

A Bosnian policeman climbs through the unstable debris of an apartment building, searching for victims after intense Serbian shelling totally destroyed the structure in the centre of the Bosnian capital on Tuesday. At least six people were killed and 22 wounded by Serbian artillery during the Tuesday - AFP/UNB photo afternoon.

Russian guards kill 1 Chinese: Russian border guards shot to death a Chinese man they said illegally crossed the frontier from China, a news agency said Wednesday. AP reports from Vladivostok.

ITAR-Tass said the man was shot in the leg Tuesday during a scuffle with the guards and bled to death. It said the incident happened about a mile from the border in the Russian Far East.

Quake shakes Japanese islands: An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.8 shook southern Japanese islands Wednesday, the Meteorological Agency said. AP reports from Tokyo.

No injuries or damage were reported in the islands. which are about 1,300 kilometres (800 miles) south of Tokyo.

Lee to seek second term: Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui announced yesterday that he would seek a second term of office by taking part in the country's first-ever presidential race to be decided by popular vote. AFP reports from Taipei.

The elections are scheduled to be held next March. "After a long period of prudent reflection, I have decided to join the primary contest to seek the party's nomination for the country's ninth presidency." Lee told the 14th congress of the ruling Kuomintang (KMT).

Israel to extend closure in West Bank: The Israeli army said on Tuesday it was extending a closure on the still-occupied West Bank, imposed a day earlier after five people were killed in a suicide bus blast in Jerusalem, Reuter reports from Jerusalem.

"The closure on the West Bank has been extended at this stage by 24 hours until Thursday at 4 am (0100 gmt)." said an army spokeswoman.

URNG to observe ceasefire: Leftist guerillas of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit (URNG) said here on Tuesday that they would observe a ceasefire for the last two weeks of Guatemala's election process November 1-13. Reuter reports from Panama City. After a meeting with a Guatemalan government peace

commission and Guatemalan political parties, the URNG said it would suspend offensive military operation's during that period.

Che's eldest daughter Gadea dies: Hilda Guevara Gadea, the eldest daughter of Argentine revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara, has died of cancer at age 39 and was buried in Havana's Colon Cemetery on Tuesday, the Cuban news agency Prensa Latinea said.

Reuter reports from Havana. She died in a hospital in Havana on Monday.

Hezbollah rebels kill 2 Israelis: Hezbollah guerillas Tuesday killed two Israeli backed militiamen in a roadside bomb attack in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon the South Lebanon Army (SLA) said. AFP reports from Lebanon.

The attack on a patrol occurred in the centre of Israel's self-declared "security zone" along the Israeli-Lebanese border as it travelled along a road to Baraasheet.

US welcomes Liberia's peace accord: The United States welcomed Tuesday a peace accord aimed at ending Liberia's six-year-old civil war and urged warring factions to implement it as soon as possible, AFP reports from Monrovia.

The US embassy said in a statement in Monrovia that it was "heartened" by the agreement and urged "all parties to work together to implement the provisions of the Abuja accord."

Israeli jets hit Lebanese posts: Israeli fighter jets rocketed guerilla targets in south Lebanon Tuesday, pro-Israeli militia a sources said, Reuter reports from Marjayoun, Lebanon.

They said two fighter jets fired seven rockets at suspected guerilla hide outs in the area facing the South Lebanon Army (SLA) outpost of Toumat Niha outside Israeli's occupation zone but under the militia's control.

Smuggled goods seized in China: Customs authorities have seized smuggled goods worth a record 4.65 billion yuan (560 million dollars) in the first seven months of this year, a report said Wednesday, AP reports from Beijing.

The amount exceeds the total contraband seized last year, according to a new report by the General Administration of Customs. The 565 major cases of smuggling from January through July included automobiles, cigarettes, air conditioners, sugar and edible oil, the China Daily reported.

