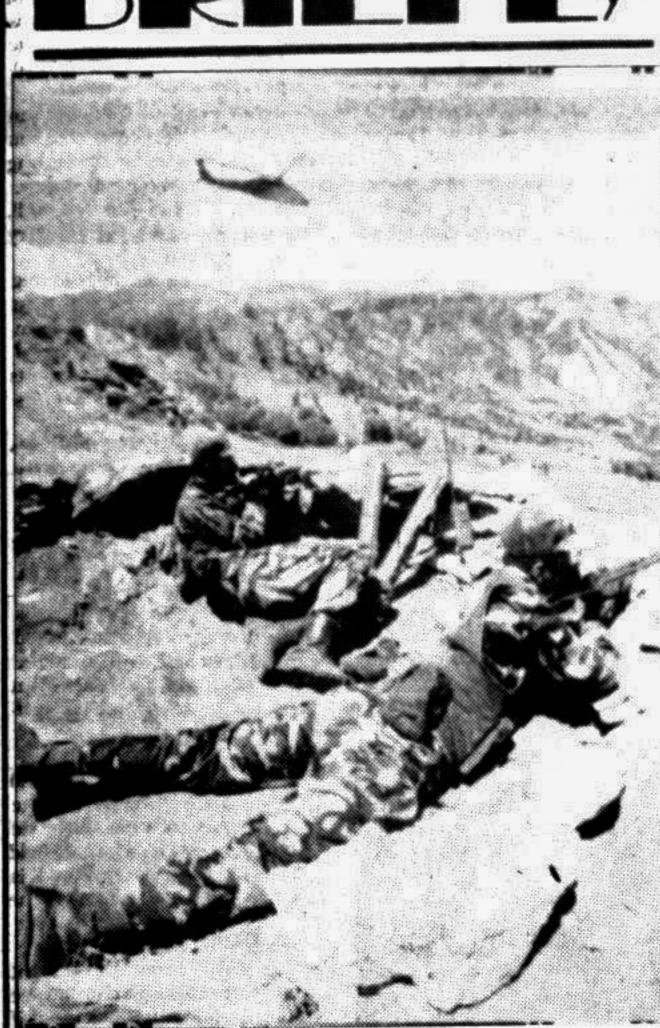
BRIFILY



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 opera-- AFP/UNB photo tion.

Taiwanese wins Magsaysay: 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 Yousuf 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 Pe-

shawar said, AFP reports from Peshawar.

oso They said Friedrich Koehler 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.

Babafemi Ojudu was released on bail Tuesday after being detained by the police for six days, the source said. He was arrested last week Wedneslay over a report carried by the newspaper a few day earlier in which it said do not act with the same energy to 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

2 Taiwanese held with drugs: Taiwanese couple has been arrested at Bangkok International Airport after attempting to smuggle two kilograms (4.4 pounds) of heroin out 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

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 Lontagha, 38, from Zaire, and Peter Brown, 35, from Nigeria.

months ago, reports AFP.

near an abandoned Russian army

post. The field is one of many where

Russian troops secretly buried

Chechen civilians they arrested and

then shot, either because the simply

did not like them or because they

Shakihman, 18, were found only after

a Russian soldier finally agreed to

The bodies of Hassan, 17, and

were carrying too much money.

Srebrenica would never be UN Off the Record 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.

"Serbs will never agree to giving Srebrenica the status of a security zone," Karadzic said on Serb television in Pale, his stronghold near Sara-

There will never again be Muslim terrorists in Srebrenica, he said, adding that "order and calm" now prevailed in the former Muslim enclave whose population fled as the rebels seized the east Bosnian town.

Karadzic said not a single civilian had been killed when the Serbs defied UN peacekeepers to take control of the town Tuesday.

He said that in spite of the UN Security Council decision to turn the town into a safe area in April 1993. Srebrenica and five other Bosnian town - Bihac, Gorazde, Sarajevo, Tuzia and Zepa had never been demilitarised.

Higgins to sit

on ICJ as first

woman judge

Security Council, voting concurrently

vesterday with the General Assembly, elected Rosalyn Higgins of the United

Kingdom to the International Court

of Justice (ICJ), the first woman to

on February 5, 2000, was elected

unanimously in the first round of se-

cret balloting in the Council. She will

fill the seat left vacant by the resigna-

tion of judge Sir Robert Yewdall Jen-

absolute majority in both Council and

the Assembly. In the Assembly, which

voted independently, Higgins ob-

tional law at the University of Lon-

don, is chairman of the public international law advisory board of the

British Institute for International and

Comparative Law and a member of

the Committee on Human Rights un-

der the international covenant on

Colombia urges US

to step up fight

against drug

consumption

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

he sent Clinton Monday in response

Samper's office released a letter

traffickers, reports AFP.

