

## International

DD barred from airing Benazir's interview

## Pakistan accuses Indian forces of having link with kidnappers

NEW DELHI, Aug 24: In an interview banned from Indian television, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan has accused Indian forces of secretly working with Kashmiri separatists who kidnapped five Western hostages and beheaded one of them, reports AP.

Eyewitness, a private company producing a weekly current affairs programme for the state-run Doordarshan television, interviewed Benazir in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad, but the government prevented it from being shown without explanation, sources said on condition of anonymity.

Eyewitness released quotes from the half-hour interview to newspapers and news agencies in India on Thursday. It has offered to

sell the interview to foreign TV companies. In the interview, Benazir spoke about the kidnappings, about the ethnic violence in the Pakistani city of Karachi, and repeated her readiness to hold a summit meeting with India, as long as it focussed on Kashmir.

Indian government spokesmen declined to comment on why the interview was not aired as planned on August 14. The director of Doordarshan did not return telephone calls, and other TV officials refused to comment.

Earlier this year, the government blocked another Eyewitness interview of an Indian legislator that was critical of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, sources in the company said.

In her interview, Benazir

denied that Pakistan, which supports Kashmiri militant groups fighting for independence from India, was involved with the Al-Faran militant group.

The previously unknown organisation is holding an American, two Britons and a German hostage in Jammu-Kashmir, a war-torn state in northern India. A fifth hostage, a Norwegian, was killed nearly two weeks ago.

She accused Indian intelligence agents of having links with the group, which has demanded the release of 15 jailed militants.

"Pakistanis were very surprised that this unknown Al-Faran group suddenly emerges (and) kidnaps hostages, which discredits the Kashmiri movement, plays into the hands of the Indian government," she said.



Picture taken from German television station ARD showing the four Westerners held by Kashmiri rebels for more than a month. In a tape recording released in Srinagar by their captors Wednesday they say they are well. The tape recording was offered by the Al-Faran rebel group together with five photographs as proof of their well-being. — AFP/UNB photo

## Clinton names new team of envoys on ex-Y'slavia

WASHINGTON, Aug 24: President Bill Clinton on Wednesday named a new team of envoys on the former Yugoslavia following the deaths last week of several top experts, reports AP.

Roberts Owen, 69, a former legal adviser to the State Department on issues including Bosnia, was named senior adviser on the former Yugoslavia.

Brigadier General Donald Kerrick was also tapped to join the new team, he is director of the Pentagon's National Military Intelligence Centre.

James Pardew Director of the Balkan Task Force at the Pentagon, was also named to the new team he previously served for two years as Deputy Director for Intelligence Services of the military's joint Chiefs of Staff.

He is joined by Christopher Hill, 43, a State Department officer who specialises in European affairs. He has been in charge of southern Central Europe including the former Yugoslavia.

## N-Korea blasts US-ROK war games

SEOUL, Aug 24: North Korea on Thursday blasted US-South Korea military exercises under way in the southern part of the Korean Peninsula, labelling them war preparations, reports AP.

The annual Ulchi-Focus Lens '95, which started Monday for a 12-day run, tests the combined US-South Korean forces abilities to respond to an emergency on the peninsula.

Although the exercise involves no actual troop deployment, about 50,000 South Korean troops and 16,000 US soldiers will face off rival North Korea in a computer-simulated war.

## Larry Hagman in critical condition

LOS ANGELES, Aug 24: Dallas actor Larry Hagman was in extremely critical condition Wednesday after getting a new liver and losing a few gallstones during a 15-hour operation, reports AP.

"Mr. Hagman has done very well," said Dr Leonard Makowka, Director of the liver transplant programme at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre. "I expect that he'll return and have a fully normal lifestyle."

The first 48 hours after the surgery which began Tuesday night and ended around 2:30 pm Wednesday, are crucial to determining if his body rejects the donor organ, Makowka said.

## History's greatest kiss photographer dead

OAK BLUFFS, Massachusetts, Aug 24: Life magazine photographer Alfred Eisenstaedt, who took the famous VJ Day picture of a sailor kissing a woman in Times Square, is dead at 97, a friend said Thursday, reports AP.

The New York City resident died late Wednesday at a Martha's Vineyard inn where he was vacationing, said family friend William Marks.

