

## BRIEFLY



Former University of California Professor Theodore J. Kaczynski (C) is handcuffed and escorted by US Government agents to his arraignment in Helena, Montana, on Thursday. Kaczynski is a prime suspect in the Unabomber serial bombing case. The Unabomber, suspected of killing three people and injuring 23 others, had eluded the FBI since the first mail bomb attributed to him, exploded near Chicago in May 1978. — AFP/UNB photo

**2 Greenpeace ships back in Auckland:** Crews from two Greenpeace ships which sailed into Auckland harbour on Friday said they are uncovering the full extent of French 'sabotage' on the formerly impounded vessels. AP reports from Auckland.

The Rainbow Warrior II and the MV Greenpeace were two of five ships the French Navy impounded last September during protest against nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll. They were released by the French military last month after almost six months in detention at Hao Atoll. Both ships were rusty and a fresh coat of paint on the MV Greenpeace only covered up the damage, crew members said.

**Russia to launch foreign sat:** Preparations at the Baikonur cosmodrome got under way Thursday for Russia's first launch of a foreign commercial satellite, a news report said. AP reports from Moscow.

An American-made Astra-1F communication satellite belonging to the European aerospace company Societe Europeenne des Satellites will be launched next Tuesday. The launch was originally scheduled for March 28, but was delayed after engineers found a leak in the satellite's propulsion system.

**Chinese PM shortens Europe tour:** Chinese Premier Li Peng has drastically shortened a European tour starting next week, apparently to avoid human rights demonstrators, a Hong Kong newspaper reported Friday. AP says from Hong Kong.

The South China Morning Post reported from Beijing that Li cancelled stops in Luxembourg and Holland, and cut his stay in France from seven days to three.

It quoted unidentified sources as saying envoys of the three countries were called to the Foreign Ministry in Beijing Thursday and told that the trip, in preparation for months, had to be cut short because Li is very busy.

**Chirac begins Egypt tour today:** French President Jacques Chirac begins on Saturday a three-day visit to Egypt to celebrate a friendship between the two countries which may fund but does not always translate into political action. AP reports from Cairo.

We salute the role of France based on friendship with all Arab countries. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told journalists. Chirac's visit has a particular resonance with US because of the privileged ties between France and Egypt in all walks of life, particularly our historical cultural relationship. Moussa said.

**2 journalists jailed in Egypt:** A court sentenced two journalists with a leading Egyptian opposition newspaper to six months in jail Thursday for slandering a member of parliament. AP reports from Cairo.

Mahmoud el-Meraghy, editor-in-chief of Al-Arabi, and Gamal Fahmy, a columnist, were also fined the equivalent of 208 dollars, the government-owned Al-Ahram newspaper reported.

## Russian plane shot down in Chechnya

MOSCOW, Apr 5: A Russian plane was shot down on Thursday during a raid against Chechen rebel positions in the southwest of the breakaway region, Interfax News Agency said, reports Reuters.

It quoted Russian officers as saying the pilot of the Sukhoi Su-25 on a reconnaissance mission over the village of Golskoye, managed to eject after being hit around 5 pm (1300 GMT). He was alive and in Russian hands.

It was not clear whether Chechen guerrillas holed up in Golskoye about 30 km (20 miles) southwest of the regional capital Grozny had fired on the plane.

The guerrillas who have heavy weaponry taken from former Soviet garrisons and captured from Russian troops during the fighting of the past year, have brought down at least one jet during the 16-month conflict as well as Russian helicopters.

Western journalists reported seeing planes bombing

the village earlier in the day and Interfax said federal aviation had started bombing 1 pm (0900 GMT) its latest report said the operation to wipe out the guerrillas there was continuing.

Reuters correspondent Lawrence Sheets who visited the village earlier this week said it was largely destroyed and that most of the population appeared to have fled. Small groups of Chechen separatist fighters had set up positions in the ruins.

According to the local peaceful administration and the Russian military, there were no citizens in the village, Interfax said.

People in the regional centre Urus-Martan were taking shelter in cellars for fear of attack, it added.

AP adds, Chechnya's Kremlin-backed government expressed shock and indignation Thursday at the bombings of two Chechen villages that had signed peace pacts with the Russian military.

## Situation worsens in Liberia: UN

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 5: The situation in war-torn Liberia is rapidly deteriorating and West African peacekeepers lack the resources to control the slide into chaos, according to UN report, reports AP.