Americans in Miami, Florida.

lating, reports AP.

the Iraqi military.

system in the area.

Party, (KDP).

rate clashes Wednesday.

Clashes between

rival Kurdish

groups escalate

fighting between rival Kurdish groups

in northern Iraq appears to be esca-

as 54 people were killed in three sepa-

ANKARA, July 13: Renewed

One group reported that as many

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

local Iraqi Kurds could take over se-

curity and keep Kurdish rebels from

Turkey from using northern Iraq as a

sanctuary. But repeated clashes have

prevented the Iraqi Kurdish parties

from establishing a stable political

(PUK) launched an attack in Zeyarat

village Tuesday evening southeast of

the town Shaklawa, 60 kilometers (40

miles) northeast of Erbil, the main

city in the enclave, said a statement

by the rival Kurdistan Democratic

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan

Turkey has long hoped that the

to Clinton.

BOGOTA, July 13: President

civil and political rights.

tained 153 votes in the first ballot.

Elections to the court require an

Higgins, a professor of interna-

Higgins, whose term will expire

sit on the court, reports Xinhua,

UNITED NATIONS, July 13: The

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. Karadzic said his troops had told Muslims in Zepa which is also under a Serb siege to hand over their arms to the Serbs or UN peacekeepers.

Muslims in Gorazde and Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital, should do the same, he added.

AFP adds from Sarajevo, Thousands of exhausted and frightened refugees were today being shipped out of the Srebrenica enclave by conquering Bosnian Serbs soldiers in a second day of forced expulsions, UN officials said.

Two convoys of trucks left the area of the Potocari UN compound where around 30,000 civilians have massed after fleeing Serb troops who blasted their way into the UN safe area Tuesday.

On Wednesday, nearly two and half thousand refugees arrived in territory held by the government. In to-

tal, the Serbs had moved 4,000 refugees out of the enclave by midnight, UN officials said.

Chief UN civilian spokesman Alexander Ivanko said in Sarajevo: "There are currently 1,400 refugees in Tuzla airbase and another 1,000 people in Kladani."

Bosnian Serb trucks and buses shipped the people to Kladani, a government town on the front line between Serb and Bosnian government forces some 50 kilometres (30 miles) east of Srebrenica.

Some of these were then driven north to Tuzla, the second largest government-held city, situated in the north east of the country. The airbase is administered by UN peacekeepers in the area.

It is feared the more than 1,500 unaccounted for could still be on the road or make up the men of fighting age, the separatist Serbs said they wanted to take away for "screening".

A group of 33 wounded have also been dumped by the Serbs at a Bosnian Serb checkpoint just outside the enclave, UN officials said.

UN spokesman Rida Ettarshany said the wounded were part of a group that didn't make it to government held territory. 'They tried to come back to Potocari but the Serbs refused them access. They probably spent the night out in the open."

Ettarshany also said there were "sketchy" reports that groups of Bosnian army soldiers remained in the hills around Srebrenica. The area remains tense as does the neighbouring UN safe area of Zepa, also threatened by the Serbs, the spokesman said.

A relief official said local government officials furious that the Srebrenica UN safe area, ostensibly protected by the peacekeepers, had fallen would now have to cope with the refugee influx.

Local sources quotes the refugees as saying men between the ages of 16 years and 50 years had been separated from the women and children. Many were quoted as saying the Serbs

"verbally abused them" but they were not beaten.

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.

She still doesn't have a telephone in her Yangon home. "I must do something about

that right away," she told reporters on Wednesday

But I'm not sure I really want to do anything about that because it will never stop ringing," she added quickly

Still, she knows she needs a telephone to talk with her distant

"That is the only reason why I would like to install a phone quickly," she said. "Because there is all sorts of business that you can do some other way. But with my family, the only way I can communicate with them is by ringing them up."

"So I must see about having : phone installed," she said. "Prefer ably one of those that you can put a plug on it and keep it silent."

Aung San Suu Kyi is married to British academic Michael Aris. He and their two sons live in England.



Too old to resist

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.

those scenes

Heavy rain proved too much for a large part of the roof at the 50-yearold Teresa Movie House Tuesday, which collapsed down on part of the crowd. Rescue workers rushed the seven from their seats to hospital beds. Some viewers reportedly were dismayed that the second half of the double feature. "The Great Orgies of Marco Polo," had to be called off.

"Jew me" turns into "Do me"

1.05 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.

