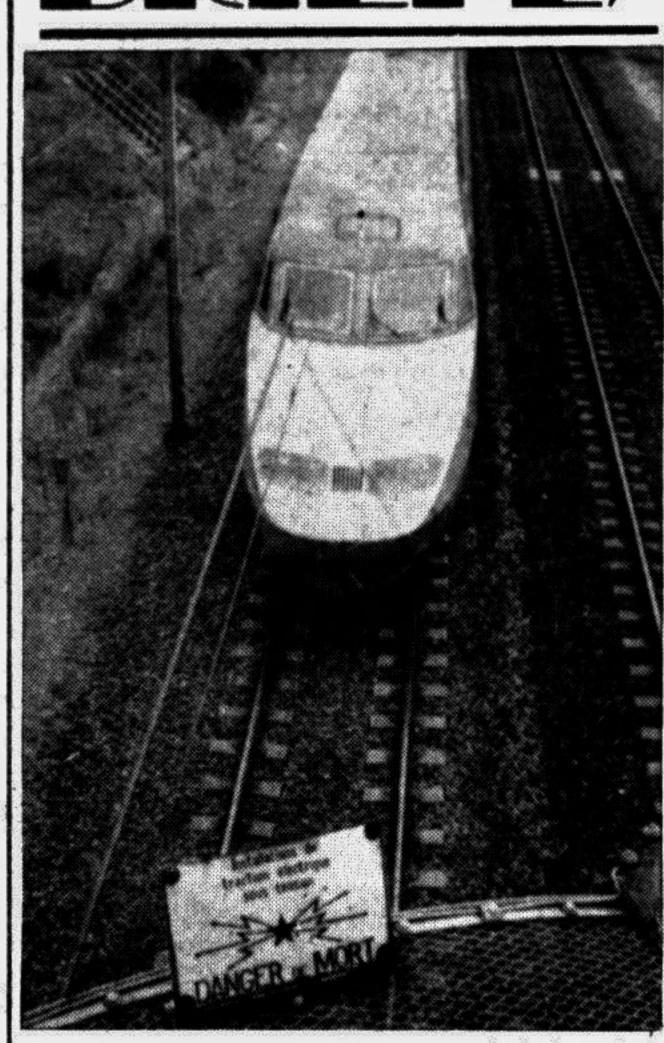
# BDIFFI



Terrorist fears turned to France's symbol of modern technology, the high speed train, TGV, Saturday as authorities found a bomb with a faulty detonator planted on one of the busiest railway lines to Lyon. Thousands of vacationers and tourists, travelling on one of the final weekends of the French summer holidays were spared by the faulty detonation system that was designed to - AFP/UNB photo blow up when a train passed.

Kono won't run to lead LDP: Foreign Minister Yohei Kono surprised observers Monday by announcing he won't seek re-election as leader of the governing coalition's biggest party, a move that takes him out of the running to become Japan's next prime minister. AP reports from Tokyo.

Kono's sudden decision, announced at a press conference, was a boost for trade minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who had announced he would challenge Kono for leader ship of the Liberal Democratic Party.

The next Liberal Democratic leader is seen as a likely successor to the current Prime Minister. Socialist party leader Tomichi Murayama.

Egypt arrests 16 militants: Egyptian security forces arrested 16 suspected members of a new Muslim militant group in northern Egypt, the official Al-Ahram newspaper said yesterday, Reuter reports from Cairo.

Quoting unnamed security officials, it said the 26member group based in the northern city of Simbilaween was linked to Gama's Al-Islamiya (Islamic Group), which fights to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state.

Russian tanker sinks into sea:

A Russian tanker broke in two and sank yesterday in the Far East Russian port of Vostochny after a fire broke out on board, the ITAR-Tass news agency reported, AP says from Moscow.

The tanker Evnesk, which was carrying 200 tonnes of crude oil, caught fire on Friday night and spilled its cargo into the sea. Firefighters from Vostochny battled for more than 12 hours to control the blaze which left one man seriously injured. Another man was reported missing.

3 die as train derails in Punjab: Three people were killed and five injured when an Indian passenger-train derailed in the northern state of Punjab, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported yesterday. AFP says from New Delhi.

Railway officials suspect sabotage as the track had been tempered with, PTI reported. Eight coaches of the Ganga-Sutlej Express left the track near Sirhind town late Sunday, the agency said.

Irish leader to quit party post:
The leader of Northern Ireland's largest political party said Monday that he will resign, creating new uncertainty about the course of moves toward peace, AP reports from London.

