BRIEFLY



Former cabaret dancer Susy Diaz (L) steps down from a podium after being sworn in as a new member of Congress Tuesday during a solemn ceremony at the Congress building in Lima, Peru. Diaz, locally known as the "Peruvian Cicciolina" will be representing the - AFP/UNB photo Independent Agrarian party.

Arafat leaves for Paris: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat left vesterday for Paris where his wife has just given birth to a baby daughter. Palestinian officials said. AFP reports from Gaza City

Arafat will also meet France's President Jacques Chirac. Prime Minister Alain Juppe and Foreign Minister Harve de Charette. But he was expected to spend much of his time with his wife Suha who gave birth to their first child. Zahwa, at the American Hospital on Monday.

Live WW-II bomb found in Manila: A live World War II-vintage bomb was found at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport when workers were digging the ground: Xinhua reports from Manila.

Police said that the American-made bomb, measuring some five feet long and 18 inches in diametre, weights 1,000 pounds and is big enough to blow up the airport building.

Army explosives, ordnance disposal unit retrieved the bomb and will conduct a further examination.

Indian cop kills colleague: A CRPF jawan shot dead a colleague in a fit of rage inside the Berbera forest in Khurda district on Monday, and later surrendered before the authorities, the Deputy Inspector General of Police (CRPF), Amarananda Patnaik, said Tuesday. PTI reports from Bhubaneswar.

He said that S Bassappan Gowda shot dead another constable. US Kutty. from point blank range over "what appears to be a trivial matter."

2 Arab rebels killed in Lebanon: Two Arab guerillas were killed and one Israeli soldier was wounded in fighting in South Lebanon overnight, pro-Israeli security sources said yesterday. Reuter reports from Lebanon.

They said an Israeli patrol spotted a group of guerillas in Wadi Slougi on the edge of Israel's occupation zone in South Lebanon and fired at them with machine guns and anti-tank rockets.

Uzbek FM meets Leghari: Visiting Uzbek Minister Abdulaziz Hafizovic Kamilov heid separate talks in Islamabad Tuesday with his Pakistani counterpart Assel Ahmed Ali and President Faroog Leghari, Xinhua reports from Islamabad.

During their meeting the two foreign minister discussed a wide range of issues from the follow-up of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to Uzbekistan in May to the situation in the region.

Kozyrev arrives in Hanoi: Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev arrives in Hanoi yesterday for a two-day visit aimed at boosting bilateral economic and financial cooperation. AFP reports from Hanoi.

Kozyrev, the first top Russian foreign minister to visit Vietnam since the break-up of the Soviet Union, will head a business and banking delegation, according to a Russian source in Hanoi.

Opposition MP held in Lanka: An opposition member of parliament was arrested at a road block in Colombo after police found anti government posters in his car, police said yesterday, AFP reports from

Colombo. United National Party legislator Dinesh Dodangoda and

three others were arrested late Tuesday for carrying literature defamatory to the government, a police spokesman said.

Bus mishap kills 29 in Hanoi: A bus crash in northern Vietnam has left 29 people dead and 19 injured, a provincial transport official said yesterday, AFP reports from Hanoi.

The accident occurred last weekend in Lai Chau province, 350 kilometres (210 miles) northwest of Hanoi, the official said.

Mindanao city mayor killed: A mayor of a town in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao and his bodyguard were slain after an unidentified man attacked them, police said Wednesday,

AFP reports from Iligan City. Philippine. Agapito Yap, newly-elected mayor of Baliangao town, his bodyguard and several companions had just emerged from a restaurant in the commercial district of Cagayan De Oro late Tuesday when a lone gunman attempted to shoot the mayor. Cagauan police chief superintendent Alberto Obenario said.

Vaccine for cervial cancer: A vaccine is being developed which could eradicate cervial cancer, British doctors said in London Tuesday, AFP

reports from London. It has already been successfully tested on animals, and trials with human volunteers are expected within two or three years, according to Professor Julian Peto from the

Institute of Cancer Research. Fire claims 6 workers in Bangkok:

Six workers were killed in a fire at a furniture workshop on the southwestern fringe of Bangkok, police said yesterday, Reuter reports from Bangkok.

Some of the workers were sleeping in the four-storey building in Rathcaburana Precident while others were still at work when the fire broke out late on Tuesday night, police said.