The report drafted by Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, is expected to be presented to the Security Council next week. The Associated Press obtained a draft copy Thursday.

In the report Boutros-Ghali cited the upsurge in fighting since last December. A ceasefire declared in August 1995 had been repeatedly violated by groups of rebels.

The situation in Liberia is rapidly deteriorating and I fear that, unless the peace process is put back on track in the very near future, the consequences could be disastrous. Boutros-Ghali said.

NEW DELHI, Apr 5: India's Muslims, under increasing attack from Hindu fundamentalists, are in a quandary over who to vote for as the first general elections in five years draw near, reports AP.

Leaders of the more than 100-million-strong community say rising Hindu nationalism and widespread anger with the ruling Congress (I) Party for its vacillating stand on many key issues have left Muslim voters no choice.

But everybody agrees that the one party Muslims will try to defeat in the April-May vote is the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party, BJP), India's main opposition party.

The BJP earned the distrust of India's Muslims by spearheading an emotional campaign which led to the demolition of a 16th century mosque

## Brown's death may delay efforts to rebuild Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Apr 5: The death in a plane crash of US Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and business leaders interested in investing in Bosnia could mean painful delays in efforts to rebuild the Balkan nation, reports AP.

"I am not sure we can overcome the loss of Brown," said Bosnian Prime Minister Hasan Muratovic, who had been scheduled to meet him in Sarajevo on Thursday.

"Brown was to coordinate with us and find the best way to spend US aid of 200 million dollars for this year," he said. "Surely there will be consequences."

If the crash slows down international reconstruction efforts, "it will be a loss that is felt not only by the family and friends of the people who were on that plane, but by the people of Bosnia," said Randolph Ryan, spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"We need a successful reconstruction effort in order for peace to be preserved in the long run," said Klas Bergman, spokesman for the World Bank.

## 16 killed in truck mishap 14 bus passengers electrocuted in southern India

NEW DELHI, Apr 5: Bicycles strapped to the roof of a bus struck overhead electrical wires in southern India, electrocuting 14 passengers, a news agency reported Friday, says AP.

United News of India said the bus was carrying about 60 people in Andhra Pradesh state, almost 1,000 miles (1,600 kms) south of New Delhi. Two passengers were in serious condition at a hospital, the news agency said.

In another accident in western Maharashtra state, 16 people were killed when their truck overturned. Press Trust of India reported.

The victims were taking ride on the cement-laden truck and some were crushed to death by the cement bags. Poor villagers in India take regular rides on trucks as they offer cheaper mode of transport than bus services.

The area is about 1,400 kilometres (868 miles) west of New Delhi.

## Nobel laureate held for child abuse

FREDRICK, Maryland, Apr 5: A Nobel Prize winner was arrested and charged with child sex abuse involving a 15-year-old boy he had brought to the United States from Micronesia, the FBI said, reports AP.

Dr Daniel Gajdusek, who was given the Nobel Prize in 1976 for his work on infectious diseases, was charged with child abuse and unnatural perverted sex practices. FBI spokesman Larry Foust said Thursday.

The FBI initiated a criminal investigation in November 1995 focusing on the doctor's relationships with minor children he had brought to the United States from Micronesia and New Guinea. Foust said. More charges may be filed.

The then-15-year-old boy lived with Gajdusek, now 72, at the time of the alleged abuse in the late 1980s and 1990s. The current age of the victim was not available.

## Belarus warns NATO against moving N-arms

MINSK, Belarus, Apr 5: The president of the former Soviet republic of Belarus warned NATO on Thursday not to move tactical nuclear weapons into Poland or the Czech Republic, reports AP.

President Alexander Lukashenko said he would respond to such a step with "adequate measures," the Interfax news agency reported. Lukashenko, speaking at a news conference in Minsk, gave no specifics but refused to say whether he would halt the withdrawal of nuclear warheads from Belarus, one of four former republics to inherit the Soviet nuclear arsenal.

Belarus has transferred most of the nuclear arms to Russia, but still has 18 tactical nuclear missiles and three spare warheads, Lukashenko said.

The destruction of the Babri Mosque sparked Hindu-Muslim clashes nation-wide which claimed the lives of more than 2,000 people, mostly Muslims, in the worst attack on the community since the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan.