Eisenstaedt was working for Life magazine when he took the famous picture on August 14, 1945, the day Japan surrendered to end World War II.

Expressing the unbounded joy and relief that Americans felt at the end of the war, the sailor holds the nurse in a half dip as one of her feet lifts slightly off the ground.

## MQM threatens to extend strike

KARACHI, Pakistan, Aug 24: A powerful ethnic group threatened Thursday to extend a strike that has virtually shut down Karachi for the past two days and left at least nine people dead, reports AP.

The Mohajir Qaumi Movement, which launched the two-day strike Wednesday to protest alleged police brutality, accused the government of intimidating its leaders and sending assault teams to their homes.

Ajmal Dahli, an MQM leader, told The Associated Press that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government is offering talks, while using force to try to crush his organisation.

"This kind of continued repression may effect the

dialogue," he told The AP. "If the government continues with its policy of arresting and intimidating MQM members the strike may be prolonged."

Shortly before midnight on Wednesday gunmen attacked Dahli's office in Karachi. No one was hurt, but the MQM blamed Bhutto's government accusing it of "state-sponsored terrorism."

Meanwhile, the government said it will send its negotiating team to Karachi next Tuesday to hold talks with the MQM.

The two sides have held five rounds of talks since July but have failed to make much progress.

The latest offer of talks comes amid a massive police and paramilitary Ranger op-

eration to flush out militant MQM members from some of the most violent neighbourhoods in Central and West Karachi.

In the past one week thousands of troops have swept through these neighbourhoods conducting house-to-house searches, detaining male members of households and confiscating scores of weapons.

Both residents and international human rights groups accuse the police of heavy handedness.

Residents say people are being beaten by police and others are being forced to pay bribes to police to be released. Several people have been arrested, although it's not known on what charges they are being held.



Members of the main opposition Nepali Congress Party shouts slogans during a demonstration against Nepal's communist government yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

## Zaire to expel Rwandan refugees

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 24: Zaire decided to expel thousands of Rwandan refugees because it felt they posed a major security risk after the United Nations lifted an arms embargo against Rwanda last week, reports AP.

The prime minister of Zaire, Kengo Wa Dondo, gave that explanation in a August 17 letter to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. The letter, which warned of the coming expulsions, was released Wednesday by the United Nations.

Zaire apparently feared that battles between the Tutsi-led Rwanda government and Hutu extremists in the refugee camps would break out on its side of the border.

Since Saturday, Zaire has sent nearly 11,000 Hutu refugees from Rwanda and

Burundi back to their homelands. The forced expulsions, along with the looting and torching of some refugee camps by Zairean soldiers, have ignited a panic among refugees along Zaire's eastern border.

More than 130,000 refugees have fled into the hills to escape being sent home.

The UN Security Council held closed talks Wednesday on the chaotic situation. In a statement later, it praised Zaire for taking in so many refugees, saying that contributed to regional stability, but it urged the central African nation to stop forcing the refugees to go home.

On August 16, the Security Council voted unanimously to suspend a ban on arms imports by the Rwanda government until September 1, 1996.

## India may buy Russian gunship

MOSCOW, Aug 24: India may buy the new Russian Kamov Ka-50 "Black Shark" helicopter gunship, Kamov Design Bureau director Sergei Mikheyev said at the Moscow International Air Show Wednesday, reports AP.

The Ka-50 single-seat attack helicopter is due to enter service with the Russian armed forces this year. It is armed with guided anti-tank rockets, cannon and air-to-air missiles.

Kamov is also developing a twin-seat version, the Ka-52.

Mikheyev, quoted by Interfax news agency, said that the 14 Kamov helicopters on display at the show, which opened Tuesday, also included the Ka-31 two-seat naval helicopter designed for reconnaissance, the multi-purpose all-weather Ka-32d and the Ka-32a firefighting helicopter.

## Off the Record

## NY in need of therapy!

NEW YORK: Crime, dirt, crowding, You'd have to be crazy to live in New York, right? Maybe the answer will come after the Big Apple puts itself on the psychiatrist's couch, reports AP.

New York plans a 40,000 dollars study to assess the mental health of a city synonymous with madness to many people.

