BREFFY

Moscow frees Dudayev's aide: The Moscow representative of Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. Khamat Kurbanov, arrested following the Budennovesk hostage crisis, was released Monday, the

Interfax news agency reported, AFP says from Moscow. Kurbanov, arrested on June 17, was released after the maximum amount of time for holding some one without charge elapsed. He went on hunger strike to protest against his detention which he said was illegal and lost 20 kilogrammes (about 44 pounds), according to his lawyer Vladimir Bolmasov.

Women's anti-riot rally in Iran: Thousands of Iranian women have for the first time taken part in anti-riot exercises, in a northwestern province. newspapers reported in Tehran Monday. AFP reports from

Tehran. It was the first time since the 1979 Islamic revolution that women have participated in an urban warfare exercise, they said. A total of 17,000 Islamic militiamen and militia-women, incorporated into "Ashura brigades," are taking part in the four-day manoeuvre, which started Sunday in east Azerbaijan province.

Violence claims 23 in S Africa: At least 23 people were killed in criminal and political violence over the weekend in South Africa's Kwazulu-Natal province, the police said Monday, AFP reports from

Durban. Police cited the murder of three people in Umlazi, a Black suburb of Durban, in separate incidents Saturday. In Durban itself, a man was arrested for the murder of his brother following a dispute Saturday night.

Refugee camp gutted in Sri Lanka: Nearly all the 200 huts at a refugee camp for the minority Tamils were destroyed in a fire in northwestern Sri Lanka. police said Tuesday. AP reports from Colombo.

The blaze broke out at the kitchen Monday evening and soon spread to the adjoining wattle-and-daub huts shacks. but nobody was injured, police said. The camp at Puttalam Town, 120 kilometres (75 miles) north of the capital, Colombo, housed about 1.700 refugees, who have fled from the fighting between Tamil separatists and the troops.

Sweden to send aid for Bosnian: The Swedish government decided Monday to contribute

catastrophe aid to refugees in Bosnia in the form of material, personnel and transportation, the Foreign Ministry said Monday, AFP reports from Stockholm.

The government will decide on the exact contents of the shipment in consultation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the next few days the Foreign Ministry said.

Pilot dies in Indonesian jet crash: A twin Otter aircraft operated by Indonesia's domestic

Merpati Nusantara Airlines crashed on take-off in Irian Jaya province of Indonesia on Monday, killing its pilot and injuring 16 others, an airline spokeswoman said, Reuter reports from Jakarta.

"The plane crashed when taking off at Bituni Airport on its way to the capital town of Manokwari," the spokeswoman told Reuters yesterday.

Rabin reshuffles cabinet: Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin reshuffled his cabinet yesterday appointing former military chief of staff Ehud Barak as interior minister and Yossi Beilin as economy minister, officials said, AFP reports from Jerusalem.

Lieutenant General Barak, 53, retired from the army in January after four years in the top job and was immediately tipped for a role in the labour coalition government. Rabin, who is defence minister, has a close relationship with Barak.



Ogata (R) observes a four-month-old Samira Buljubasic being cared for at the Tuzla refugee camp on Monday. Samira became orphan during the recent Bosnian Serb offensive against the fallen enclave Srebrenica. Ogata visited the refugee camp at the UN airbase. Some 22,000 Bosnian Refugees have found shelter in Tuzla after fleeing their homes in Srebrenica. - AFP UNB photo

shortsightedness.

trenched interest and even

respect for authority are to

blame, a transport and urban

planning expert says, reports

Traffic-related pollution,

generally found where there

is vehicle congestion, is a

manifestation of deeper

problems, said Harry Dim-

itriou, a professor of Trans-

port Policy and Urban Plan-

ning at the University of

In addition, officials in

many Asian countries see

high rises and abundant autos

as part of development and

Hong Kong.

Fall of Zepa imminent amid Serb artillery attack

International

SARAJEVO, July 18: Bosnian Serbs encroaching on the enclave of Zepa launched a fierce artillery and mortar attack on the town itself Tuesday, an apparent attempt to force its capitulation. reports AP.

Fearing that Zepa could fall. Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic on Monday proposed talks with enemy Serbs on the evacuation of elderly and wounded civilians. The Serbs last week demanded that government defenders surrender and begin evacuating all civilians from the UN "safe area." The government refused.

A Serb leader, Mocilo Krajisnik, said Tuesday the government proposal should have come earlier. "to avoid conflicts.

Even as Krajisnik issued his statement. Serbs were shelling Zepa town, the heart of the enclave, with fierce intensity. But there were no reports of troop movements. said UN spokesman Rida Ettarashany.

economic sanctions.