The BJP is again propagating a right-wing Hindu election pitch, like the one in 1992, aimed at consolidating Hindu votes in the general elections.

The Congress, India's oldest political party, has traditionally been the main recipient of

## Serbs slaughtered 7000 in Srebrenica

SAHNICI, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Apr 5: UN investigators stacked up rows of blindfolds on a muddy hillside Thursday, powerful evidence that beneath them lay the victims of ethnic slaughter, reports AP.

The dozens of blindfolds, strips of cloth mostly in dark colours, support survivors' accounts that up to 7,000 men were slaughtered by the Bosnian Serbs who overran the Muslim enclave of Srebrenica last summer.

In Bosnia's first spring thaw in peace after four years of war, investigators are spreading out in pursuit of human remains and other physical evidence to back up such accounts. What they find will be used by the war crimes tribunal in the Netherlands to prosecute those responsible.

Other mass graves dot Bosnia — Bosnian Serbs have excavated more than 100 bod-

ies near the western town of Mrkonjic Grad since Saturday. The Serbs say the victims apparently were killed by Croats. But Srebrenica appear to be the site of the worst massacre of the war, and the fields around it have come to symbolize the horror of Bosnia's ordeal.

Survivors say that after last July's fall of Srebrenica, Bosnian Serb fighters loaded the men into trucks and brought them to a school gymnasium near Sahnici, 35 miles (55 kms) southeast of Srebrenica.

At the school, survivors say, the men were ordered to remove their hats and coats, then were blindfolded. They were then taken to two fields and shot. Their bodies were buried in mass graves.

The blindfolds found Thursday are believed to be unused ones taken from the

school to be disposed of in the fields where the bodies were buried. The six investigators recovered the blindfolds and clothing from brush off a hillside dirt road. Digging into one of the fields, with trowels and spades, they found more clothing and some bones.

They gathered the evidence in plastic wrap. One man carrying a bone photographed some of the remains, and talked into a tap recorder to describe them.

Meanwhile, the UN Security Council demanded Thursday that parties in Bosnia release all remaining prisoners, "a move that the United States and others say must be taken to avoid international sanctions."

UN officials believe between 88 and 90 prisoners are still held by Bosnian Muslim, Croat and Serb forces.



US President Bill Clinton embraces an unidentified mourner after a memorial service on Thursday at St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC for US Commerce Secretary Ron Brown who was killed in plane crash on Wednesday near the city of Dubrovnik in Croatia. Looking on at left is First Lady Hillary Clinton. — AFP/UNB photo

## ROK may put army on high alert as DPRK dismisses armistice

SEOUL, Apr 5: South Korea is considering putting its military on a heightened state of alert following North Korea's apparent dismissal of an armistice agreement, reports AP.

The Defence Ministry in Seoul said it would discuss with US officials a possible higher alert status by South Korean, American and UN troops.

"We will be discussing whether to upgrade the Watch Condition status by one level, or opt for increasing watch while maintaining the current status," Maj. Gen. Park Yong-ok said.

Park, the Defence Ministry's head of policy planning, spoke to reporters Thursday night following an emergency Cabinet meeting

that discussed the latest North Korean move.

The North announced earlier Thursday that it would "give up its duty" of jointly controlling the 2.5-mile (4-kilometre)-wide demilitarised zone separating it from South Korea.

The North Korean People's Army did not explain what it meant by giving up its duty, and officials in Washington and Seoul termed the statement ambiguous.

The North said it was taking its action because the South had moved personnel, tanks, artillery and other heavy arms into the demilitarised zone in violation of the armistice.

South Korea denies that. The demilitarised zone was

established by the armistice that ended the Korean War in 1953. The two sides have never signed a permanent peace treaty and are still technically at war.

The United States, which led a UN force in defence of South Korea after the North invaded in 1950, still maintains some 37,000 military personnel in the southern half of the divided peninsula.

South Korea upgraded its watch status to 3 from the lowest level of 4 in November after North Korea moved up jet fighters closer to the border.

In Washington, the US State Department urged the North Koreans to abide by their responsibilities under the armistice and to avoid provocative actions.