"I think it's a very sensible thing to do," Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said of the city-financed plan Tuesday. Officials believe New York will be the nation's first city to subject itself to such an examination.

Giuliani, of course, is the same man who detailed millions of dollars in harrowing budget cuts during a February speech he closed by wishing a "Happy Valentine's Day" — the day sweethearts give each other gifts.

Clearly, this is a town in need of therapy. Mitchell Moss, head of the New York University Urban Research Centre, said hiring better pitchers for the New York Yankees baseball team might improve the mental health of New Yorkers. He dismissed the study as "the height of mental health madness."

The New York Post, reflecting on the study, ran a story detailing a week's worth of city-style insanity — everything from the latest on New York's crumbling schools to a pair of bus hijackings on a weekend afternoon.

"We don't need anybody to tell us we're crazy," the newspaper headline announced.

New York is where former Mayor Ed Koch, became a hero by lambasting critics as "wackos" and "insane," where a mental patient dubbed "The Wild Man" became a pseudo-celebrity by terrorising a Manhattan neighbourhood.

The folks involved in the study make it clear that the city's psychiatric well-being is no laughing matter.

"The headlines make it sound like a joke, but there's a whole variety of circumstances that create pressure on people that may contribute to their mental health — or lack thereof," said Yeshiva University dean Sheldon Gelman.

## Unknown song of Elvis

LONDON: A recording of a previously unknown song made by Elvis Presley that he is thought to have given his security chief Dick Grob has been found. The Times of London reported Thursday, says AP.

The paper quoted Ted Owen, a specialist, in pop and rock memorabilia at the London auction house Bonhams, as saying: "It's an absolutely brilliant Elvis mid-60s classic."

The Times said those who have heard it compare the song to some of the US star's classic hits such as "Love Me Tender." It said that Presley, who died in 1977 at age 42, is thought to have produced the song in his home studio.

It gave no date for the recording but said it is an acoustic ballad lasting about three minutes and that Bonhams, guided by the repeated lyrics, is calling it "Let Me Make Believe Awhile."

The paper said the recording is on a 10-inch (25.4 centimetres) acetate — or temporary — recording and has a paper sleeve inscribed: "To Dick, thanks, Elvis Presley."

## Lanka plans to set up HR commission

COLOMBO, Aug 24: Sri Lanka plans to set up a permanent human rights commission to investigate human rights violations in the country, a government minister said Thursday, reports AP.

International human rights bodies have complained of arbitrary arrests and disappearances of civilians in recent months. There were reports of widespread abuses during the rule of the United National Party, which governed the country for 17 years.

The commission will not have judicial powers, but can refer particular cases to the courts, said Foreign Minister Lakshman Kidiragamar.

The five-member commission will be appointed by President Chandrika Kumaratunga. It will also have powers to investigate complaints of discrimination by the state.

The government decision was contained in a bill brought in parliament Thursday. It will have to be passed by the lawmakers.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan government on Thursday described as "unreasonable" the decision of the Red Cross decision to impose conditions on escorting food ships to the country's rebel-controlled northern area.

## Balkan leaders to meet in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Aug 24: The presidents of Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina have accepted an invitation from Indonesian President Suharto to meet in Indonesia to try to resolve the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, a senior Indonesian official said today, reports AP.

The date will be set after Sutresna has held technical meetings with the three countries, Sutresna added.

It was unclear whether the meeting will be held before Indonesia is due to hand over the movement's chairmanship to Colombia in October.

Suharto said in March that Indonesia was proposing to facilitate peace in the former Yugoslavia by trying to encourage all breakaway states to meet on their own to solve their problem.

Sutresna, who heads the executive body of the chairman of the non-aligned movement, said Presidents Franjo Tudjman of Croatia,

## BRIEFLY



Workers display on Wednesday an eight foot tall bust of a woman which they are delivering to a Beijing hotel for display in front of the hotel for the Fourth World Conference on Women which opens in Beijing September 1. The face is made of fiberglass and the body of live plants. — AFP/UNB photo

## Quake rocks Japan: An earthquake measuring 4.3 on the open-ended Richter Scale rocked a wide area of central Japan yesterday, but no damage or casualties were reported, the Meteorological Agency said, Reuters reports from Tokyo.

