

Two Americans pardoned by President Saddam Hussein, David Daliberti, 41 (R) and William Barloon, 39, walk free in Baghdad Sunday after spending 113 days in jail for illegally entering Iraq. Both men were arrested March 13 after they said they strayed across the Iraqi in a bloodless coup last border by mistake.

### Ghali arrives in Burundi: UN Sec. retary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived in Burundi Sunday on an 18-hour visit just hours after at least seven people were killed and six wounded in renewed ethnic

violence, AFP reports from Bujumbura. Radio Burundi late Saturday said the seven were killed when a bus was set upon 17 kilometres (11 miles) south of the capital Bujumbura. Five people were injured in the attack which was blamed on extremist Hutus.

## British poet Sir Spender dead:

The last surviving member of Britain's 1930s' generation of heavyweight poets. Sir Stephen Spender, died on Sunday aged 86, hospital sources said, AFP reports from London. He collapsed at his North London home and was taken

by ambulance to Saint Mary's Hospital in central London where he was pronounced dead. His wife, the concert pianist Natasha Litvin, was with him when he died.

#### 2 die as ship sinks in Maharashtra: Two crew were killed, one was injured and three others were missing when their cargo ship sank off the coast of India's western state of Maharashtra, police said Yesterday, Reuter reports from Bombay.

The ship, owned by India's Chougule Shipping Company, sank four kilometres (three miles) from the coast near Dabhol town on Sunday.

### Quake rocks Russian town: An earthquake rocked the town of Komsomolsk-On-Amur in

Russia's Far East on Sunday night but no damage or serious casualties were reported, ITAR-Tass news agency said yesterday. Reuter reports from Moscow. The earthquake measured about five points on the

Richter scale and sent objects crashing to the floor in buildings in the town, about 900 km (560 miles) north of Vladivostok, Tass quoted local seismologists as saying.

### Tajik President meets Rafsanjani: Visiting Tajik President Imamali Rakhmanon and his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani held their first round of talks Sunday on bilateral cooperation in cultural,

political and economic areas, Xinhua reports from Tehran. The official news agency IRNA said vesterday that the establishment of an air link between Tehran and Dushanbe as well as the regional and international cooperation were also among the topics reviewed by the two leaders.

Rakhmanon arrived in Tehran Sunday heading a high level delegation for a three-day official visit to Iran, the first one since the independence of Tajikistan.

### Croatian FM arrives in Tehran: Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic arrived in Tehran on Sunday for talks with Iranian ministers bilateral relations and the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the official new agency IRNA said. AFP reports from Tehran.

Granic who was met by his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati, said- "the international community must take its responsibilities, defend Bosnian Muslims and repulse Serb aggression," IRNA reported. Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani compared the Serb attacks to those by Israel against the Palestinians.

### Two killed in Zagreb: Two people, including a UN soldier, were killed close to the Croatian town of Osijek Sunday during an attack by Croatian Serb separatists. Croatian television said late Sunday, AFP reports from Zagreb.

The television report gave no details of the deaths. It did not identify the nationalities of the victims or the exact cause of death.

The Croatian authorities had earlier Sunday sounded a general alert in the Osijek after several loud explosions were heard.

### Yeltsin to remain in hospital: President Boris Yeltsin must remain in hospital for the time being to complete his medical treatment after a heart problem, his press service said in a statement, Reuter re-

ports from Moscow. An aide said last week that Yeltsin, 64, would stay in hospital all this week. The press service did not say when he would be released but added: "specialists say the patient must carry on the scheduled treatment in hospital, where he has all he needs for working."

# BRILLY LTTE acquires radar-guided anti-aircraft missiles

COLOMBO, July 17; Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerillas have acquired radar-guided anti-aircraft missiles, the independent Sinhalese-language Divaina newspaper said today, quoting reliable

sources in the north. It said the rebels had bought Russian-made "Streala" anti-aircraft missiles from Belgian arms dealers.