LAGOS, July 18: General

Shehu Musa Yar'adua, number

two in former President

Olusegun Obasanjo's adminis-

bers of the military have been

sentenced to death after

There was no official con-

A special military court

sent General Obasanjo and 10

of the military to prison for

life. the independent news-

and Vanguard reported, cit-

JERUSALEM, July 18:

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

revealed Monday details of

the agreement under negoti-

ation with the Palestinians to

extend self-rule over the

Palestinians living in

Jerusalem not only to vote in

autonomy elections but also

to run as candidates, as the

PLO has demanded, he told

parliament's Foreign Affairs

"double citizenship", Rabin

said, presumably meaning

just one problem," he said,

Jerusalem, which is under

Israeli sovereignty, to vote

The spread of self-rule,

involving army redeployment

"where to put ballot boxes."

Candidates would have

"On Jerusalem, there is

Israel wants Arabs from

and Defence Committee.

Palestinian and Israeli.

outside the holy city.

Israel would agree to allow

Monday, reports AFP.

firmation of the reports.

· Serbs have broken through the edge of the enclave and advanced to within a kilometer (mile) of the town. After a strong attack reported by the United Nations on Sunday. UN spokesmen said no advances

were made Monday. The attack on Zepa, which began Friday, followed the fall of another UN-designated "safe area." Srebrenica, to the Serbs last week. Tens of thousand of Muslim civilians were deported.

Zepa, a remote area about 50 kilometres (30 miles) from Sarajevo, is home to between 10,000 and 16,000 people.

The government proposal to talk with the rebels appeared designed to avert a repeat of the atrocities said to have been committed by Serbs after they seized Srebrenica. The rebels have denied the allegations.

The Bosnian president met twice with the UN commander for Bosnia, Gen. Rupert Smith, to discuss

An Iraqi boy holds a picture of President Saddam Hussein Monday as hundreds of people

demonstrate, shouting anti-US slogans, to demand the lifting of UN economic sanctions.

threatened to stop cooperating with the United Nations unless he obtained an end to

As UN germ warfare experts began a new mission Monday in Baghdad, Hussein,

14 get death sentence for bid to

topple Nigerian junta

ing sources close to the con-

edly received jail sentences

of between two and 25 years.

African military ruler to have

relinquished power voluntar-

ily, ending his 1976 to 1979

regime after free civilian

Yar'adua was one of the

candidates for a restored

civilian presidency in the

1993 election which the mil-

itary administration at that

over the military tribunal's

Rabin reveals details of draft

autonomy accord for West Bank

outside Palestinian areas,

transfer of civilian powers

and autonomy elections, is al-

ready a year behind schedule.

to try to wrap up an accord

stage of redeployment Israel

would give the Palestinians

full control, including secu-

rity, over the towns of Jenin,

Nablus. Qalqilya and Tulkrem.

completed around Ramallah

and Bethlehem security pow-

ers would also be ceded to

the Palestinians there too, he

"I hope that by December

1995 the construction of the

roads will be completed," he

said. Fifteen main roads were

being built at a cost of nearly

"We will confiscate lands

for this. Even the Palestinians

understand that without

50 million dollars.

When by-pass roads are

Negotiations are underway

Rabin said that in a first

There is no right of appeal

Other defendants report-

Obasanjo, 60, was the only

victs' families.

elections.

decision.

by July 25.

time cancelled.

official in former Yugoslavia. Yasushi Akashi, said today that if the Bosnian government requested assistance. the United Nations would do "whatever it can to facilitate their wishes."

Bosnian Serb television predicted it would take a week for the town to fall. Izetbegovic's offer for negotiations with the rebels indicated the government was losing hope of defending the enclave.

Information from the area is sketchy. Government ham radio operators-have difficulty maintaining contact even with Sarajevo, radio operators in the capital have said.

The United Nations has admitted it is powerless to defend its "safe area." There are just 79 Ukrainian peacekeepers in Zepa, many of them disarmed by government defenders trying to augment their own arsenal.

UN officials have indicated there is little prospect of NATO airstrikes to deter the

- AFP UNB photo

Prominent opposition

lawyer Gani Fawehinmi told

AFP that any appeal to the

provisional Ruling Council

(PRC), the country's supreme

authority, was "simply a time,

the decisions of the com-

mander of chief of the armed

forces who presides it cannot

be queried under the com-

mand structure of the mili-

tary and the PRC does not

have the legitimacy of an ap-

convicts are carried out, the

consequences will be very

devastating to the country."

these roads there is no solu-

But Hebron, where 400

"We have not decided to

Jews have settled surrounded

by 120,000 Palestinians, re-

redeploy military forces in

Hebron. There is a special

problem because of the Jew-

ish colony. We are obliged to

Rabin added that Israel

would keep control of the

tomb of the patriarches.

which is holy to Muslim and

Jews alike, and where a set-

tler killed 29 Muslims in

control of "daily life" in 418

villages, where Israel would

maintain "Overriding respon-

sibility for security".

terrorism," he said.