Bush plans to visit China in Sept: Former President George Bush plans to travel to China next month even as some fellow Republicans are opposing a possible visit there by Hillary Rodham Clinton because of human rights conditions in China, AP reports from Washington.

Bush plans to speak to a conference on food production His visit will coincide with the UN conference on women in China but he has no plans to take part in conference activities, spokesman Jim McGrath said.

Kio's largest cathedral robbed: Ten masked gunmen broke into Rio's largest Roman Catholic cathedral and made off with 65,000 dollars in charity money kept in a basement safe, police said Tuesday, AP reports from Rio De Janeiro.

The thieves overpowered two watchmen and three janitors at the Sao Sebastiao Cathedral in downtown Rio at 9 pm on Sunday night, then drove their car through the main entrance and parked it inside the church.

Fire ruins Lankan govt building: Fire swept through a six storey government building in downtown Colombo Wednesday, but no one was hurt, fire

department officials said, AP reports from Colombo. The fire, which broke out before the work started for the day, destroyed the second floor, and partly damaged the 3rd and 4th floors of the Board of Investment building. said J. Kannangara, the fire chief.

Aliza asks Russia to remain involved in peace talks

Sarajevo won't give up Gorazde

SARAJEVO, Aug 23: Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic insisted Tuesday that Sarajevo would not give up Gorazde and asked Russia to remain involved in talks to bring peace to this Balkan nation, reports AFP.

The official Bosnia Herzegovina press reported that lzetbegovic met here Tuesday with Alexander Zotov, the Russian envoy to the "contact group" made up of Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States.

The meeting took place during what was the first real artillery exchanges in the Bosnian capital for three weeks. At least seven people were killed and 33 injured. according to media reports and the Bosnian health min-

Izetbegovic called for the peace process to be speeded up and stressed the importance of Russia's contribution, the news agency re-

40m to be infected

with AIDS by

2000: WHO

million people will be in-

fected with the deadly AIDS

virus by 2000, 90 per cent of

them in developing coun-

Organisation (WHO) said to-

day, reports AFP.

ndrome (AIDS)

sults in death.

tries, the World Health

The Manila-based WHO

regional office for the

Western Pacific said this rep-

resents a 105 per cent jump from the 18 million adults

and 1.5 million children now

infected with Acquired

Immune Deficiency Sy-

ple have developed full-blown

AIDS, which tears down the

body's immune system, ren-

dering a person defenseless

against diseases, it said. AIDS

has no known cure and re-

Six killed as

Tigers, troops

clash

least six people were killed.

including three Tamil gueril-

las, in three separate inci-

dents in Sri Lanka's ethnic

civil war, the military said

died in a fire-fight between

kilometres (190 miles) north

troops Tuesday, separatists

killed a civilian and wounded

another in Batticaloa district,

210 kilometres (130 miles)

east of the capital, said

Ukraine won't close

Chernobyl N-power

station

will not shut down the

Chernobyl nuclear power sta-

tion until social welfare guar-

antees are provided for em-

ployees and the problem of

storing 2,000 tonnes of nu-

clear has been resolved. Uk-

rainian Prime Minister Yevg-

eny Marchuk said Tuesday,

cy, in a dispatch monitored

here by the BBC, quoted

Marchuk as telling directors

of several major industrial

companies in the eastern city

of Kharkov that closing Cher-

nobyl - site of the world's

in 1986 - and building rep-

worst nuclear power accident

lacement power plants would

cost at least four billion

The Interfax News Agen-

LONDON, Aug 23: Ukraine

In another battle with

of Colombo, said Dunuwille.

Two soldiers and a rebel

Wednesday, reports AP.

spokesman.

Dunuwille.

reports AFP.

dollars.

AFP.

COLOMBO. Aug 23: At

Already, 4.5 million peo-

MANILA, Aug 23: Up to 40

He also reiterated that Bosnia would not swap the eastern enclave of Gorazde for Serb-held territory, as has been reportedly proposed in a UN peace initiative. UN peacekeepers in the Serbsurrounded town are expected to be out by the end of the month, leaving it vulnerable to a Bosnian Serb takeover.