The revised "They Don't Care About Us" replaces "Jew me" and "Kike me," with "Do me" and "Strike me," said a source close to Jackson, who

spoke on condition of anonymity. About 2 million copies of Jackson's "HIStory Past, Present and Future Book 1" album with the original song were in the initial distribution

pipeline. Beck said After he was criticised for the song when the album came out in mid-June, Jackson apologised saying he was trying to illustrate the evils of prejudice. He promised to re-record the song and include a written explanation

in unreleased copies of the album "HIStory Past, Present and Future Book

"I acknowledge that I seriously offended some people, which was never my intention, and for that I am deeply sorry," he said at the time. "I have come to understand over the past days that these words are considcred anti-Semitic."

The album is No 1 in the United States on this week's national Billboard sales charts. It is Jackson's first album since 1991's "Dangerous" and his first since settling a child molestation allegation for a reported 15-million dlrs. No charges were filed.

Lankan soldiers hunt for

rebels in captured areas

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

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

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

Saturday and reach Srinagar.

to one the US president sent him conweeks, reports AFP. gratulating Colombia for recent Senator Mitch McConnell, who strides in fighting the powerful Cali heads a key funding panel, said calls drug cartel's leadership. for the resumption of economic ties following the release Monday of But "none of these efforts will be effective if drug consuming countries Myanmar's democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi were "premature and illreduce consumption," Samper wrote

advised." "We all hope that Suu Kyi's release The Colombian president also unmarks the beginning of the end of repression in Myanmar he said adding derscored his full commitment with respect to monitoring money launderthat past experience with this miliing from drug trafficking as agreed at tary dictatorship suggests caution is December's 34-country summit of the the appropriate approach for the

The junta released Aung San Suu Kyi, 50, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner on Monday after detaining her under house arrest for nearly six years. McConnell, a republican from

Kentucky and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Appropriations Subcommittee said the world would watch for efforts to move Myanmar toward democracy and improve its human rights record by July 25.

In the absence of such progress by Myanmar's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), McConnell said, "I will move forward with my legislation."

The proposed 1995 free Myanmar act would require President Bill Clin ton to verify that the SLORC had over power to delegates elected in 1990, and implemented an effective anti narcotics programme. Failing that, the legislation would

freed all political prisoners handed

- AFP/UNB photo

ban US trade with investment in and travel to Myanmar, suspend all preferential trade privileges case aid to countries selling arms to Myanmar and downgrade diplomatic ties.

McConnell cited a sharp increase in the quantity of narcotics, including heroin with purity levels of 25-65 per cent, entering the United States from Myanmar as a notable area of con-

The United States ceased all assistance to Myanmar after a violent crackdown on nationwide anti government protests.

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, re-

ports 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

Five soldiers were killed and 20 wounded Wednesday when government troops foiled an attempt by Tamil rebels to retake areas seized by troops, the military said. Rebel casualties were not known.

iets have bombarded rebel positions since the offensive began Sunday, and about 10,000 troops have moved in two columns from Palali in the military's largest anti-rebel operation in

captured about 50 square kilometres (19 square miles), the military officials said on condition of anonymity.

Long-range artillery and air force

eight years. The two columns linked up at Ar-

aly Junction, six kilometres (four miles) northwest of Jaffna town Wednesday. "The advance was easy. The Tigers did not offer much resistance," said a military spokesman, Brig Sarath Munasinghe. Relief agencies say at least 150

people have been killed and 350 people wounded in the fighting. The military says 29 soldiers and rebels have been killed and 100 soldiers in-

Abandoned civil war mines kill hundreds of Yemenis

ADEN, Yemen, July 13: Hundreds of Yemenis have been killed or maimed by mines and abandoned bombs left strewn across Southern Yemen since the end of last year's civil war, reports AFP.

Three people killed in an explosion near this Southern Yemeni port city on Wednesday as they tried to recover copper from a bomb left over the war were the latest victims, police

A month ago two brothers died as result of a similar accident as they tried to prise off the copper covering on a bomb to re-sell it, according to the authorities.

The abandoned bombs are the legacy of the two-month war which erupted in May 1994 and resulted in tens of thousands of anti-tank and anti-personnel mines being laid by the warring sides, particularly southern separatists in Aden. In this photo provided by the UN, the UN Security Council votes unanimously at UN

Other badly affected areas in clude the southern governorates of Abyan, Lahi, Hadramut and Shabwa, where inhabitants remain fearful, fully aware that thousands of bombs have never exploded. Northern troops loyal to Presi-

dent Ali Abdallah Saleh swept to victory on July 7, 1994 when they captured Aden, the southern stronghold. More than 4,000 when they died and 7,000 were wounded in the conflict, according to unofficial figures.

> Military sources in Aden said southern troops laid about 35,000 mines, although the figure has not been independently confirmed. A lack of maps of mine positions

has hampered government efforts to demine regions or to warn the population of the most dangerous areas. "Since the end of the war, there

has not been a single week when we have not admitted someone injured by these mines," said surgeon Ahmed Bilal in Aden's main Al-Jumhuriya Hospital.