But a senior air force officer told Reuters it was unlikely the rebels had radarguided missiles as they had to be launched from a missile pad and were meant to attack aircraft flying at high-altitude. Guerillas usually prefer

shoulder-held heat-seeking

missiles with shorter ranges

and the military has said it believed the rebels used them to shoot down Sri Lankan aircraft. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerillas shot down an air force Pucara

ground attack aircraft as it

pulled out of a dive last Friday

during an army offensive in

northern

stronghold of Jaffna. The rebels, fighting for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the island's north and east. downed two Avro transport planes with missiles in April, the first use of missiles in a 12-year war in which more than 50,000 people have

AFP adds: Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerillas today claimed they pushed back a military advance against their northern Jaffna stronghold with a counter-offensive in which a navy ship and an air force plane were destroyed.

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in a statement sent here from its London office said they drove out the army from areas it had newly captured from the Tigers in the Jaffna peninsula.

The military denied the claim and said it was still consolidating its control in a 78-square-kilometre (31square-miles) area taken from the guerillas.

The LTTE statement came after four Tiger frogmen with explosives strapped to their bodies blew themselves up beneath the hull of the navy command and surveillance ship, the Editara, outside the port of Kankesanthurai Sun-

day, killing three sailors. · The Tigers claimed killing eight sailors while the rebel radio station, the Voice of Tigers announced they lost 17 suicide cadres known as Black Sea Tigers in the predawn offensive against the navy on Sunday.

There had been no air operations by the Sri Lankan Air Force after the rebels shot down a Puccara ground-attack aircraft over the Jaffna Peninsula on Friday, the LTTE claimed.

"The LTTE counter-offensive continues in the Valikaman west area. At least 150 government army men were killed and a greater number wounded," the statement

said, referring to the group's offensive code-named "Leap of Tiger.

Tigers have already admitted losing 63 men in Friday's counter-attack while the army says they lost 33 killed and another 95 wounded in

Eight days ago, the army launched its biggest ground offensive, code-named Leap Forward, to advance into LTTE-held territory, and the military's new defence lines have been moved six kilometres (four miles) toward the town of Jaffna.

Defence analysts believe that the LTTE's blasting of the Edithara would be a se back to a possible military push towards Jaffna, the capital of Tamil separatism.

The Edithara played a key role in providing logistics and ferrying thousands of troops to launch the Leap Forward offensive. It also served as a "mother ship" for patrol raft used for surveil-



Anxious residents of the Hansabad locality in Molir, the city's eastern part, vacate the area amid the continuing ethnic tension in Karachi Sunday. - AFP/UNB photo

## US, KSA may press Qatar to cool ties with Iran

DOHA, July 17: Qatar's new Emir, who took power - AFP/UNB photo | month, may be forced to cool his country's relations with Iran under US and Saudi pressure. diplomats here said, reports AFP.

Qatar is all the more sensitive to such pressure because it needs the United States to help it develop its immense natural gas field which it shares with Iran, they added

"Riyadh's and Washington's quick recognition of the new Qatari government took place after Doha gave assurances it would distance itself from Iran," an Arab diplomat told AFP.

Qatari government officials, however, said they gave no such assurances.

The new Emir, Sheikh Hamad Ibn Khalifa Al-Thani who overthrew his father on

June 27, had in the last few vears started a rapprochement with Iran and Iraq that troubled both its Gulf Arab neighbours and the United States.

But its ties with Iraq have not stirred too much concern, a diplomat added.

"Washington and Riyadh know full well that a small country like Qatar cannot violate" sanctions against Iraq. which were imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, he

In a news conference recently. Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ibn Jassem Al-Thani said that even if his country felt solidarity toward the Iraqi people," Iraq must apply all UN resolutions."