The epicentre of the tremor was in southern Nagano prefecture. It occurred at around 7.03 am (2203 GMT). The agency said there was no danger of tsunami, or tidal waves.

## Rebels massacre 200 in Sudan: The US Embassy in Sudan disclosed Wednesday that some 200 villagers were massacred by rebels in southern Sudan late last month and called for rebel leaders to take action against the attackers, AP reports from Khartoum.

The embassy, in a statement, said the incident occurred July 30 in the Ganyil area in southeastern Sudan. It said most of the victims were civilians and "more than half were children." It added that thousands were left homeless, after their huts were burned.

## 2 Irish jailed in Pakistan: Two Irish nationals, Oliver Byrne and Brian O'Laughlin have been sentenced to jail and a whipping for smuggling hashish, legal sources said yesterday, AFP reports from Peshawar, Pakistan.

The two were sentenced to 10 months jail and five whip lashes. If the sentences are carried out it will be the first time foreign nationals have been whipped in Pakistan.

## Youngest drug suspect held in HK: A 13-year-old schoolgirl from Hong Kong was arrested at the border with China for trying to smuggle heroin out of China, becoming the youngest drug suspect held there yet, it was reported yesterday, AFP reports from Hong Kong.

The schoolgirl, whose name was withheld, was detained in Shenzhen late Sunday when she tried to cross into the territory with 14 grams (0.49 ounces) of heroin and six syringes in her schoolbag, the China-backed Ta Kung Pao said.

## Rains claim 9 in S Korea: Unseasonable rains of up to 35 centimetres (14 inches) have soaked both Koreas, causing heavy casualties and property damage, officials and news reports said Thursday, AP says from Seoul.

At least nine people were confirmed killed and 19 others missing or injured in two days of torrential rains that buffeted most of South Korea earlier this week, government disaster officials said.

## Suu Kyi tapes speech for Beijing confce

BANGKOK, Aug 24: Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi has videotaped a speech for an international women's conference in Beijing despite attempts by Myanmar's military government to stop her, a spokesperson for a Thai politician said Thursday, reports AP.

The tape is already in Beijing," said Supalak Tongchitsen, a spokesperson for Supatra Musdit, a Democrat member of parliament.

One of the organisers of the international conference of private women's groups in Beijing from August 30-September 8, Supatra in-

tended to travel to Yangon earlier this week to videotape the speech by Suu Kyi.

But the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok didn't grant a visa. The denial was seen as the Myanmar government's way of preventing Suu Kyi from participating in the conference.

Supatra had met with the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner in Yangon on August 7.

Meanwhile, the world union of Liberal parties asked UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Wednesday to intervene with China to ensure that a Liberal delegate from Taiwan gets a visa to attend the UN women's conference.

On Wednesday, the Pakistani foreign office summoned the Afghan ambassador to lodge a "strong" protest over "violations" of its air space by an Afghan jet.

## Hekmatyar forces seize govt military base

ISLAMABAD, Aug 24: Hezb-e-Islami forces of former premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar have seized a major pro-Kabul government military base, a party spokesman said today, reports AP.

The base held by Ittihad-i-Islami, headed by Rasul Sayyaf, an ally of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani was taken between Tuesday and Wednesday, spokesman Ghairat Baheer said here.

No comment was available from Ittihad-i-Islami on the Hezb claim.

It was Hekmatyar's first military success after retreating from its base near Kabul earlier this year as the Taliban religious movement advanced on the capital. The

Talibans were afterwards pushed back from Kabul by Pakistani troops.

Baheer said Hezb forces were "compelled" to march on the base, located in eastern Paktia province near Pakistan, because of "provocative" attacks on "our base at Spinashaga in Paktia."

He said pro-Rabbani jets bombed Hezb positions during the fighting, but rejected as "baseless" a claim by officials in Kabul Wednesday that Hekmatyar's forces launched their attack from inside Pakistan.

On Wednesday, the Pakistani foreign office summoned the Afghan ambassador to lodge a "strong" protest over "violations" of its air space by an Afghan jet.



Australian students and their teacher (2nd R) hold up little flags of Pacific States in front of Paris' Eiffel tower Wednesday to protest the French nuclear tests at Mururoa Atoll. — AFP/UNB photo