BRIFFIY

Hiroshima mayor for N-test ban: The mayor of Hiroshima will mark the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of his city on August 6 by calling for a total ban on nuclear weapons tests and condemning the possession of such weapons as a "crime against humanity." AP reports from Tokyo.

The comments were contained in an outline released Friday of the "Peace Declaration" to be delivered by Mayor Takashi Hiraoka in the western city of Hiroshima, the first city to be hit by an atomic bomb.

Ghali's effigy burnt in Delhi: Muslims in New Delhi burnt an effigy of Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Friday to protest what they called the inability of the UN chief to prevent the attack on Bosnian Muslims, AP

reports from New Delhi. "Boutros Ghali, Stop the Killings of Bosnian Muslims Immediately" a crowd chanted outside Jama Masjid, the nations' most sacred mosque after prayers on Friday, the Islamic Sabbath.

PLO-Israel talks resume Sunday: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said Thursday that Israeli-PLO peace talks would resume next week in the southern resort area of Eilat, AP reports from Jerusalem.

An Israeli Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the talks would reopen on Sunday, but said the venue had not yet been chosen.

Composer Miklos Rozsa dies: Miklos Rozsa, the Academy Award-winning composer of the score to "Ben-Hur" and dozens of other films, has died of penumonia. He was 88, AP reports from Los Angeles.

Rozsa, who suffered from a nerve disorder, died at a hospital Thursday. He had suffered a previous stroke and had been on life support for about three weeks, friends and family members said. The Hungarian-born composer's dramatic, classically-tinged film scores won him three Oscars, for "Spellbound" (1945), "A Double Life" (1947). and "Ben-Hur" (1959).

Filipino govt, rebel talks end: Peace talks between the Philippine government and autonomy-seeking Muslim guerillas ended on an inconclusive

note Friday with negotiators planning to meet again in

September, AFP reports from General Santos, Philippines. The talks are aimed at ending more than two decades of strife in the southern island of Mindanao which has left about 50,000 dead.

Vietnam 7th member of ASEAN: Vietnam was formally welcomed in Bandar Seri Begawan yesterday as the seventh member of the association of southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), ending nearly three decades of ideological division, AFP reports from Brunei capital.

"Vietnam's admission is of special significance to us in ASEAN. forerunner of a strong Southeast Asia," the Foreign Minister of host Brunei, Prince Mohamad Bolkiah, said.

Singapore hangs 2 Indians: Two Indian nationals convicted of drug trafficking were hanged at dawn Friday in Changi Prison, the Central Narcotics bureau announced. AP reports from Singapore.

Govindarajulu Murali, 34, and Amrutham Chenchaian, 47, were arrested when they offered to sell 325.7 grams (11.5 ounces) of heroin to undercover narcotics agents on June 7, 1989, the CNB said in a statement. The two businessmen were convicted on November 26, 1993. The Court of Criminal Appeals rejected their appeal on April 18, 1994.

Advani meets Israeli President: The President of the BJP, L K Advani yesterday met the Israeli President, Ezer Weizman and expressed satisfaction over the improved relations between the two countries,

PTI reports from Tel Aviv. Advani, who is in Tel Aviv on a four day visit had met the Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Tel Aviv on Wednesday and the two discussed bilateral relations and

international developments.

Kerala minister quits: A minister in the southern Indian state of Kerala has quit in a rare show of honesty after a court found him guilty of corruption, newspapers reported yesterday, AFP reports from New

Balakrishna Pillai announced his resignation late Thursday after a judge said he was guilty under the anticorruption act in a case relating to the award of a power project, the Hindustan Times and other dailies said.

3 troops die in ROK chopper crash: A South Korean army UH-1H helicopter crashed in North Chungchong province Friday, killing three soldiers and injuring two others, a Defence Ministry spokesman said,

Reuter reports from Seoul. . The crash occurred in Chongryong-Ri in Umsong county at about 12.30 am (0330 GMT), he said.

US gives \$11m aid to PLO: The United States gave PLO head Yasser Arafat's Palestinian authority II million dollars on Thursday for the first stage of a 40 million dollars waste-water processing project. Reuter reports from Jerusalem,

Arafat thanked US President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

Sakigake Party leader quits:
Japanese Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura handed in his resignation as leader of the Sakigake Party yesterday.