Another diplomat said sugar diplomacy doesn't really bother anyone and does

Bosnian Muslim women weep at the United Nations refugee camp in Tuzla on Sunday as

they tell the reporters that their husbands and sons were taken away by Serbs combatants

after the fall of the "safe haven" enclave Srebrenica five days ago. Bosnian government

'Stern Western actions against

Serbs could lead to Balkan war'

consequences of taking a

stronger stand against the

"such measures would mean

that we were heading for war

"several years," and end in a

political settlement, which

was what the European

Union and United Nations

mediators were seeking now.

Muslim enclave of Srebrenica

last week and the expulsion

of thousands of women and

children in "ethnic cleans-

ing," Bildt said officials of the

International Committee of

the Red Cross would go as

soon as possible to visit the

trated with Khun Sa's in-

volvement in the drugs trade

and his promotion of ethnic

men detained by the Serbs.

Following the fall of the

Such a war would last

in the Balkans."

he said.

Bosnian Serbs, Bildt replied,

Asked his opinion on the

officials said that some 5,250 men were still being held by the Serbs.

not violate international resolutions."

Qatar early this year sent two shipments of sugar to Baghdad to ease the "suffering of the Iraqi people" under the embargo.

"Except for re-establishing diplomatic relations and Doha's repeated calls for lift ing the embargo. Qatar and Iraq have almost no economic ties." the diplomat

However, improved ties with Iran would seriously concern Gulf Arab states, he added." Rivadh insists that the rapprochement begum between Qatar and Iran in 1992 must not hurt the GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)."

Saudi Arabia does not want "Iran to succeed in undermining the council," which also groups Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates. Bahrain and Oman.

- AFP/UNB photo

He said an agreement in

principle to this effect con-

cluded Sunday at the Bosnian

Serb headquarters at Pale

was "a small, small step in a

concerned to know what has

happened to these prison-

had held the men for

"Screening as possible war

criminals" were still not al-

lowing the ICRC access to

them late Sunday, citing

sevic his second in two days,

Bildt said the Serbian presi-

dent was one of the key fig-

ures in the conflict whose

own interests were regional

On his meeting with Milo-

"Many people are very

The Serbs who said they

very tragic situation."

ers," Bildt said.

"security reasons."

stability and peace.

## Imran, Jemima off to Lahore to start new life

LONDON, July 17: Newlyweds Imran Khan and Jemima Goldsmith set off late Sunday for Pakistan, to start their new life after their marriage in May, the British national news agency Press Association said, reports AFP.

The couple, who went through separate religious and secular wedding ceremonies in Paris and London, were set to stop off in Saudi Arabia for a visit to relatives before heading for Khan's home in Lahore, Pakistan.

Jemima, a 21-year-old student, became a Muslim before she married the 42year-old Khan in May, and has adopted the Muslim name Haiga Khan.

Imran, former Pakistani cricket captain, and Jemima will share the family's home in Zaman Park, one of Lahore's most exclusive suburbs, with Imran's 75-yearold father.

## Turks protest Ghali's today's Ankara trip

ANKARA, July 17: Around .000 demonstrators gathered here on Sunday to criticise a visit next Tuesday by UN Secretary-General Bout-Boutros-Ghali, the Anatolian news agency reported, says AFP. The demonstrators

chanted anti-UN slogans accusing Boutros-Ghali of being the main reason for the plight of Muslim in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chechnya and Cyprus. The crowds also claimed

Boutros-Ghali was responsible for Muslims suffering "in Nagorno-Karabakh, Palestine and Kashmir," the news agency said.

Speakers during the protests said the United Nations had lost its image under the leadership of Boutros-

### Final accord to resolve Chechen conflict soon

LONDON, July 17: A final agreement to resolve the Chechen conflict could be signed in two or three days, the Russian delegation leader to the peace talks said late Sunday, ITAR-Tass news agency reported, reports

But he added that the status of the breakaway republic cannot be determined until elections are held there in November and confirmed that this was still a stumbling block in the talks. Vyacheslav Mikhailov,

Russia's nationalists and regional policy minister, said the illness of his Chechen counterpart Usman Imayev was the only reason for a three-day break in peace, called earlier Sunday.

