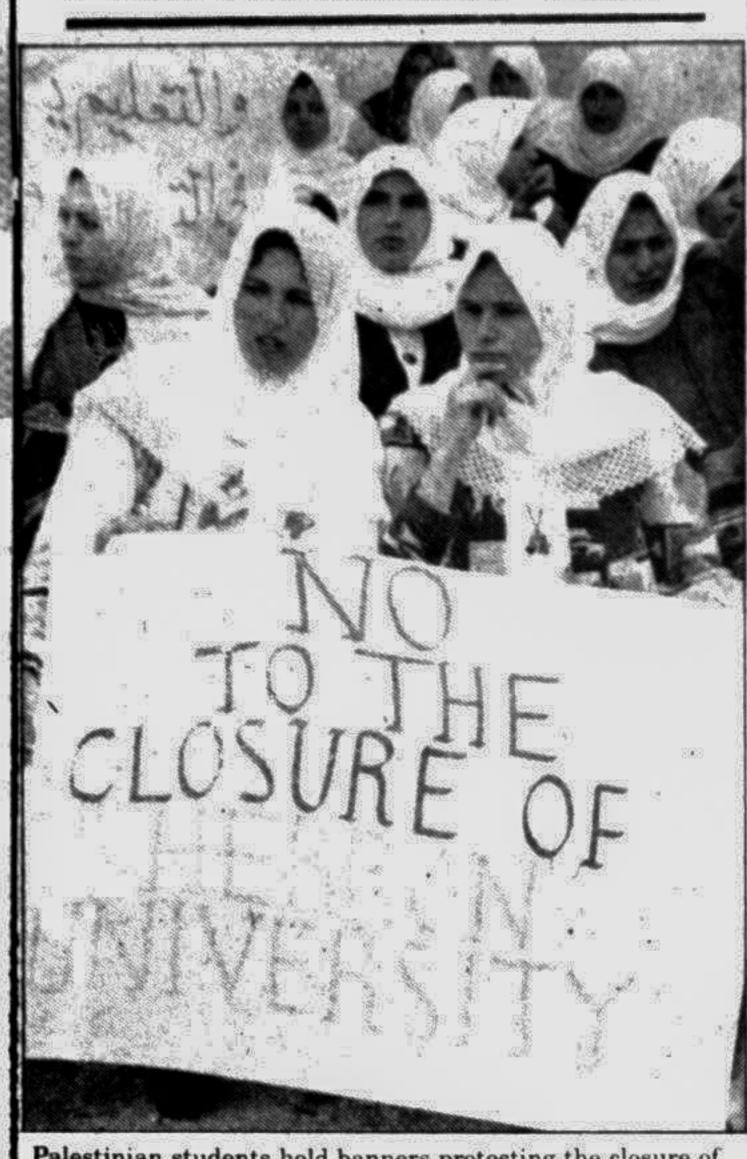
BDIFFI



Palestinian students hold banners protesting the closure of Hebron University on Tuesday. Israel closed Hebron University seven weeks ago as part of its crackdown on Islamic militants following a spate of suicide bombings in Israel which killed 62 people. - AFP/UNB photo

Clinton, Yeltsin talk over phone: President Clinton and Russia's President Boris Yeltsin spoke by telephone for 40 minutes Tuesday, reviewing arms-control matters and swapping notes about politics. AP reports from Washington.

The two leaders reviewed the agenda for Clinton's four-day visit to Russia at mid-month when he will join other world leaders at a summit on nuclear safety and meet one-on-one with Yeltsin. White House press secretary Mike McCurry said it was a "good, productive" conversation that Clinton and Yeltsin did not resolve issues dealing with the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty or an accord governing conventional forces in Europe.

Son of Sarjah's crown prince killed: Sheik Mohammed bin Khalid al-Qassimi, son of the Crown Prince of Sharjah, has died after being seriously injured by a firecracker that exploded near his head during a soccer match, AP reports from Abu Dhabi.

The firecracker was thrown across a Dubai stadium on March 22 and exploded in the air beside 28-year-old Sheikh Mohammed, ripping off his right ear.

Swiss govt expels Russian diplomat: The Swiss government has ordered a Russian diplomat to leave the country after he was caught in the act of spying, a

spokesman said, AP reports from Bern.

The diplomat, identified only as a first secretary in the Russian Embassy in the capital of Bern, is the second Russian accused of spying in recent months. Last Dec 21 a diplomat at the Russian Mission to UN offices in Geneva left Switzerland after being declared persona non grata because of spying. Viktor Schlumpf, spokesman for the Federal Justice Department. declined to give details about the latest case, but said the diplomat would be leaving Switzerland in the next few days.

UNESCO to create World Book Day: Books and roses. These are the traditional gifts on Saint Jordi's Day, April 23, in Catalonia. The dragon-slaying saint -George, in English — is the patron of this autonomous region in northeastern Spain, and his day is traditionally celebrated by men giving roses to women, and women reciprocating

with books for men, AP reports from Barcelona. Now the Catalan government, in conjunction with UNESCO, is promoting a World Book Day on April 23, and over 1,000 bookstores around the globe have already signed up to participate.

Li Peng arrives in France: Chinese Premier Li Peng arrived in France on Tuesday to start a fiveday visit which Paris hopes will bring lucrative contracts for French business, including a major deal to purchase European airbus passenger aircraft, Reuter reports from Paris.