According to hospital figures, 138 people have been wounded since the end of the war, among them 45 boys and 41 boys and 41 women. A total of 102 come from Aden, with the rest from Abyan and Lahi.

NZ likely to send naval vessel to

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 Gough Whitlam said

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

causes meeting, Bolger noted there were calls for the protest movement to muster a flotilla of yachts in Auck-

"If that does happen, and some vessels should be there for support and security," Bolger told reporters.

Russian troops summarily executed many Chechen civilians bouring village. Their families GROZNY, July 13: Aslambek weeps as he scrapes the earth away

failed to return. which was situated at that time be-He uses a knife to dig up the Aslambek. body, which lies in a tranquil field

"The soldiers said they hadn't seen the car, but near the army post we found a bracelet belonging to my brother. We thought they had been

"They were not fighters. When the war broke out they left Chechnya with their parents. They only returned when the Russians occupied the village and urged refugees to come back, saying everything was calm. But if you're a young, healthy Chechen here you're automatically

The teenagers disappeared one suspect." May evening after they had left home by car to visit relatives in a neigh-

"We went to the Russian army, the Interior Ministry forces, the special forces, the intelligence service, camps in Grozny, Mozdok, Pyatigorsk. We paid thousands of dollars in bribes. I was ready to sell the house if

by the Chechens who was on guard duty at the military post told the

"When they arrived at the army post their car was the only one on the road. The commanding officer ordered their arrest. Their hands were tied up and their car was driven aside then camouflaged with nets. Then the soldiers started beating them up. The officer wanted them to confess that they were Chechen fighters.

"The next night when I returned for duty I found out that they had spent the previous day in the bunker. They had been badly beaten. But I don't think the officer thought they were fighters, because when real suspects were captured they were sent to army headquarters," the soldier told AFP, asking not to be named. "I was on guard duty at night, 200

headquarters in New York on Wednesday to demand the withdrawal of Bosnian Serb

forces from the UN Safe Zone of Srebrenica. The resolution also called for the Secretary

General to use all available resources to restore the safe area.

metres (yards) from the bunker when I saw them being brought out. Their hands were still tied, and they were blindfolded. The officer told them they were being taken to headquar-

away. I saw everything because the soldiers had fired flares. There were two soldiers with assault rifles. The officer left the two captives standing there, moved aside and signalled to

The soldier said the two Chechens were then buried and an armoured vehicle later drove over the pit to eliminate any traces of the shooting. "Then they stripped the car of ev-

- AFP/UNB photo

erything useful that could be sold, including the engine, smashed up the chassis with the armoured vehicle and buried it, too."

Shakhman, who had been thrown into the same pit. They also found another car, whose owners were probably buried

During the few weeks he spent at

have disappeared in recent months.

Aslambek says the field is 'only one of the places where bodies have been dug up." Witnesses say the bodies of civil-

ians who were summarily executed and secretly buried have been found in Prigorondy, a suburb of Grozny near Shali, 30 kilometres (20 miles) southeast of the Chechen capital and near Meskert-Yurt, 20 kilometres (13 miles) east of Grozny.

According to the pro-Moscow Chechen Prime Minister Salambek Khadzhiyev, more than 700 civilians

Between 15,000 and 30,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed in the Chechnya conflict since Russian troops stormed into the tiny Cauca-

Clinton calls for strengthening ban on Libya WASHINGTION, July 13: Presi-

dent Bill Clinton called for strengthen ing international sanctions against Libya Wednesday, indicating a global oil embargo may be needed to punish the country, reports AFP. Clinton said new probes have un-

covered evidence the current sanctions, imposed after Tripoli refused to allow the extradition of Libyan nationals suspected in terrorist acts, have been violated. "The United States continues to

believe that still stronger international a measures than those mandated by (the United Nations), possibly including a worldwide oil embargo, should be imposed if Libya continues to defy the will of the international community."

French N-test site

today, reports AFP.

Speaking after a government

point out the spot where they were members of parliament join them we buried. would look at whether some naval

launched a search for them when they from the half-decomposed corpse of "We went to the Russian post his brother, who disappeared two

tween the two villages," recalls

Aslambek says his family made exhaustive enquiries for nearly two necessary. And it all came to noth-A young Russian soldier capture

story of Hassan and Shakhman's fate.

"Then he led them a bit further

the soldiers to open fire."

Aslambek and his neighbours found the remains of the car buried next to the bodies of Hassan and

in another part of the field. the military post the soldier, who did

night duty only once every four days, says he saw "three or four similar executions - each time involving two or

sus republic in December 1994.