James Molyneaux, who has led the Protestant based Ulster Unionist Party since 1979, said he was stepping down now to allow a new leader to prepare for general elections, which must be held by April 1997. He did not say whether he would seek re-election to the House of Commons, where he has served since 1970.

Azeris blamed for truce-break: Armenia on Monday accused Azerbaijan of attacking re-

gions across the border despite a truce between the two former Soviet republics, injuring nine people, AP reports from Yerevan. The Armenian Defence Ministry said that one soldier

and a civilian had been killed Monday, and that seven border guards had been injured the previous day. Also on Sunday, a group of Azerbaijani commandos tried to cross into the Krasnoselsky region of northeastern Armenia.

Somalia violence leaves 9 dead: At least nine people died and eight were wounded when fighting erupted between supporters of two main Somali warlords along the "green line" dividing northern and southern Mogadishu at the weekend. AFP reports from Mogadishu.

The fighting erupted late Saturday afternoon and subsided at nightfall, only to resume on Sunday.

ports AP.

## US plans 9-month bombing campaign against Serbs if peace bid fails

NEW YORK, Aug 28: The United States is planning a nine-month bombing campaign against Serbian forces in Bosnia if the current US peace initiative in the former Yugoslavia fails, the Newsweek magazine reported on Sunday, reports Reuter.

Quoting administration sources, the magazine said targets would include Serbheld territory in Bosnia in attacks designed to prevent the Bosnian Serbs from seizing any more territory while the Muslim forces were built

The magazine said the Pentagon believes it would take nine months to train and equip a Bosnian force able to face Serbians now holding 70 per cent of

The magazine reported the strikes would be launched from NATO air bases in Europe, which would give European allies veto power over the plan.

Officials told the magazine that Europeans briefed on the current peace initiative won't approve the strikes un-

Mali president

in New Delhi

President of Mali. Alpha

Omar Konare, was given a

warm welcome on his arrival

here for a four-day visit, re-

were received by the Pre-

sident, Dr Shanker Dayal

Sharma, the Prime Minister,

P V Narasimha Rao, and his

cabinet colleagues called for

greater South-South Coopera-

tion and said India has an

was received in the yellow

drawing room of Rashtrapati

Bhaban sans the traditional

guard of honour of the fore-

court due to heavy downpour.

described India as a country

of future and looked forward

to an eventful relation with

visit to this country, will be

seeking trade ties and tech-

nology appropriate to the

emergency industry in his

Turkic nations'

summit begins

in Bishkek

28: In a display of solidarity.

the leaders of several former

Soviet republics gathered

here on Monday for a sum-

mit, under Russia's watchful

third among these Turkic

republics since 1992, but the

first to be held outside

Turkey. Russian pressure

prevented it from being held

In attendance were Presi-

dent Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzs-

tan, Nursultan Nazarbayev of

Kazakhstan, President

Saparmurad Niyazov of

Turkmenistan, President Is-

lam Kerimov of Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan leader Gaidar Aliev

and President Suleyman

Food running out

for Russian

soldiers

rations for Russia's soldiers

could run out in two or three

weeks because of lack of

funds, a Defence Ministry

spokesman said Sunday, re-

risk at remote sites such as

the naval bases of the north-

ern and Pacific fleets, Yuri

Mamchur told the Russian

ready owes 715 billion rubles

(158 million dollars) to food

suppliers, Mamchur said.

adding "The army needs ex-

tra subsidies to get food to

the far north or to northeast-

ern Chukotsky Polustrov."

The Defence Ministry al-

news agency Interfax.

Troops are at the greatest

ports AFP.

MOSCOW, Aug 28: Food

Demirel of Turkey.

in Azerbaijan two years ago.

The one-day summit is the

eye, reports AP.

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan, Aug

Konare, who is on his first

The Mali President who

important role to play.

ports PTI.

New Delhi.

country.

NEW DELHI, Aug 28: The

Konare and his wife who

less Washington changes parts of the plan to meet Serbian demands, especially US insistence on maintaining current borders in Bosnia.

US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke has said rebel Bosnian Serbs are the chief stumbling block to

He warned Serbs before leaving for Paris on Sunday that NATO would intervene "heavily" in the 40-month-old war unless progress was made towards negotiated settlement in a "week or

The Bosnian army commander says he doubts whether a new US team reopening its quest for peace in Bosnia can succeed, and vowed to fight We have only one direc-

tion, and that is to continue

fighting," Gen Rasim Delic

AP from Sarajevo adds:

said at a military ceremony in the town of Jablanica, southwest of Sarajevo. As Delic spoke, the new US team, led by Assistant Secretary of State Richard

Holbrooke, was heading to

Paris to reopen talks with

the forces of the 5th Bosnian army corps.

envoys of other countries involved in the peace process and with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

Late Monday, an assembly of the Sarajevo government's Bosnian Serb foes was scheduled to gather on Mount Jahorina just outside the besieged capital.