Bid to end 12-year old civil war

Lankan provinces likely to get more autonomy

COLOMBO. July 26: In an fort to end a 12-year civil war by Tamil separatists the government is considering giving the nation's provinces far more power to rule them-

After taking office in August and promising to end the Tamil minority's battle for a homeland. President Chandrika Kumaratunga began a ceasefire and peace talks with Tamil rebels.

broke the truce in April 19 and began to escalate their battle, prompting the government to strike back with its largest military offensive in eight years.

second phase of the offensive soon, but her government also is trying to win over the Tamil minority with a peace

package obtained by The Associated Press on

Helmi Murad, writing in the

movement paper, Al Shaab

accused Boutros Ghali of

complicity with the Bosnian

Serbs against the country's

tionality code authorises the

stripping of nationality in

cases where an Egyptian

working for a foreign or in-

ternational organisation

threatens the higher inter-

This article of the code

seems to have been included

specifically for the case of

Boutros-Ghali who has

harmed the image of Egypt

because of his complicity

with the Serb gang which has

committed odious crimes

4 killed in

Paris metro

station blast

ple were killed and at least

40 others wounded in a bomb

blast in a rush-hour under-

ground train in a central

Paris metro station on

Prime Minister Alain

Juppe went to the scene and

said outside the station:

"there are very strong suspi-

cions" that it was a terrorist

carriage of the southbound

suburban rapid transit system

at the Saint-Michel station in the left bank of the river

Seine at 5.30 pm (1530 gmt).

Chechen war costs

Moscow \$ 12b

war in separatist Chechnya

has already cost Moscow

some 12 billion dollars, ex-

perts said Tuesday, consider-

ably less than the Russian

government has acknowl-

Economists at the

Institute of Economic

Analysis said Moscow's mili-

tary costs, including payroll,

munitions and transport.

have amounted to about six

ings, infrastructure and

weapons totals a similar

amount, for a total of about

12 billion dollars, institute

Director Andrei Illariyonov

timate the cost of the current

peace mission, nor the cost

of lost foreign trade or di-

minished international im-

The institute did not es-

told a press conference.

Replacing destroyed build-

edged, reports AFP.

billion dollars.

age." he said.

MOSCOW. July 26: The

The bomb exploded in one

Tuesday, reports Xinhua.

attack.

PARIS, July 26: Four peo-

against the Bosnian people."

ests of the state.

He said, the Egyptian na-

Muslims.

Muslim majorities would be merged with neighbouring provinces controlled by the Sinhalese, according to the copy of the package the AP received. Only 7 per cent of Sri Lankans are Muslim, and they often are targeted by Tamil rebels to drive them

the country's Constitution by reducing the power of Parliament to rule the provinces, which would be administered by a chief minister and a cabinet of minis-

now being considered by Kumaratunga's Cabinet, would require a two-thirds vote of approval in Parliament and a victory in a national referen-

trol their own law and order. domestic and international borrowing, taxes, foreign investment, education, roads, irrigation, development pro-

jects, health, state land, minor seaports, industries and energy, according to the draft proposal.

The central government would continue to control the provinces' defence, foreign affairs, currency, elections, airports, major seaports, and foreign trade.

Colombo, the capital, would not be included in a province and would be ruled directly by the central government.

The package also would change Srj Lanka's official name from the Social Democratic Republic of Sri Lanka to one that includes the words "Union of Regions." Kumaratunga's Cabinet will decide on the new full name later.

Tamils, who are mostly Hindu, form 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's population, and Sinhalese, who are Buddhists make up 75 per cent.

Off the Record

'Teeth tower"

BEIJING: A Chinese dentist trying to raise awareness of dental hygiene has created a 2.5-metre (8-foot, 2-inch) tower out of 28,000 human teeth, the official Xinhua News

Agency reported Tuesday, says AP. Yu Gian, 52, a dentist for 32 years, comes from a family of dentists and has treated more than 100,000 patients in Qingnan Country in northwest China's Heilongjiang

province. Yu and his six students collected the 28,000 diseased teeth, representing five different types of dental ailments,

from the mouths of their patients. In 1993, he started building the tower, using various unspecified adhesive materials.

The report said representatives of a world record book in Shanghai examined the tower and said it was the first of its kind. They have recommended that it be formally listed as a world record. Xinhua said without saying where the recommendation went

Hillary's odd duality

WASHINGTON. July 26: In her debut as a newspaper columnist, Hillary Rodham Clinton mused about her loss of anonymity and the end of such mundane pleasures as driving her own car, reports AP.