A convoy of Russian trucks carrying equipment from Ukrainian peacekeepers from Gorazde arrived in Sarajevo at 2:00 PM (1200 gmt), said UN spokeswoman Myriam

The peacekeepers themselves are expected to be out by September 1, UN officials

In Zagreb on Monday. Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacribey said after meeting with Zotov that Russian opposed measures in a US peace initiative which

would pressure Bosnian

Serbs to accept it. AP adds: French soldiers used the biggest guns they have in Bosnia against Serb rebels, firing howitzer rounds at them in retaliation for an attack on peacekeepers, UN officials said Wednesday.

French gunners, part of the international Rapid Reaction Force based outside the capital Sarajevo, fired six 155 mm rounds at a rebel position late Tuesday, said UN spokeswoman Maj. Myriam Sochacki.

It was not immediately known if the position was hit. she said.

It was the first time that the force had opened up with the howitzers, which were installed on Mount Igman directly southwest of Sarajevo in recent days.

The target was a Serb position northeast of Sarajevo that the United Nations blames for firing mortars at

an observation post manned by Egyptian peacekeepers on Tuesday. Six Egyptians were wounded, two of them seri-

The shelling was part of an upsurge in fighting around Sarajevo in which six people died and 38 were wounded "It appears that the (UN) observation post was directly targeted," said Sochacki.

French artillery opened fire without warning, she

Casualty figures Tuesday were the highest in weeks in and around Sarajevo, where fighting had ebbed as battles increased in Croatia and its border with Bosnia earlier this month.

There has been little fighting in and around Sarajevo since June, when a government offensive to break the 40-month-old Serb siege fizzled.

'Sino-US relations at the lowest ebb'

nes "can not but put people on alert," the commentary BEIJING. Aug 23: With Sino-US relations at their lowest ebb since diplomatic The attacks, said Xinhua,

characterised China as the "new evil empire," and "a temperamental emerging superpower" with "belligerent behaviour," and said that "there is no more important strategic challenge for the 21st century than how to handle the rise of China."

"China does not and will never constitute a threat to the security of its neighbouring countries, still less to the United States fear out on the other side of the Pacific." the commentary said.

Xinhua accused the writers of attacking China just when the country is beginning to achieve economic and social success

that only the United States has the right of development while China does not, and China has to remain permanently poor and backward.



Chechen chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov (R) covers his face as Russian general Yevgeny Skobelev looks on, as they discuss the recent clashes in the Chechen town of Argun - AFP/UNB photo Monday.

Baghdad not hiding anything about its arsenal

AMMAN, Aug 23: An Iraqi defector who had promised to expose Baghdad's military secrets told the UN's chief arms inspector that Iraq isn't hiding anything about its arsenal, a fellow defector said, reports AP.

rebels and a military patrol Tuesday at Pandittirippu in Lt Gen Hussein Kamel, Jaffna Peninsula, said Mai T A who used to head Irag's se-R Dunuwille, a military cret weapons programmes before he defected to Jordan Three soldiers were on August 8. had no surprises wounded and six wounded for UN inspector Rolf Ekeus. rebels were taken away by said Izzeddine Hessan altheir comrades after the bat-Majid, who attended the tle, which occurred 310

meeting. izzeddine, a former Iraqi army officer, is al-Majid's cousin.

"Lt Gen al-Majid discussed with the UN official the Iraqi arms industry." Izzeddine said Tuesday. "But all the seBaghdad" -- not by al-Majid.

crets were revealed by . The Iraqi regime has

Al-Majid, who has established himself as an Iraqi opposition leader since his defection, had promised to expose Iraqi military secrets, but only if he felt it was "in the interest of Iraq."