Delic, in the most skeptical comments yet by Bosnian officials about the US plans. said they amounted to little more than a collection of ideas 'without a head and without a tail."

Holbrooke's new team was hurriedly put together after three senior officials were killed in an accident August 19 outside Sarajevo.

Holbrooke said before leaving the United States that the talks were "potentially decisive" and said that more NATO airstrikes were a possibility unless the Serbs embraced the peace process.

"If this peace initiative does not get moving, dramatically moving, in the next week or two, the consequences will be very adverse to the Serbian goals," Holbrooke said on NBC's "Meet

The outcome of the next round of talks will determine whether NATO takes a more aggressive role in the region. or helps UN peacekeepers

pull out, he said. Bosnian Serb leaders have spoken positively about the latest US initiative, but on Sunday, official TV played down prospects of a breakthrough.

It said that following Delic's remarks, and comments Saturday by Croatian President Frango Tudjman that his country may use force to gain back Serb-held eastern Croatia, there were no indications the fighting would stop.

According to published reports, the US plan may include a proposal to swap Gorazde, the last governmentheld enclave in eastern Bosnia, for land around Sara-

However, the Bosnian government has rejected the idea of giving up Gorazde. and US officials deny they have applied pressure to make the land swap.

- AFP/UNB photo

#### 20 officers held for questioning

### Commandos attack LTTE base: 18 rebels killed

COLOMBO, Aug 28: Police commandos backed by air cover attacked a Tamil Tiger jungle base in eastern Sri Lanka, killing at least 18 rebels for the loss of three of their own men, military sources here said today, reports AFP.

Elite Special Task Force (STF) commandos mounted the offensive in the Batticaloa district Sunday against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a day after the rebels tried to overrun a task force base there, the sources

"We have confirmation that 18 terrorists were killed. We fear that three STF men were also killed in the confrontation." a military source said adding that the air force was called in to bomb rebel reinforcements.

The LTTE's clandestine radio, the Voice of Tigers, made no mention of the battles Saturday with the task force in which the military claimed to have killed at least 36 rebels for the loss of six security men.

However, the Voice of Tigers said that there has

been heavy shelling from an army camp located at Mandativu, just west of the LTTE-dominated northern Jaffna Peninsula. The rebel radio did not say if there were any casualties.

The failed bid to attack the task force camp was the latest setback suffered by the rebels, who lost more than 300 fighters in an attack against the main Well 'Oya military base in the northeast

Reuter adds: Twenty key Sri Lankan intelligence offi cers have been detained for questioning over the appearance of badly decomposed bodies of young men in lakes and rivers close to Colombo police said today.

last month.

The detentions came as a Tamil rebel newspaper said some of the bodies were those of Tamils whose eyes and kidneys had been removed before being killed.

Between 50 and 60 army and police intelligence offi cers had been questioned over the killings and 20 detained, a senior police officer told Reuters.

### Off the Record

#### Bingbing gives birth to twins

HONG KONG: A panda in the southwest Chinese city of Chengdu has given birth to twins, it was reported Monday.

The panda Bingbing, gave birth at a research centre attached to Chengdu zoo, a week ago. The twins a rare occurrence for pandas were named Dashuang and Xiashuang or "big twin and small twin," the China funded Wen Wei Po daily said in a brief report.

Pandas which feed almost exclusively on bamboo shoots are a threatened species. There were fewer than 1,000 left in the wild due to the destruction of their natural habitat.

#### 'The Natty Professor' in real trouble

FARMINGTON, New Hampshire: A teacher at the prestigious Phillips Academy preparatory school who dressed in cowboy boots and spoke of the appeal "of the misfit" was charged with attempting to kidnap three children by trying to lure them into his car, reports AP.

David Cobb, who has taught English at the famous Massachusetts School for more than 25 years, was arrested early Wednesday after the children, ages 12 to 14, told police that a man tried to lure them into his car by offering them money. Two of the children said they were approached while walking together on Monday, the other in a second incident Tuesday, according to police.

The school counts such past and present luminaries as former President Bush, John F Kennedy Jr., Oliver Wendell Holmes and Humphrey Bogart as alumni

Cobb's BMW motorcycle, cowboy boots and theatrical teaching style earned him a profile entitled "The Natty Professor" last fall in GQ magazine, formerly known as Gentlemen's Quarterly.