### Vichy sent Jews to Nazi camps, admits Chirac PARIS. July 17: President being swept under the car-Jacques Chirac on Sunday

admitted for the first time that France as a whole was responsible for the round-up of Jews sent off to Nazi death camps during World War II. reports AFP. He said at a memorial ser

vice the blame for the deportations of some 76,000 Jews during World War II could no loriger simply be put down to the war-time Vichy regime, but had to be shouldered collectively by the French nation.

"Yes there are errors there are mistakes. There is, without doubt, a collective fault," he said.

His comments were hatled as historic by French Jewish leaders who had for long sought such admission in vain from Chirac's socialist predecessor Francois Mitterran.

"It is a turning point because it puts an end to France's official responsibility pet," said Henri Hajdenberg, head of the Council for Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF).

Chirac, attending a memorial service to mark the anniversary of the biggest mass round up of Jews in 1942, said: "Those dark hours will forever darken our history and are an offence to our past, our traditions." "France. the country of

light and of human rights, land of welcome and asylum, France on that day did something which cannot be repaired ... it delivered those who were under its protection to their executioners."

"To recognise the mistakes of the past and mistakes made by the state, not to cover up anything about the darkest hours of our history, is simply to defend the idea of man, his freedom and his dignity," he said.

## Iraq threatens to halt cooperation with UN

BAGHDAD, July 17: Iraqi President Saddain Hussain today threatened to stop cooperating with UN weapons experts unless he is assured economic sanctions will be lifted, reports AFP.

"We can't make any more sacrifices without something in return." Saddam Hussain said in a speech broadcast on radio and television.

Iraq is not required to continue complying with the decisions of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq without it being linked to a lifting of the embargo", he said in a speech broadcast on radio and television.

UN germ warfare experts

headed here to see if Baghdad was nearer fulfilling a promise to disclose all its germ warfare secrets by the end of July.

Security Council resolutions lifted.

The speech on the 27th anniversary of the Baath Party's rise to power came as

The United States wants Iraq to comply with all UN

before the oil embargo is Other council members like Russia. France and China want the embargo lifted once Iraq meets its disarmament obligations imposed after

in 1991 Gulf War. Reuter adds, President Saddam Hussein warned the United Nations today that Iraq could not continue complying with demand to disclose its arms programme without a lifting of crippling

trade sanctions.

Iraq was driven from Kuwait

## Sudan asks OAU to mediate border dispute with Egypt

KHARTOUM, July 17: Sudan yesterday called on the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to mediate in its dispute with Egypt over the contested Halaib border region along the Red Sea, reports AFP.

The official Sudanese news agency SUNA said Khartoum's Ambassador in Addis Ababa, M Osman Al-Sayed, had passed a message from Sudanese President Omar el-Beshir to his Ethiopian counterpart, Meles Zenawi, the current OAU Chairman.

The message charged Egypt with aggression in Halaib, which Sudan regards as part of its territory, and called on the OAU to "assume its responsibility."

According to SUNA, similar message were sent to the OAU's Secretary General. Salim Ahmed Salim, and to the Ethiopian foreign minis-

Salim expressed his concern and willingness to help resolve the dispute, the news agency said.

Sudan has asked the United Nations Security Council for an arbitrated settlement after border incidents at the end of June resulted in the deaths of three Sudanese, according to Khartoum.

Sudan has also asked the International Court of Justice and the Arab League to mediate the border dispute, and has called on Egypt to accept arbitration.

### Khmers resist govt troops near Thai border

ARANYAPRATHET, Thai land, July 17: About 1,000 Cambodian troops closed in on a key rebel base near the Thai border early today but met with tough resistance from Khmer Rouge guerillas. a Thai border officer said.

reports AFP. The government assault began at dawn against Khmer Rouge positions at Klarngap, where the rebel's 365th division is based. Colonel Wanchai Thongsukhum, commander of the Aranyaprathet Task Force, said.