The PLO would be given

"In these areas the army

will be free to wage war on

mained a sticking point.

protect the settlers."

February 1994.

tion to the problem.

"If the sentences on the

peal court," he added.

"The PRC is not a court.

wasting exercise."

Serb onslaught.

Western governments have been unable to reach consensus about their strategy following Srebrenica's fall, the United Nations greatest humiliation in more than three years of war in

AFP adds from Paris. alarm is increasing in Arab and other Muslim countries over the situation in Bosnia. where Serb rebels are overrunning UN-declared 'safe areas' and expelling their Muslim inhabitants in "Ethnic cleansing" accompanied by alleged atrocities.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia said after a weekly cabi net meeting that he would be calling on the United Nations to face up to its responsibilities against "savage Serb aggression."

King Hussein of Jordan also called on UN troops to intervene strongly against the

SC summons Rao for non-payment of travel bills

NEW DELHI, July 18: India's Supreme Court on Monday called Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao for nonpayment of personal travel bills owed to the Defence Ministry and asked the government to investigate, reports Reuter.

The Court, after hearing a petition filed by a citizen. gave the solicitor general two weeks to find out whether the money owed to the Defence Ministry had been paid

Rao ran up a bill of 829 million rupees (26.7 million dollars) during October-November 1993, a period of state elections, by using aircraft and helicopters of the Indian Air Force for personal travel across the country.

The citizen claimed in his petition he had written to Rao last year requesting him to pay the money and had decided to petition the Court after failing to hear from the prime minister.

That was an old photograph of Yeltsin

MOSCOW, July 18: An official photograph supposedly showing Boris Yeltsin in the hospital last week was actually months old, raising new questions about Kremlin ma-



nipulation and the real state of the Russian president's health, reports AP.

The official Russian news agency ITAR-Tass released a photo last Friday that it said had been taken from Yeltsin's room at Moscow's Central Clinical Hospital, where he was admitted on July 11 for heart pain.

Video obtained by Associated Press Television on Tuesday, however, showed the exact same scene, with Yeltsin wearing the same tennis shirt, in front of the same drapes with a bank of four telephones at his left elbow. He sat in front of documents with a pen on the

A Yeltsin spokesman flatly denied that the photo was old. NBC News on Monday carried the initial report on the striking similarity between the images.

Off the Record

South African President Nelson Mandela receives a

jumbo card from youngsters on his 77 year-old birthday

celebration held at Goldreef City, a theme park outside

-AFP UNB photo

Johannesburg on Monday.

Joke turned out deadly

JERUSALEM: Nine Israeli soldiers were wounded when a colleague threw an antitank grenade at them apparently as a joke and it exploded, military sources said Tuesday, reports Reuter. Two were moderately wounded, the others lightly, in

the incident on Monday. The sources said a soldier found the grenade during an

exercise near the town of Yeroham and jokingly threw it at a group of soldiers.

The soldiers were taken to hospital. Israel's military chief. Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak, suspended ground corps training while investigating the incident.

Rarest spy camera to fetch \$ 55,000

LONDON: One of the rarest spy cameras ever made - it is hidden inside a revolver - is to be put up for sale in London, the auctioneers Christie's said on Monday, reports Reuter.

They believe the camera, made by a French inventor known as Monsieur Enjalbert and patented in 1882, could fetch up to 35,000 pounds (55,000 dollars) at the August 31 sale.

"It is an extremely rare camera and, as far as we are aware, this is the first example ever to be sold at auction. specialist Michael Pritchard said of the camera, which holds 10 square film plates that are exposed when you pull the trigger.

Patriotic model supporter of army

BEIJING: A present woman who loves the military so much she sent four of her sons into the armed services is China's latest official hero, reports AP.

"A patriotic model supporter of the army" was the title given Monday to Yao Cixian by the government and military. On Tuesday, her sense of sacrifice and duty were praised on the front pages of the Communist Party's Peo-

ple's Daily and other leading newspapers. "In the future, you'll have many opportunities to make money," she was quoted as telling her third 9on. "But the

opportunity to become a soldier and serve the country comes but once in a person's life." Yao fits the bill in many ways. She is from the heartland

of China's current craze to get rich, southeastern Guangdong province. In such prosperous areas, families tend to send their sons out to make money rather than into the

Bucking the trend. Yao has one son each in the army. navy, air force and armed police.