Jiji news agency reported, Reuter says from Tokyo. The party — the smallest party in Japan's three-party ruling coalition - declined immediate comment on the report. The Sakigake Party was formed in June 1993 when Takemura led a small group of liberal rebels out of the long-ruling LDP.

30 immigrants held in Germany: Thirty illegal immigrants apparently from Sri Lanka were found stacked like sardines in an abandoned truck on a highway in Saxony, eastern Germany, police said, AFP reports from Berlin.

Officers freed 30 men who had been packed like sardines in the truck, found near Wilsdruff, and took them to a centre in Chemnitz where they could seek asylum.

Taiwan should study need of N-defence programme: Lee

TAIPEI. July 28: Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui said Friday the island should study whether it needs a nuclear arsenal to defend itself, re-

Lee told the National Assembly, which elects the island's presidents, that Taiwan did at one time plan to develop nuclear weapons, but that the idea was dropped in the face of international pressure.

However, when asked by assemblyman Liu-Hui-hsiung whether Taiwan needs a nuclear defence. Lee indicated that the idea needs study.

"We need to review the issue on whether we need to be protected, by nuclear weapons from a far-reaching prospective." he said.

WASHINGTON, July 28:

Astronomers discovered two

new moons, and perhaps two

others, in Hubble Space

Telescope photos of Saturn,

the ringed planet that already

has 18 identified natural

Lowell Observatory near Flag-

staff, Arizona, and Andrew S.

Rivkin of the University of

Arizona announced Thursday

they spotted the new moons

over Saturn in photos snap-

ped May 22 during a rare

celestial event known as an

Saturn's dust rings are seen

edge-on and the bright re-

flected light of the rings is

dimmed. This lets as-

tronomers more easily see

the tiny, independent moons.

Bosh said two of the new

During a ring crossing,

Amanda S. Bosh of the

satellites, reports AP.

Earth ring crossing.

Lee did not elaborate. But Hsu Hiy-yun, chairman of the government's Atomic Energy Council, said Taiwan has said it would not develop nuclear weapons and that he was not

aware of any change of policy. Taiwan also is a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, other officials

Any attempt by Taiwan to develop a nuclear capability would likely draw a strong response from China, which regards the island as a rebel province to be retaken by force if necessary. Beijing said in the 1980s that it would invade Taiwan if it developed atomic weapons.

Lee's remarks come amid tensions heightened by a visit Lee paid to the United States

Refugees from the Zepa enclave taken by Bosnian Serb forces settle down at the Zenica

retugee camp on Thursday following their overnight arrival after hundreds of refugees

were transported out of the UN 'safe area' now under Serb control. - AFP/UNB photo

New moons found around Saturn

moons in the photos may be

previously discovered bodies

known as Atlas and Prome-

theus. Those moons were

found by the Voyager space-

Prometheus, then they were

in the wrong place," said

Bosh. She said the moons

photographed by the Hubble

are in a slightly different lo-

cation than where they were

expected to be based on the

For the other two moons,

"We're adding at least two

Bosh and Rivkin are now

however, there is no question

that they were not previously

more moons to Saturn, and

photos to see if they can lo-

cate Atlas and Prometheus

possibly four," she said.

"If those two are Atlas and

craft in 1980.

Voyager findings.

known, Bosh said.

last month and recent Chinese missile tests in seas north of Taiwan which deepened fears of a Chinese at-

A newspaper poll published Friday indicated that the tests, which China ended two days ahead of schedule Wednesday, have dented support in Taiwan for declaring the island formally independent of China — a move China says would be met by

The China Times said that 12.4 per cent of 852 people polled Wendesday and Thursday said they want the island to declare itself independent, down 6 percentage points from a similar poll conducted in mid-July before the missile tests.

separate from the new

are known only as 8-1, 2, 3

and 4. Eventually, though, the

bodies will get official names

from the International Astro-

nomical Union. By con-

vention, the moons of Saturn

carry the names of characters

in Greek mythology. Bosh

said she and Rivkin will get

to make recommendations.

about the size of the new

moons, but estimated them

at from 7 miles (11 kilome-

ters) to 40 miles (64 kilome-

tresl across. The moons orbit

Saturn at 85,000 to 91,000

miles (136,000 to 145,600

kilometers) from the planet's

centre much closer than the

kilometres) separating the

Earth and its moon.