Ekeus is in charge of eliminating Iraqi weapons of mass destruction to comply with the terms of a UN ceasefire that ended the 1991 Gulf War. If the Iragis comply. UN sanctions would be litted.

On Monday, Ekeus said Baghdad was handing over information it had with held before the defections.

Izzeddine said Tuesday that Ekeus planned to return to Baghdad.

asked Ekeus to return to be given more information." he said. "That will not be now. but in a short while." He did not elaborate. Meanwhile, a top US

diplomat met Jordan's King

Hussein, reportedly to try to persuade him to import oil from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait instead of Iraq. It was the second visit to Jordan in four days for

Robert Pelletreau, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs.

Neither Jordanian nor US officials would confirm a Washington Post report that Pelletreau was trying to get Hussein to switch oil suppliers. Hussein denied the report.

Off the Record

Wrong moment to smooch

BONN: A German woman who kissed her boyfriend while he was driving was fined 827.50 marks (600 dollars) Tuesday for causing a traffic accident as a result, reports

A judge in the western town of Ibbendueren ruled that the star-crossed Romeo lost control of his car as a result of the smooth and collided with another vehicle.

Queen's austerity

LONDON: Britain's Queen Elizabeth will save taxpayer's money by using a commercial flight for the first time when she visits New Zealand later this year. The Daily Mirror reported Wednesday, says Reuter. The Queen normally travels around the world on special

royal flights.

The commercial flight would more than halve the Queen's travel costs to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference in Auckland in November to 292,000 pounds (448,200 dollar) said the Mirror.

The money is due to be paid by New Zealand taxpavers.

The Mirror said the Queen and her husband Prince Philip would occupy the

entire first class section of Air New Zealand's Boeing 747-700 Jumbo which is usually taken up by 16 people paying 6.352 pounds (9.751 dollar) for a return ticket.

The first class section would be revamped for the 26 hour flight with a large elegant table in the middle and four armchairs around it, said the newspaper.

The Mirror said up to 384 other passengers would be on the flight.

No immediate comment was available from Buckingham Palace on the report.

Honourable murderer

INDIANTOWN GAP, Pennsylvania: A man executed for murdering his ex-wife and two daughters in a church parking lot will be buried at a national cemetery because he was an honorably discharged Army veteran, reports AP.

Burial in a national cemetery is based on the character of one's service. It doesn't matter if one later becomes a saint or a millionaire or a homeless person," said Bill Jayne, spokesman for the Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery System in Washington.

Parliament forced to adjourn

Rao faces protests at train crash site

NEW DELHI, Aug 23: Angry Protesters jeered Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao today when he visited the grim site of India's worst train crash, officials said. reports Reuter.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said police used clubs to disperse protestors who shouted slogans against the government and claimed the administration had withheld information about the number of dead.

Late on Tuesday the official toll was 278 dead, but Ferozabad Civil Hospital's chief medical superintendent told PTI 299 post-mortem examinations had been performed so far.

attended Congress meeting

along with Rao, she has been

lustily cheered by party ac-

tivists and urged to take over

the party leadership, much to

the prime minister's embar-

has led to a souring of ties

Congress sources say this

rassment.

between the two.

lower house of parliament was forced to adjourn for two hours when deputies of the opposition Janata Dal Party protested that their leader had been barred from making a statement on the train disaster. Both the opposition and

breakaway faction of the ruling Congress Party have demanded that Rao, who took over the railways ministry last week from an ailing minister, resign. Congress rebels said relief

measures were inadequate and even sheets were not available to cover mutilated bodies.

A leftist students' group burnt an effigy of Rao in the In the Indian capital, the eastern city of Calcutta.

Gandhis' comeback in politics Amethi tour fuels speculation of

NEW DELHI, Aug 23: A planned tour of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's constituency by his family has fuelled speculation here that the famous Nehru-Gandhi clan may be planning a political comeback, reports

Sonia Gandhi, the slain premier's Italian-born widow, is scheduled to visit Amethi about 500 kilometres (300 miles) southeast of here tomorrow for the first time in eight months.