Palestinians march holding torches during a peaceful demonstration held in Gaza City on Thursday. Some 100 youths from the "Peace Union" gathered to show their support for the peace process and protest against the blockade imposed on the Palestinian territories by the Israeli army, after a spate of suicide bombings carried out by Islamic militants. — AFP/UNB photo

## N-tech transfer to Pakistan China warns US against imposing sanctions

BEIJING, Apr 5: China on Thursday warned the United States not to impose sanctions over "hearsay" allegations that it had transferred nuclear technology to Pakistan, reports Reuters.

Applying sanctions is not a wise move. China advocates dialogue and negotiation in lieu of sanctions. Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Gufang told a regular news briefing.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher is reportedly in the final stages of considering targeted penalties against Beijing over its alleged sale of nuclear related technology to Pakistan.

Shen said China had reportedly states it had not and would not transfer equipment or technology for use in making nuclear weapons to any country.

"As a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty,

China strictly abides by its international legal obligations in the treaty for preventing nuclear weapons proliferation and does not advocate, encourage or carry out nuclear proliferation," she said.

Washington says state-owned China National Nuclear Corp sold Pakistan 70,000 dollar worth of ring magnets used in centrifuges that enrich uranium of use in nuclear weapons. Their sale is not prohibited under the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Pakistan last month denied receiving nuclear related material from China.

US officials have said they are concerned about a pattern of nuclear cooperation in which China has provided experts and assistance. The top US negotiator on the issue Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Robert Einhorn, visited Beijing last month.

## UN, EU teams in Somalia to meet leaders Heavy fighting breaks out in south Mogadishu

MOGADISHU, Apr 5: Heavy fighting erupted in south Mogadishu on Thursday after peace talks broke down. Seven people were killed, including three civilians, reports AP.

While combat raged on the south side of the capital, delegates from the European Union and United Nations arrived in the peaceful northern suburbs to meet with Somali leaders one year after the UN pullout.

After talking with Ali Mahdi who controls northern Mogadishu, the chief of EU humanitarian affairs, Emma Bonino, said the European Union would continue to provide Somalia with emergency help wherever security permitted.

Bonino said Gen. Mohammed Farah Aidid, who has appointed himself president of Somalia, refused to meet with her because the delegation

landed at an airstrip in territory he does not control.

The delegation also visited the central town of Beledweyne and planned to visit Bardera and Kismayo in southern Somalia on Friday.

Forces loyal to Osman Hassan Ali Ato and Aidid fought fiercely in south Mogadishu after talks deadlocked.

Elders including Gen. Abukar Aftoje, a prominent general belonging to the Habar Odir subclan, the same as Aidid and Ato, have been seeking a truce since the two factions began fighting over the port of Merca last month.

Supporters of Aidid insist that Ato's men pull out of strategic points in south Mogadishu, including the former US Embassy and the university compound once used by UN forces, which they occupied after withdrawing from Merca. Ato refused.

## Torture, maltreatment of prisoners, children in many countries widespread: UN

GENEVA, Apr 5: Torture and maltreatment of prisoners, suspected terrorists and even children is increasingly widespread in many countries, according to the latest UN report on torture released Thursday, says AP.

Nigel S Rodley, the UN's special rapporteur on torture, compiled the report for the UN Human Rights Commission on torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment in 72 countries. It is based on some 750 presumed or reported cases of torture, 120 of which involve women.

In 1995 alone, Rodley issued 43 urgent appeals to governments, including the case of an Egyptian prisoner sen-

tenced to seven years in jail and 4,000 strokes of the cane for theft in Saudi Arabia.

"Every 15 days he is taken, legs chained, from the Al-Buraidda Prison to receive 50 strokes of a bamboo cane in the market square," the report said.

Methods of torture varied according to the country. In Egypt, Rodley said he had received reports of the use of sticks and electric cables, heavy beatings and electric shocks.

In Algeria, prisoners were tortured with rags, burnt with blowtorches, strung up by their wrists and sexually abused.

## Off the Record

### She was carrying skeleton of foetus for 15 yrs!

A 62-year-old Brazilian woman who complained of slight stomach pains discovered she was in fact carrying the skeleton of a foetus conceived outside her womb up to 15 years ago, a surgeon said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

This is an extremely rare case, "Edmundo Macedo Ferraz said by telephone from the northeastern city of Recife.

An X-ray of Antonieta Hilario Does Prazeres revealed the small but perfectly formed skeleton tucked in a foetal position in an area close to her stomach.

### A penniless bridegroom!

A penniless British bridegroom who robbed the same petrol station twice in two days to pay for his wedding and honeymoon was jailed for five years on Thursday, reports Reuters.