Asked about his fondness for wearing black and affinity for darkness, Cobb replied: "Well, that is the ultimate game: to be opposed to 'all of

that out there.' I'm not saying I act this out. But it's the appeal of the outsider, of the misfit, of the outcast, of the person who, probably futilely, is trying to overthrow He told the magazine he prefers women's leather

jacket's to men's because they are more stylish. Cobb, 59, entered no plea at a court hearing

Wednesday. He was freed on dlrs 100,000 bail and was due for another court appearance Sept 1. School officials said they will not decide about his fu-

ture at Andover until they have more information. Philip Zaeder, who is slated to become dean of faculty, described Cobb as "a most distinguished faculty member." Farmington Police Chief Barry Carr said all three chil-

dren refused the man's offer and provided police with a description that led to Cobb's arrest.

### Kashmir admin firm to hold polls despite opposition

NEW DELHI, Aug 28: The Governor of Kashmir said in remarks published today that legislative elections will be held in the Indian State despite opposition from Muslim separatist guerillas, reports

"My administration is committed to holding free and fair elections to bring democracy in the northern state." Governor K V Krishna Rao told a meeting of local officials on Saturday, newspapers here reported.

"Nobody will be allowed to disrupt the process of normalisation and the efforts to install a popular regime," he said in Srinagar, summer capital of the strife-torn state wracked by a Muslim insurgency.

"Even Muslim militants shunning the path of violence can participate in the elections." said the Governor, a New Delhi appointee. "My aim is to restore democracy in the state.

Rao, however, did not say when the elections to the Kashmir legislature would be held. The last state elections, in 1987, were marred by allegations of vote-rigging. Kashmir has been ruled

directly by New Delhi since January 1990. Muslim militants fighting

to end Indian rule over Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state, have vowed to boycott and disrupt any polls, saying they would

## be satisfied only with seces-Taleban halt

#### SSP chief held on BBC bureau attack incident

ISLAMABAD, Aug 28: Police Sunday arrested Ziaur Rehman Farooqui, whose extremist Sunni Muslim Party is accused of ransacking the local bureau of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), official sources said,

reports AFP. Farooqui, who leads the Sipah-1-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) was taken into custody after he presented himself before the police chief in Faisalabad, an industrial city in the Punjab province, they

Prior to giving himself up. he told reporters that the SSP protest campaign against the BBC was totally peaceful.

Preparations for Sino-US summit in Oct underway BEIJING, Aug 28: The US and Chinese governments agreed Sunday to work toward a summit between presidents Clinton and Jiang

Zemin in October, a top State Not everything has been Department officials said, re-The announcement of a possible meeting in the United Stated follows a quick ine Albright, the US ambassuccession of positive moves by both sides after three months of deteriorating relaprogram "Face the Nation." tions. China's government has

been pushing for a Clinton-Jiang meeting since ties faltered in May over Taiwan. China deported US human rights activist Harry Wu on Thursday, two months after he was detained and Washin-

gton called for his release. On

Friday, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said she will attend a UN women's conference in Beijing in early September, something the Chinese have sought eagerly.

ironed out, but some of the momentum in terms of our relationship with the Chinese has been regained," Madelesador to the United Nations, said on the CBS television Undersecretary of State

Peter Tarnoff, the highestlevel US official to visit China since the May row over Taiwan, cautioned that much work needed to be done before a meeting could be held. Talks will be held to try to

prepare an agenda, Tarnoff told reporters in Beijing. As part of that work Sec-

retary of State Warren Christopher and Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen will meet at the United Nations in September.

Jiang, who is also the general secretary of the Communist Party, plans to be in New York in October for the annual UN General Assembly debate. But whether the presidents will meet there or is Washington on a formal state visit has not been decided, Albright said.

US Embassy spokesman Robert Laing underscored that no final decision on a summit was made. China's state-run Xinhua News Agen-

ey made no mention of it in a description of Tarnoff's Sunday meeting with Qian. Tarnoff held talks over

the weekend with his Chinese counterpart, Li Zhaoxing as well as with Qian. They discussed, according to Tarnoff, a series of issues that catalogue the differences that have buffeted ties: human rights, trade, nuclear proliferation and Taiwan

A White House decision in May to allow Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui to attend his college reunion sent relations plummeting. China views Taiwan as a renegade province and has sought to keep its Nationalist government diplomatically isolated. Beijing canceled a series

of bilateral meetings, held two rounds of missile tests in accusing the United States of trying Cold War ear containment against China.