Bosh said she is uncertain

For now, the new moons

moons.

examining more Hubble 250,000 miles (400,000

The newspaper said 50 per cent of respondents want to maintain the status quo, in which both Beijing and Taipei regard Taiwan as part of mainland China, but do not recognise each other's governments.

The newspaper said 20.7 per cent of respondents want Taiwan reunified with China. a goal Taipei and Beijing both say they are committed to eventually.

3.4 percentage points.

President Lee's popularity remained a high 80 per cent. the newspaper said, despite a recent barrage of accusations from China that he is trying to steer the island toward independence.

Chandrika urged to postpone

COLOMBO, July 28: Sr ports AFP.

This is time when the entire strength and the undivided attention of the govconclusion," the monks said.

Dostum assures support for UN peace efforts

powerful Afghan Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostum has assured his full support for the UN peace efforts in Afghanistan, local press reported here today says Xinhua.

Dostum and Mestiri Exchanged views on the current situation in the country and various peace proposals raised by some Afghan factions and foreign countries.

need to establish a lasting ceasefire in Afghanistan and continuation of talks among all the factions.

Mestiri had already held talks with Afghan President Burhanudding Rabbani.

Senate proposes sending MNLF

MANILA, July 28: The

The statement of senator Blas Ople came amid negotiations between the main Muslim insurgent group, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) for autonomy for Muslim-populated regions, under which guerilla forces would be integrated

that the MNLF and other Muslim insurgent groups "could be tapped for volunteers who will serve" under Philippine military troops in a UN peacekeeping force in that war-torn region.

The newspaper said the poll had a margin of error of

peace package

Lanka's influential Buddhist clergy asked the government to delay unveiling a peace plan to resolve the island's ethnic conflict until Tamil separatists were defeated, of ficials here said today, re-

The heads of three key Buddhist sects here wrote President Chandrika Kumara tunga demanding a postponement of a political package aimed at ending the bloodshed which has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972. officials said.

ernment should be devoted to the task of pursuing the military operations against terrorism to their logical

ISLAMABAD, July 28: The

Dostum, leader of the opposition party Junbush-I-Milli, gave his assurance to the UN special Envoy to Afghanistan, Mehmud Mestiri, who travelled to the Junbush Headquarters in Mazar-F-Sharif on Thursday.

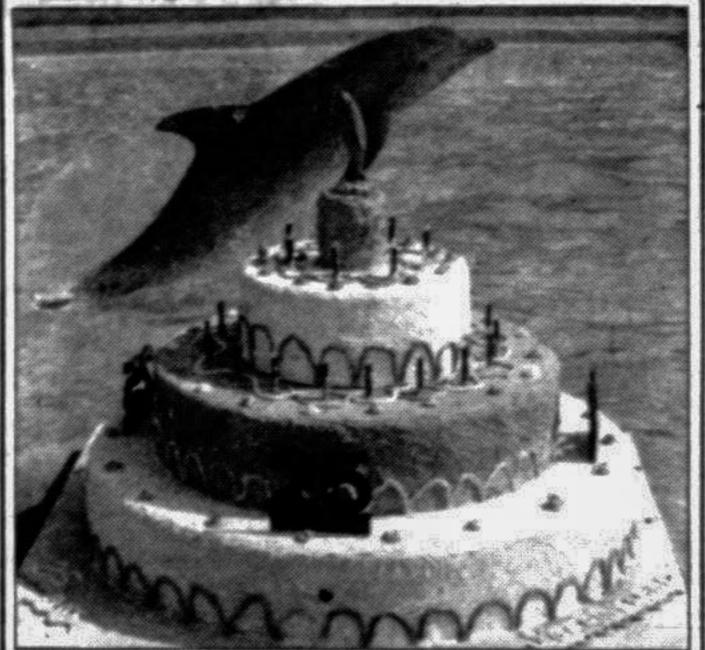
Mestiri underlined the

men to Bosnia

head of the Philippine senate's foreign relations committee today, proposed sending Muslim insurgent guerrillas to Bosnia-Herzegovina as part of a Philippines contribution to any UN peacekeeping effort there, reports AFP.