Not that she's complaining she hastened to add: Whatever minor inconveniences my situation presents, I

wouldn't trade it for the world. Recounting an effort to blend into the crowd at an art

museum during a recent outing, suddenly a woman approached her. Mrs. Clinton wrote. "You sure look like Hillary Clinton," the woman said.

"So I'm told," Mrs. Clinton answered, without revealing her identity. The column, entitled, "Talking It Over", premiered

Sunday in about 100 newspapers around the country. Mrs Clinton also tells of having a sudden urge to drive during a recent trip to Arkansas, much to the dismay of

her Secret Service agents. "On a quiet Friday afternoon. I jumped behind the wheel of a car and drove myself around town," she wrote. "For several hours, I enjoyed a marvelous sensation of per-

sonal freedom. The anecdotes illustrate "the odd duality of my role as first lady," Mrs Clinton says.

"On the one hand. I feel privileged to meet people and go places totally out of reach for most men and women." she wrote. "On the other hand, experiences that millions of Americans take for granted have become extraordinary

An honest confession

LONDON: A British woman was so overcome with remorse at motoring after drinking alcohol that she stopped her car at the local police station and confessed to the offence, a court heard on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Ann Spivey, a 43-year-old nursing assistant, told an asionished duty officer at the station Exeter, western England: I wish to report I have been drinking and driv-

Spivey's Lawyer, James Cross, told the court one of her relations had died in drink-driving incident. "She wanted herself to be punished and taken off the road," he said.

The court granted her request, banning her from driving for a year.

Delivery of munitions to Pakistan

Clinton admn asks for Congress' green signal

WASHINGTON, July 26: The Clinton administration has asked Congress for permission to deliver to Pakistan more than 370 million dollar in military equipment as part of compromise plan to break a six-year impasse of over arms transfers. The Washington Post reported today, says Reuter.

The weapons transfer would not include 28-F-16 combat jets for which Pakistan has paid 658 million dollar but that cannot be delivered under law.

ministration officials. The Post said the United States was seeking new buyers for those planes - possibly Indonesia and the Philippines — and would give the sale proceeds to Pakistan.

President Bill Clinton promised Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in April that he would seek a way to give Pakistan either the aircraft for which it has paid or as much of the 658 million dollar as possible. saying it was unfair to a friendly country to keep both the money and the planes.

Quoting unidentified ad-

Clinton pledged to consult

with Congress to find a way around a law that bars all aid and military sales to Pakistan because of that country's refusal to abandon its nuclear weapons programme.

The Post said that under the compromise plan, Congress would grant a onetime waiver of the ban to allow delivery of paid-for military equipment other than the F-16s

US shouldn't interfere in Thai affairs, warns FM

BANGKOK, July 26: Thailand's new Foreign Minister, Kasem S Kasemsri, has warned the United State that it should not interfere in Thai affairs, reports Xinhua. In a meeting with US

Ambassador to Thailand David Lambertson Tuesday Kasem conveyed the message diplomatically but clearly that the US should not interfere in Thai affairs in the absence of concrete evidence substantiating its allegations that certain Thai politicians have been engaged in narcotics trafficking. Kasem told reporters

afterwards. I drew attention to what in the eyes of the Thai people is US intervention in Thai affairs, which may cause bad feeling.

When Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-Archa was forming his cabinet early this

said that if Thai politicians with links to drug trafficking were to be included in the cabinet, the US-Thai relationship could be compli-The US spokesman did

spokesman Nickolas Burns

not give names, nor has the US provided evidence to the Thai side. The US had denied entry visa to Vatana Asavahame.

deputy leader of Banharn's Chart Thai Party, and Narong Wongwan, head of the powerful faction in the party, for alleged involvement in drug trafficking. Both Vatana and Narong

have denied the US allegations and none of them has entered cabinet. Kasem told the US envoy

it cannot be said that the US is not interfering with us. People have different percep-- AFP/UNB photo I month. US State Department tions of what is at stake."

Rao's August 15 speech to dominate party's polls strategy

SURAJKUND, India, July 26: Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao will spell out in a traditional independence day speech on August 15 his strategy for general elections next year, government ministers said today, reports

Reuter. They said Rao would use a six-day conclave of his Congress Party now underway at Surajkund, near Delhi, to lassess the group's ability to put him in power for a second term before deciding the

actual plan. The ministers said Rao may have to tone down what they believe to be a single-

year-old economic reforms and turn his attention to the lower caste Hindu and Muslim vote banks, decisive in Indian elections. Without the support of

minded focus on his four-

Harijans and Muslims, the Congress cannot survive for a single day," Social Welfare Minister Sitaram Kesri, a senior Congress Idelogue, told Reuters.