Wu's arrest on spying charges fueled the climate of

By the time Tarnoff arrived in China on Thursday, Xinhua was describing Sino-US ties as at their lowest point in 16 years of full diplomatic relations.

Tarnoff rejected any suggestion that a Clinton-Jian meeting or Mrs. Clinton's participation at the women's conference was a payoff for the expulsion of Wu after a one-day trial.

#### Senator Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat and waters north of Taiwan and critic of China's human rights published scathing editorials record, also insisted there had been no quid pro quo.

But she delivered a message from Clinton to Jiang on a recent visit to Beijing, saying he would be "appreciative" of Wu's release and that he "did want to work with the president of China."

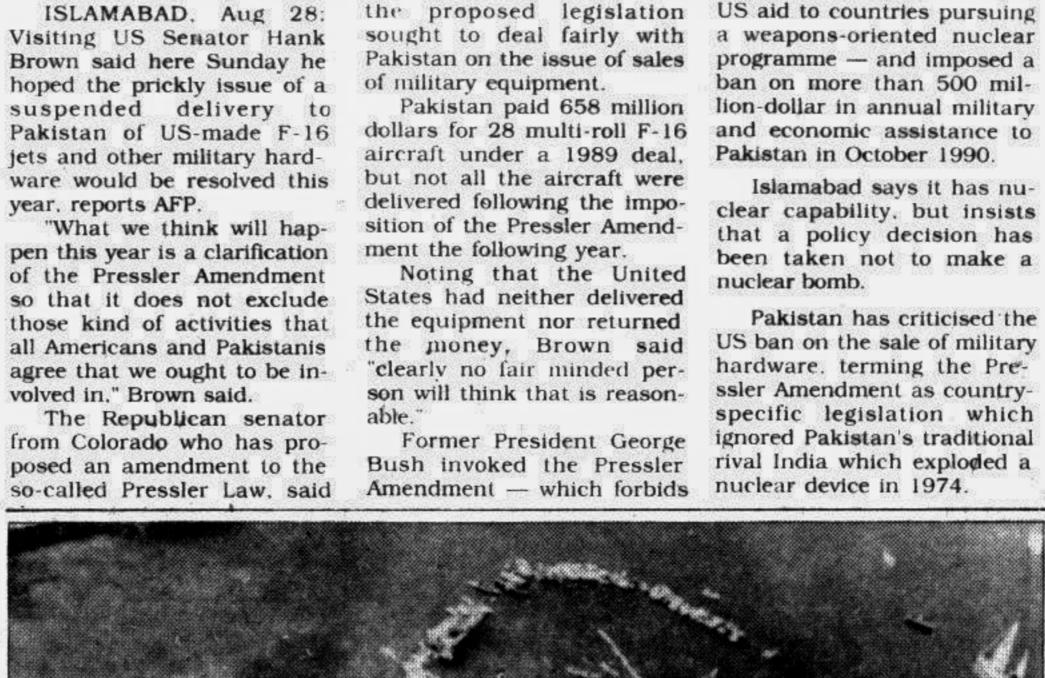
"I was told the morning of his release by an emissary from the president that he would be released," Feinstein said on "Face the Nation." "I was also told that President Jiang Zemin is hopeful that he and President Clinton can sit down and chart the course of Sino-American relations into the next decade."

#### advance of govt troops KABUL, Aug 28: Afghanis-

tan's Taleban student militia managed to halt an advance of government troops on Sunday with what the Defence Ministry called a counterattack, reports Reuter. Forces loyal to President

Burhanuddin Rabbani had captured part of the strategic southwestern town of Girishk when Taleban managed to hold their ground, a Ministry spokesman, Dr Abdullah, told reporters in Kabul. "We have managed to push

them back about 120 km (75 miles) from their old positions in Delaram, but now they seem to be fighting back," he said.



A young Muslim boy is given a chance to look after the boiling water put on a make-shift

kitchen range, as his numerous family, followers of the rebel Muslim leader Fikret

Abdic, sits inside their shelter placed by the road outside Vojnic, Croatia expecting coffee

Sunday. They fled here among 30,000 others after the fall of their city, Velika Kladusa, to

Pak-US F-16 issue to be resolved

this year, says Sen Brown

the proposed legislation



Some 150 boats form a huge 'NO' on the water's surface at a bay of the Woerthersee near Klagenfurt, Australia Sunday. With their 'peace-fleet' the participants demonstrate against the decisions of the French and the Chinese governments to resume nuclear tests. - AFTP/UNB phote