into the Philippine military. Ople said in a statement

Off the Record



A dolphin of the Marineland aquatic park in Antibes, southeastern France, jumps Wednesday next to a cake baked in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the park's creation. Some 10 million people have visited this sea mammals resort where researchers have developed various veterinarian innovations such as dolphin's radioscopy. - AFP/UNB photo

Clapping mother of all exercises.

NEW DELHI: A 74-year-old Indian businessman is trying to get into the Guinness Book of World Records by clapping continuously more than 5,000 times, a ritual he says is highly recommended for better health, reports AFP.

Krishan Chander Bajaj has created ripples in his neighbourhood with the strange hobby which he said began years ago after a monk told him that clapping could help change the lines in his palm.

"I took it seriously only in 1994," he told the Press Trust of India. (PTI)

Bajaj. who calls clapping "the mother of all exercises," said it has wiped out cataracts in his eyes, brought down high blood pressure and improved his memory.

The businessmen's "clap walk" every morning attracts curious onlookers as well as a growing number of fans who follow him clapping their hands. PTI said. "It gives me peace of mind." Bajaj said.

As it shows little too much of pop superstar

LOS ANGELES: A revealing shot of Michael Jackson floating naked in water in his latest music video has been altered because it shows a little too much of the pop superster, the Los Angeles Times reported on Thursday, says Reuter.

The paper, quoting an unnamed source, said the shots had to be digitally corrected on a computer when producers discovered the video showed parts of his anatomy that should not be seen.

The video, produced to promote Jackson's latest album, is due to premiere simultaneously Friday on the ABC network, the MTV, Music Television network, and BET, Black Entertainment Television.

That's the secret of its beauty

LONDON: Danish researchers reported yesterday that they had found out why gold keeps its glitter for so long. The secret's in the molecules, reports Reuter.

Jens Norskov of the Technical University of Denmark and colleagues reported in the science journal Nature that the electronic structure of gold allows molecules to only weakly bind to the surface compared with other metals.

Gold is considered the most "noble" of all metals because it does not react with other chemicals to rust or oxidise in other ways, unlike copper which develops a green crust and silver which turns black.

S African Muslims protest Western policy on Bosnia

CAPE TOWN. July 28: South African police fired birdshot and rubber bullets at Muslim marchers in Cape Town on Thursday during protests against Western policy on Bosnia, witnesses said, reports Reuter. About 200 South African

Muslims threw sticks and stones at the US Embassy during the protest. Witnesses said a 19-year-

old was grazed in the leg when police with dogs opened fire on the angry crowd. There were no reports of anyone else being injured. "They were using pieces

of wood trying to break a window and throwing stones and rocks," one witness said. "Then I think a window

broke and the police just started shooting." he said. adding that police fired rubber bullets and birdshot. Police were not available for comment. The crowd that attacked

the embassy had broken off

from a march by about 7.000 Muslims who presented a memorandum to parliament criticising the failure of Western forces to counter a Bosnian Serb offensive against outgunned Muslims in UN "safe areas."

The South African Foreign Ministry criticised the actions of the protesters. "The department of

Foreign Affairs is seriously concerned about protest actions which exceeded the bounds of peaceful democratic expression," it said in a statement.

of certain demonstrators ... do not contribute towards the international community's efforts to resolve the conflict in Bosnia." it said.

"Regrettably, the actions

Bosnian Serb forces overran Srebrenica and Zepa this month in eastern Bosnia, expelling tens of thousands of Muslims and prompting international outrage.