Police arrested 47-year-old Derek Lovett as he waited for his marriage ceremony to begin, dressed in a suit with a carnation in his buttonhole.

Norma Miller, his bride-to-be, burst into tears, as he was dragged off in handcuffs in January. Lovett turned to crime when he realised he could not afford to pay the registry office where the couple were due to marry or buy a wedding ring.

He robbed a petrol station in east London last December, making off with 150 pounds (230 dollars) and returned two days later to steal the same amount again.

The former warehouse manager told London's Old Bailey Court that Miller had helped cure him of the despair he suffered when his first marriage broke up and he lost his house and job.

## Khamenei warns of Arab-Israeli ties

TEHRAN, Apr 5: Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has warned Arab nations about setting up ties with Israel, which he called a "malignant tumour," Tehran radio said on Thursday, reports Reuters.

The malignant tumour is Israel using the weakness of some Arab government's to set up economic ties with them to try to get to the Islamic world's economic lifelines and like a parasite, draw to itself the economic capacities of the Muslim nations," Khamenei was quoted by the state run radio as saying.

Iran on Wednesday protested to Oman and Qatar over Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres' landmark visit to the Gulf Arab states, the newspaper Iran said on Thursday.

## Indian Muslims in quandary over whom to vote for in polls

NEW DELHI, Apr 5: India's Muslims, under increasing attack from Hindu fundamentalists, are in a quandary over who to vote for as the first general elections in five years draw near, reports AP.

Leaders of the more than 100-million-strong community say rising Hindu nationalism and widespread anger with the ruling Congress (I) Party for its vacillating stand on many key issues have left Muslim voters no choice.

But everybody agrees that the one party Muslims will try to defeat in the April-May vote is the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party, BJP), India's main opposition party.

The BJP earned the distrust of India's Muslims by spearheading an emotional campaign which led to the demolition of a 16th century mosque

in the northern Indian town of Ayodhya on December 6, 1992. The BJP and other Hindu groups claimed the mosque was built by a mediaeval Muslim ruler after razing a Hindu temple commemorating the birthplace of the mythical Hindu warrior-king, Lord Rama.

The destruction of the Babri Mosque sparked Hindu-Muslim clashes nation-wide which claimed the lives of more than 2,000 people, mostly Muslims, in the worst attack on the community since the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan.

The BJP is again propagating a right-wing Hindu election pitch, like the one in 1992, aimed at consolidating Hindu votes in the general elections.

The Congress, India's oldest political party, has traditionally been the main recipient of

Muslim votes but many Muslims have snapped ties with the party for failing to prevent the razing of the Babri Mosque.

"There is a lot of confusion now within the community," said Ahmed Bukhari, Deputy Clerk of the Jama Masjid, New Delhi's oldest mosque built in the 17th century. Muslims don't really have a third choice apart from the Congress and BJP.

Although Muslims would prefer a non-Congress, non-BJP alternative, a "third option" has been rendered futile by fighting between left and centrist groups.

A secular centre-left coalition is a viable option only available in some of India's 25 states.

Another Muslim leader who spoke on condition of anonymity said "our main tar-

get is the BJP." "We will issue a message to Muslim voters to try and defeat the BJP candidate in every constituency," he said.

The Muslim outrage at the BJP over the desecration of the Babri Mosque has been exacerbated by similar campaigns recently.

BJP chief Lal Krishna Advani this month toured several states on a van resembling an ancient chariot to promise good governance — a Hindu concept revolving around the legendary "golden rule" under Lord Rama.

Syed Shahabuddin, a former diplomat and a leader of the Samata (equality) Party, said Muslims had always been under-represented in Parliament due to obscurantism, low educational levels and a "short-sighted" view.

Muslims constitute about 20 per cent of the total voters but there are only 28 Muslim MPs in the 545-seat parliament.

"Votes should not be frittered away on co-religionists who don't stand any chance," Shahabuddin said. "The objective should be to keep both the BJP and the Congress from winning and where there is no choice, people should vote for the Congress."

He said the Muslim-electorate — a formidable force in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, and the key provinces of Bihar and West Bengal was being ardently wooed by all parties.

"Every party has promised the moon but nobody has done anything since independence for Muslims. There are issues like reservation (in government jobs) and the (Muslim) personal law, which everybody