"The Prime Minister will renew our commitment to these important components of our party on independence

day," he said. Muslims form 12 per cent of India's 920 million popula-

tion. Harijans, or "children of God," was a name coined by Mahatma Gandhi for Hindu outcastes who together with other lower easte Hindus form a formidable majority of Indian voters.

Both have deserted the Congress, accusing it of upper caste bias.

Rao has used his independence day speeches, delivered from the ramparts of Delhi's 17th century Moghul Red Fort, to announce major policies.

century mosque destroyed by

Muslims accused him of not keeping one such promise of rebuilding a 16th

Hindu mintants in the north ern town of Avodhya in December 1992. Adding to Rao's woes was

a major political upset earlier this year when the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), his main opposition, helped catapuit North India's First Harijan party to power Uttar Pradesh. India's largest state.

The erosion of traditional support of these groups has split Rao's colleagues along religious and caste lines.

He chided them on Tuesday at the start of the Surajkund conclave, saying: We have become slaves to

power, we are becoming slaves to groups, we are becoming slaves to caste. "Unless we come out of

this shell, the party and the nation are doomed," he said, evidently embarrassing senior leaders

Rao accused the Congress leaders and workers of not doing enough to understand and spread the message of his reforms, saying they were a major poll issue.

His stress on economic reforms offered a major contrast to the BJP which last week announce a campaign targeting the government's

Indian Muslims. India's third major con-

its alleged appeasement of

tender for power next year is an alliance of leftists and lowcaste Hindu group which hopes to seek mileage from their campaign for greater economic and political benefits to the poor.

There is no major difference among the parties on the issue of the reforms. They are a mere carbon copy of each other." Rao said.

"If you are not convinced about our economic policy it's useless to expect you to dispel the confusion in the "soft" policy on Kashmir and voter's mind." he said.





US Secretary of State Warren Christopher (L) meets with South Korean President Kim Young-Sam (R) at Blair House in Washington, DC, on Tuesday. Kim is scheduled to meet with US President Bill Clinton today for talks that will focus on Washington's attempt attain closer ties with communist North Korea. - AFP/UNB photo

Fahd asks UNSC to lift arms embargo on Bosnia

JEDDAH (Saudi Arabia) July 26: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia has asked the UN Security Council to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia and allow the Muslims to defend themselves, official sources

said today, reports AFP. "The government of Bosnia-Herzegovina must exercise its legitimate right to self-defence in line with article 51 of the United Nations charter." King Fahd said in a message to council members. the official Saudi Press

Agency reported. There fore it must lift the

embargo," he said. The King also urged the council members "to assume their responsibilities in ensuring peace in the world and opposing Serb aggression against Muslim enclaves in

Serb forces overran Srebrenica on July 11 and captured Zepa on Tuesday. Both were declared safe areas in 1993 by the UN Security King Fahd on Monday

asked Muslim countries to ignore the embargo in line with a decision taken Friday in Geneva by representatives of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). Saudi Arabia has provided

to the Muslim-led government in Bosnia since the war crupted in 1992. AFP from Bandar Seri Begawan adds: ASEAN mem-

bers are expected to discuss the "failure" of the United Nations and the western powers to halt fighting in Bosnia but have not vet agreed on whether to call for

political and financial support

Minister Secretary General Kamil Jaafar said after a meeting of senior ASEAN of-"There's a consensus with respect to what the Serbs

the lifting of the arms em-

us to look at Bosnia and see

the failure of the United

Nations, the failure of the

western powers and the

tragedy...." Malaysian Foreign

"It was not too difficult for

bargo, an official said today.

have done in Bosnia." he said. referring to the recent attacks against UN safe havens. But so far there is no agreement on whether to call for an end to the arms embargo.

Foreign Ministers from the seven Asian countries are expected to issue a separate statement on Bosnia during their meetings Brunei capital July 29,



minister, is surrounded Wednesday by journalists after a ruling Kuomintang meeting Soong will attend the Asia-Pacific defence minister meeting held by the US in Hawaii on September 1, during which he may meet with Chinese defence minister Chi Haotian and hold talks with him. Chi was offered to hold peace talks between the Chinese Communist Party and the KMT.