5 more executed

Tories lose key

LONDON, July 28: Britain's ruling Conservatives suffered a big defeat in a key parlia-

Littleborough and Saddleworth constituency in northern England, which the cons-Conservatives' overall major-

by-election

mentary by-election today trailing in third as the minority Liberal Democrats swept to victory, reports Reuter. The result came in the

ervatives won with a 4,494 Thursday." vote majority at the 1992 general election. It cut the ity in the House of Com-mons to just nine. The Conservative share of

the vote dropped to 24 per But reconstruction excent from 44 per cent in penses have been huge. 1992. But the drop was less reaching tens of billions of severe then in some recent dollars and saddling Kuwait British by-elections. with an almost 4 billion dol-

KUWAIT. July 28: Five lars budget deficit this fiscal. vears after Iraqi tanks rolled into Kuwait, this oil-rich desert nation is still paying require citizens to pay for for the Gulf War, reports AP.

Kuwait tapped its multibillion-dollar bank account to restore the comfortable. leisurely lifestyle that existed before August 2, 1990, the day Kuwaitis call "The Black

On the beach where Iraqi tanks were parked. Kuwaiti children now play in manicured parks. Young men on jet skis buzz through the wa-

The government plans to levy income taxes and will services they have received free for decades, such as medical care.

Washington, DC on Thursday.

No one is pleading poverty, but for the first time in its 34 years of independence. Kuwait must worry about how it spends its money. Economist Jassem al-

Saadoun said the government was too eager to please people after the 1991 liberation by the US-led coalition, squandering huge sums on salary hikes and debt forgiveness. He told The Associated Press that up to one-quarter of the more than 70 billion dollar spent since liberation was

Many Kuwaitis say the psychological scars of war have yet to heal.

Oil-rich desert nation still paying for Gulf War

US President Bill Clinton (R), South Korean President Kim Young Sam (L) and retired

Gen. and Korean War veteran Raymond Davis (C), chairman of the Korean War

Memorial, salute during dedication ceremonies for the memorial on the Mall in

"Markets and streets are back to normal, but bitterness in the heart is as strong as it was on that day" of the invasion, said Habib al-Kuraini, a 28-year-old civil ser-

Many Kuwaitis say they can't put the war behind them until they learn the fate of 600 Kuwaitis who disappeared during lraq's sevenmonth occupation. Last year Iraq acknowledged it had arrested some, but claimed it lost track of them in the chaos that followed the war.

"How can we forgets?"

said Fatima Ashkanani, a di-

etitian whose cousin was killed lighting the Iraqis. "We don't even know if they are dead or alive". But some say it's time to

look forward, not back.

- AFP/UNB photo

"The invasion is becoming our excuse for anything that goes wrong," said Khaled Khalaf Salama, whose company is building a large enter-

tainment centre in Kuwait

City. "We should put it behind

The war that focused so much international attention on Kuwait also raised political issues that remain unresolved.

Sheik Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah is still the unchallenged ruler, but the 50member Parliament is dominated by opposition groups

including Islamic fundamentalists and western-educated liberals offering widely divergent views on how to reform

Just over 100,000 of Kuwait's 650,000 citizens are allowed to vote, but there are moves to expand Kuwait's democracy of the chosen few." A parliamentary commit-

tee last month approved a plan to allow women's suffrage - an unprecedented move in the conservative. patriarchal Gulf. Kuwait remains heavily

dependent on foreign workers, mostly Arabs and Asians, who number 1 million. Kuwaitis who braved the

Iraqi occupation were forced to collect trash and bake

their lives. After liberation they quickly abandoned plans to place limits on the number of foreign workers.

bread for the first time in

New villas and residential complexes are being built by Egyptian and Iranian workers. Asian women clean most of the houses. Asian men pick up the garbage and water palm trees in the blistering heat of summer, when many, Kuwaiti families take extended vacations that often last for months.

Most Kuwaitis say they don't fear a second invasion by Iraq and they point to 10year defence agreements the y've signed with the United State, Britain, France and Russia.

in Nigeria LAGOS, July 28: Five more

people have been executed in Nigeria, bringing to 54 the number of "common criminals" executed since Saturday, the official News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said Thursday, reports AFP. The live, including a

cuted in public by firing squad on Wednesday in Yola, capital of the northeastern Adamawa state. Most of the men, aged between 29 and 32, had been in prison since 1992 and

Chadian national, were exe-

were sentenced to death recently for acts of "banditry." On Saturday, 43 "coomen riminals" were executed in

Lagos high security Kirikiri prison according to press reports.