No casualties were immediately available.

BANGKOK, July 17: Myan- ern Shan state, the sources young, educated Shan dissi-

mar's opium warlord Khun Sa said. has been hit by a mass desertion of as many as 2,000 men from his powerful rebel army and some have gone over to the Myanmar army guerilla sources said today. reports Reuter.

The desertions represent as much as one fifth of the total strength of Khun Sa's Mong Tai (Shan state) Army (MTA), the most powerful rebel army still fighting Yan-

Many of the defectors have travelled from base areas in southern Shan state near the border with Thailand, to an area near Hsipaw, in north-

STOCKHOLM, July 17: Eu-

ropean mediator in former

Yugoslavia Carl Bildt warned

late Sunday that tougher

Bosnian Serbs could lead to a

Balkan war lasting several

Bildt was interviewed by

Swedish television during a

stopover in Geneva after talks

in Belgrade with Serbian

President Slobodan Milosevic

on how the conflict could be

chiefs of staff of the armed

forces of Britain, France and

the United States were dis-

cussing in London French

proposals to prevent the

Bosnian Serbs seizing further

UN-declared 'safe areas' in

At the same time the

years, reports AFP.

resolved.

eastern Bosnia.

Western measures against the

I have heard that about 70 of them have already defected to the SLORC we are asking them to come back, said a senior MTA official referring to Myanmar's ruling State Law and Order

Restoration Council (SLORC). The reasons for the desertions were not yet clear, the Guerilla sources said, but frustration in the MTA has been building for some time.

Many of those who quit the MTA are from a Shan nationalist faction which joined Khun Sa in the 1980s. Guerilla sources say mem-

bers of the faction, led by

Chinese to powerful posi-Thousands of Shan people have been killed in the past 10 years, but they died for nothing. There's no progress in driving the Myanmar out of Shan state while heroin pro-

> February. Eighty per cent of guerillas are Shan but the power is totally in the hands of ethnic Chinese and the chances of them leading the liberation of

duction is growing doubling

from year to year, one said in

Mass desertion from MTA shakes opium warlord Khun Sa Shan state is zero, he said.

> of his lieutenants at his Shan state headquarters two weeks ago, the sources said today. But in an attempt to held the rift, Khun Sa has also said he was stepping down a MTA

sertion Khun Sa detained five

commander and promoting respected Shan nationalist Kah Chit to replace him. Khun Sa is putting Kah Chit as leader only for propaganda purposes it won't work an official of Thailand's Na-

tional Security Council told

Reuters today. Khun Sa's time is running out. He'll soon have just three options spend the rest of his

life in a Thai jail a Myanmar dents are increasingly frus- Angered by the mass de- jail or an American jail, the official said. Khun Sa was indicted in 1990 by a US court on drug charges.

The half-Shan half-Chinese Khun Sa, 61, began his career in the early 1960s as Chiang Chifu a government militiamen battling Shan rebels and beginning his long involvement in the opium business.

He soon emerged as one of the opium poppy growing regions' most prominent drug traffickers but his fortunes dipped in 1967 when he lost one of the Shan state's many opium wars to more powerful rivals.

He spent four years in a Myanmar jail in the early 1970s until his men exchange two kidnapped Soviet

doctors for him. He returned to the mountains and took the Shan name Khun Sa — or Prince of prosperity - and began building his guerilla army into one of the most powerful in Myan-

For years Myanmar ruling military left Khun Sa alone. Leading to widespread speculation he had reached an agreement with Yangon but in late 1993 the SLORE launched its first serious offensive against his strongholds in southern Shan

## Unmanned Chinese supersonic plane

tested

WASHINGTON. July 17: China has tested an unmanned supersonic plane that was remotely controlled from the ground effectively with a large Cruise missile, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) says, reports

In a paper authored by Rober Shuey a CRS specialist distributed to members of the Congress and made available to the public, another report states that China is funding the development of a Cruise missile in Israel.