The enigmatic Sonia, often portrayed by the media as a possible rival to Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, will be accompanied by her son Rahul, 25, as well as

daughter Priyanka, 23. Sonia is scheduled to inaugurate a medical camp at

Amethi organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation which she heads but with parliamentary elections due in early 1996, the visit is widely seen as a political tester. "Most people believe that

minority Tamils.

Sonia may be grooming Rahul for a political career," said a source in India's ruling Congress (I) Party. "This might not be true, but this is the widespread belief." The visit has generated

considerable interest in the Congress, which for decades has been led by the Nehru-Gandhi family and whose presidency was taken over by Premier Rao after Rajiv Gandhi's

Congress activists are preparing a rapturous welcome for the Gandhis on Wednesday when the family arrives in the Northern city of Lucknow on their way to Amethi, from where Rajiv Gandhi was thrice elected to parliament. Amethi is presently

Radicals from the majority Sinhala community protest at a public rally on Tuesday

against the government's peace plan to end years of ethnic violence. The plan envisages

the creation of eight autonomous regions that would offer greater devolution of power to

represented in parliament by Petroleum Minister Satish Sharma, a friend of the Gandhis who recently said he was ready to give up his seat to make way for Rahul.

Congress officials say the ruling party would be willing to field Rahul from Amethi, a largely rural constituency in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh.

Sonia has repeatedly refused to be drawn into politics since Rajiv Gandhi, who was prime minister from 1984 to 1989, was blown up by a suicide bomber while campaigning in elections that could have again made him

premier. But she wields considerable clout in the 110-year-old Congress, India's oldest po-

- AFP UNB photo



from flocking to Amethi. Although Sonia is counted litical party, and its leaders among the most powerful invie to meet her at her secluded home in downtown New Delhi known popularly

dians even without an official post. Congress sources say she may be preparing for a political future for Rahul, who by its address — 10 Janpath. holds a management degree The few times Sonia has

from Harvard. "This visit may be a soun-

ding board," said a Congress source. "Though the Gandhis have visited Amethi many times in the past, there is a feeling that she may be wanting to formally introduce Rahul to people there." The Gandhi family has

given three prime ministers

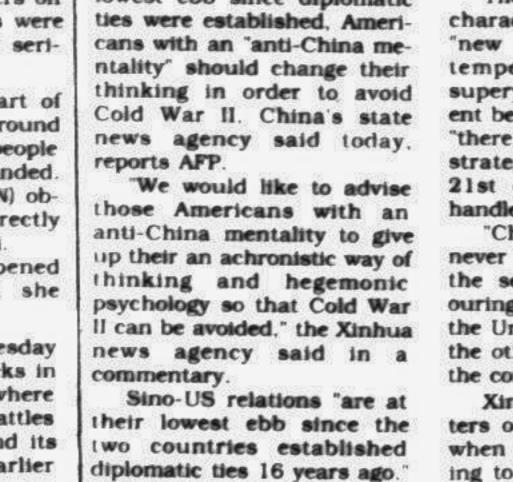
to India, including Jawaharlal

Last week, Sonia boyco-

tted a book release function in an apparent snub to Rao. And a Congress flat to its MPs to be present in New Delhi Thursday is seen as an attempt by Rao to prevent them

Nehru, the country's first, his daughter Indira Gandhi, and her son Rajiv, who married Sonia in 1968. "There is no doubt the

Gandhi family enjoys tremendous respect in Amethi," said Sheila Dixit. spokeswoman for the rival Congress Party, formed in May. "If any of the Gandhis contest from there, they will win hands down."



the Xinhua commentary said.

Taiwanese President Lee

Teng-hui's visit to the United

States in June and "attacks"

on China by columnists, scho-

lars and critics in influential

US newspapers and magazi-

"In their opinion, it seems