Improved Sino-US ties hinge on Christopher, Qian talks

tions.

BEIJING, July 18: China was on the agenda, but reitsaid Thursday that improved US-China relations hinge on talks between US Secretary of State Warren Christopher and his Chinese counterpart,

Qian Qichen, reports AP. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian has agreed to meet Christopher August 1 in Brunei, during the annual meeting of the Association of

Southeast Asian Nations. Relations are at their worst in years, strained over a variety of issues, including US relations with Taiwan, arms sales and the arrest of a Chinese-American human rights activist.

"Whether there will be a turning point is to be decided by the meetings between the two foreign minsters in Brunei," Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said at a weekly briefing. "It all hinges upon the results of the talks." Shen declined to say what

He did not specify what measures were expected, but Qian said last week that China wants the United States to apologise for granting Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui a visa and promise

erated China's position that it

expects the United States to

take concrete measures to-

ward restoring good rela-

not to do it again. China considers the US visa for Lee a violation of the US-China communiques that are the foundation of bilateral relations, and Shen warned that if the United States continues to violate them, "I believe that US-China relations will certainly continue to deteriorate.

Shen also categorically denied that China has sold missile components or chemical weapons technology to Iran in violation of international agreements.

Japan, China to talk on N-arms Traffic-related pollution choking Asia's major cities

TOKYO, July 18: More than two months after Japan said it would reduce aid to China because of a nuclear test, representatives of the two countries will meet in Beijing to discuss nuclear issues, officials said Tuesday, reports AP.

The talks next Tuesday will cover nuclear testing, disarmament and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. which is to put an end to nuclear testing and is expected to be completed next year.

China tested a nuclear weapon in a far western region on May 15, sparking protests from Japan and other nations, and Japan threatened to reduce aid to China.

modernisation, and think pollution caused by traffic that "If you're not motorised, congestion is beginning to you're not developed," he liceman died in May of an air- hicle pollution, due partly to choke Asia's major cities, and

Officials are also under pressure from the construction and the motor car industries, he added.

Anthony Hedley of the University of Hong Kong's Department of Community Medicine, said : "The problem seems to be that our present economies are tied to vehicle production and

Public transportation can be part of the problem, Dimitriou said. In Asia, buses "are

major sources of pollution." Many plans for reducing traffic congestion and pollution have been submitted to

the Thai government in Bangkok, where a traffic popollution-related illness, he the unavailability of unleaded said, but "People are not prepared to tread on others' turf," and the resulting "compromises have led to in-

Like Americans in the 1950s. Asians are discovering the freedom that having a car brings, he said.

What matters most is "how the vehicles are used, how they're restricted and what technology they employ." Cars are fine for leisure on the periphery of urban areas, Dimitriou said, but not for driving to work in the city

centre. In Kathmandu pedestrians can be seen wearing plastic and gauze masks against vegasoline in Nepal.

The same situation applied in Karachi, where Mehtab Rashidi, Director-General of the Environmental Protection Agency, said the introduction of lead-free fuel was under consideration to improve public health.

Dimitriou said he recently returned from a visit to India, where lack of vehicle maintenance "is a risk to life and to health. That's an enforcement and management is-

Jakarta and Guangzhou, China are examples of cities which have reached levels of

motorisation "where congestion is acute and pollution is extremely problematic. Dim-

Hedley said that China, where the population is about 1.165 billion, has the greatest potential vehicle-pollution problem.

Part of the traffic pollution problem Dimitriou said, is that the public tends not to push the government.

"NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) are going to change this," Dimitriou said. The future of heavily traffic congested and polluted cities "will be increasingly influenced by NGOs and international environmental groups."

Dimitriou said he is directing a United Nations-

World Bank traffic and urban planning study for four poor Asian cities that have not yet reached the crisis stage in vehicle pollution. The research — in Hanoi,

in Osolo, Java Island, Indonesia, in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh state, India and in Ningbo, China, south of Shanghai - will determine what types of transportation will best suit various parts of these cities, rather than "allowing market forces to determine what will dominate a public transportation network."

No single approach is best, he said. Buses, light rail, "bicycles rickshaws, cards and moving pavements all

have roles."

good relations' with India: Li

China to keep up

BEIJING, July 18: Chinese Premier Li Peng told visiting Indian Home Affairs Minister Shankarrao Chavan on Monday that China wants to keep up "good relations" with India as with all its neighbours, Xinhua news agency said, reports AFP.

"China hopes to make progress in bilateral relations with India in various field on the basis of peaceful co-existence," Li told Chavan, in a meeting.

Xinhua said Chanvan was in China to learn how the country was dealing with "its various social problems while advancing the socialist mar-

ket economy.