

International

BRIEFLY



US Secretary of State Warren Christopher (L) and Palestinian authority President Yasser Arafat speak at a press conference in Beit Hanun in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday.

4 Harijans killed in Bihar: Four Harijans were killed by some unidentified criminals at the Karnaul Chandi village under the Charpokhari police station in Bihar's Ara district last night.

Seoul local council chief held: South Korean police yesterday arrested a local council chief on charges of illegal election rigging ahead of the crucial upcoming parliamentary elections.

King Fahd arrives in Makkah: Saudi Arabian King Fahd has arrived in the Muslim holy city of Makkah on his first trip since suffering a stroke in November.

Iraq, Russia sign accord: Iraq and Russia signed an agreement on technical cooperation in their oil industries in Baghdad on Wednesday.

7000 flee Riau to escape flood: More than seven thousand people have been evacuated in Riau, a province in central Sumatra, to escape floods triggered by incessant rain.

AP photographer honoured: Lithuanian photographer Mindaugas Kulbis has been named European Press Photographer of 1995 for his dramatic images from Chechnya.

Colombo bank blast Lankan army officer held

COLOMBO, Feb 8: Police investigating last week's suicide bomb attack in the Sri Lankan capital have arrested an army officer suspected of allowing the truck bomb to slip through security in the north, police said on Thursday.

US Cong issues 28 subpoenas to admn officials

WASHINGTON, Feb 8: Locked in a battle of wills with the Clinton administration, a Republican-led congressional panel issued 28 subpoenas Wednesday to administration officials seeking documents on the White House travel office firings.

Louis Farrakhan meets Abiola

LAGOS, Feb 8: Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan met with Nigeria's most prominent political prisoner, according to news reports on Wednesday.

New Polish govt eases pressure on ex-communists

WARSAW, Feb 8: The appointment of a new Polish government has eased the pressure on the co-ruling former communists, seriously shaken by spying accusations against previous prime minister Jozef Oleksy, reports Reuters.

Beijing-Taipei tension temporary: Clinton China blames US for current tension in Taiwan Strait

BEIJING, Feb 8: China blamed the United States today for the current tension in the Taiwan Strait and warned Washington to stay out if it did not wish to see the stand-off between Beijing and Taipei deteriorate into armed conflict, reports AFP.

President Clinton says he believes military tensions between China and Taiwan are a temporary problem because leaders in Beijing and Taipei have too much at stake to permit armed conflict to occur, reports AP.

officials believe Beijing's saber rattling is aimed at dampening such sentiments as presidential elections in Taiwan approach. Anti-independence President Lee Teng-hui is favoured to win re-election in the March 23 balloting.



Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto (R) chats with US national security adviser Anthony Lake prior to a meeting at the premiers official residence in Tokyo on Wednesday.

N-technology sale to Pakistan US examining evidence to invoke trade ban on China

WASHINGTON, Feb 8: US President Bill Clinton's aides are examining evidence that China sold nuclear technology to Pakistan to determine whether it is strong enough to invoke trade sanctions, an official said Wednesday.

the administration was sensitive to the fact that sanctions against Beijing "would have a great impact" on US-Sino relations.

would be violation of the 1994 nuclear proliferation act which provides for the administration to cut off financial assistance to businesses doing trade with China.



Bosnian Serbs take out of the grave the coffin of their dead female relative at Vlakovo cemetery in Ilidza close to Sarajevo on Wednesday.

Israeli polls to be held on May 28, says Peres

JERUSALEM, Feb 8: Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres told US Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Wednesday that Israeli elections would be held on May 28, diplomatic sources said.

and I am standing by that announcement." But signs of preparations for elections bound Justice Minister David Levi told Israeli's channel two television the ruling Labour Party had set up a committee on elections.

Off the Record

Snakes vary their venom according to choice!

LONDON: Poisonous snakes can vary their venom according to what kind of prey they attack, biologists reported on Wednesday, reports Reuters.

Indoor lighting can reset body's internal clock

NEW YORK: Ordinary household lighting makes it harder to get up in the morning by resetting the body's internal clock, a study suggests, reports AP.

UK may extend 'white list' of nations on asylum issue

LONDON, Feb 8: Britain may extend its so-called "white list" of nations deemed safe from political persecution by adding Ethiopia, Tanzania and Kenya to the seven countries from which asylum seekers would be rejected, the Guardian reported today, says AFP.

Astronomers find galaxy at 'great attractor's' centre

LONDON, Feb 8: Astronomers said on Wednesday they had solved one of cosmology's little mysteries by finding the galaxy at the centre of the "great attractor," a giant mass of galaxies that seeds other galaxies wobbling, reports Reuters.

China's chances of military success slim if it invades Taiwan: IISS

LONDON, Feb 8: China's chances of military success if it invaded Taiwan are slim and it would probably suffer massive casualties and considerable loss of face, according to a naval analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies, (IISS), reports AP.

gradual Chinese buildup to war. US Defence Secretary William Perry said Tuesday he is concerned but not alarmed that China is using "military maneuvering" to try to influence Taiwan's democratic presidential election.

Liberation Army in its current state, not only would the chances of a military success be slim but an invasion force would also suffer massive casualties and probably considerable loss of face.

fired by Iraq during the 191 Gulf War. The US army calls the programme theatre missile defence. "The US offer to work co-operatively with Japan on theatre missile defense and its exploration of Taiwan's interest in this area pose a direct threat to China's strategic arsenal," Porteous said.

Ireland seeks US support to end sectarian strife

DUBLIN, Feb 8: Ireland sought US support today for a plan to hold a two-day brain storming session of northern Ireland's political parties to pave the way for a permanent end to 25 years of political and sectarian strife, reports Reuters.

Saudi prince opens secret talks with dissidents

LONDON, Feb 8: Crown Prince Abdallah of Saudi Arabia has opened a secret dialogue with Islamic dissidents linked to Mohamed Al Masari, the prominent exile who has been ordered to leave Britain, the independent reported today quoting "well-informed sources" in the kingdom, reports AFP.