Ll's plane landed at Orly airport, south of a Paris at 1659 local (1459 GMT), airport officials said. In a low-key welcome. Li was to be greeted at the airport by Industry Minister Franck Borotra rather than his official host. Prime Minister Alain Juppe, who will meet him on Wednesday.

Peru extends state of emergency: Peru extended on Tuesday the state of emergency declared in 17 provinces, most in the central Andean highlands in a bid to crunch continuing terrorist activity. Reuter reports from

A decree published in the government gazette said the joint command of the armed forces had asked for the state of emergency to be granted for another 60 days.

SA may sell arms to Gulf states: South Africa may sell arms to Gulf Arab states but not for use in internal unrest. South African Vice President Frederik De

Klerk said in Manama Tuesday, AFP reports from Manama. "The Gulf states do qualify for arms purchases but South Africa is keen to ensure that its armaments will not contribute to civil wars." he told a press conference. "We are also keen to ensure that our arms do not give rise to internal problems and strife." he said on the sidelines of an economic conference in Bahrain, which itself has been hit by unrest since December 1994.

40 missing in Bolivian landslide: As many as 40 people were missing and feared dead Tuesday after tonnes of earth and stone flattened an entire block of a poor neighbourhood on the edge of Bolivia's capital city, AFP reports from La Paz.

reports AP.

federal building.

three prizes on Tuesday and

Newsday two. The Associated

Press won for a freelancer's

photo of a big fireman and a

little girl in the ruins of the

bombed-out Oklahoma City

Raleigh, North Carolina won

the gold medal for public ser-

vice for stories on the envi-

ronmental and health risks of

waste disposal in hog farming.

drama prize, less than three

Jonathan Larson won the

the News and Observer of

'ROK takes DPRK's threat of war very seriously'

Students' protest march demands resignation of Kim Young-Sam

SEOUL, Apr 10: A senior South Korean military official said today that Seoul takes the threat of war with North Korea very seriously, reports Reuter.

South Korea takes the threat of a war from North Korea very seriously." Assistant Defence Minister Park Yong-ok told a news conference. "We think they are ready to take action any time."

Asked if economically-troubled North Korea could wage sustained war, Park said: 'yes. four to six months. They possess that kind of war capabil-

"North Korea's top leaders have repeatedly said war is inevitably," Park said.

He said there was no unusual military movement in North Korea at the moment but added: "maybe not now but they can do something maybe in the future."

North Korea could blockade South Korean islands off the western coast of the Korean peninsula, he said Prime Minister Lee Soo-Sung visited one of those islands, Backryung, on

Nine cops killed

in Manipur

NEW DELHI, Apr 10: Nine policemen, and the wife of one

of the officers, were killed in an ambush by insurgents in the

fareastern Indian state of Ma-

nipur, newspapers reported

TA Rao, his wife and colleagues

were killed in the attack

overnight Tuesday at a village

about 40 kilometres (25 miles)

from the Manipur capital Im-

phal. The Statesman and other

but was seriously injured, po-

took away three AK-47 rifles

three rifles and two revolvers

Wiwa's supporters

demonstrate during

UN visit

of supporters of the executed

Nigerian playwright Ken Saro-

Wiwa dressed in black mourn-

ing clothes and demonstrated

during a visit by a UN fact-find-

ing mission Tuesday, reports

after the four-man team ar-

rived at the southeastern vil-

lage of Gioko, scene of the

murders of four Ogoni chiefs in

1994. Saro-Wiwa and eight

other members of his Ogoni

minority group were charged

with the murders and hanged

Human rights group said

the nine were innocent and

targeted because of their op-

position to military ruler Gen

Sani Abacha and to the oil in-

dustry. The oil business brings

in about 90 per cent of Nige-

ria's export earnings, but has

destroyed much of the water

and farmland in the Ogoni's

Political activists had pre-

dicted a severe crackdown

when the team arrived in Port

Harcourt Monday as part of a

nationwide tour aimed at Gaug-

ing the military government's

commitment to democratic

Tokyo residents

sue US, Japan

govts for pollution

TOKYO, Apr 10: More than 3,000 residents of a Tokyo

suburb sued the US and

Japanese governments today demanding compensation for

noise pollution at a US air

force base, court officials said,

type naming the United States

as a defendant — aims to ban

early morning and night flights

at the Yokota Air Base, the

biggest US air facility on the

Japanese mainland which also

serves as the headquarters for

the US military command in

In the suit, filed at the Ha-

chioji branch of the Tokyo

district court, the 3,138 resi-

dents of Yokota, west of Tokyo

are seeking 3.33 billion yen

(31 million dollars) in damages

from both governments, the

The lawsuit — the first of its

oil-rich, southeastern region.

last November.

reforms.

reports AFP.

Japan.

officials said.

The protests erupted soon

LAGOS, Apr 10: Thousands

from the dead men.

lice said, adding the attackers

Only Rao's driver survived

Superintendent of police

Wednesday, says AFP.

dailies said.

collapsed and died on March 29 during a street rally

Wednesday to inspect troops some bruises on his body. Another Reuter report says:

Thousands of South Korean students staged a protest march in central Seoul today demanding that President Kim Young-Sam take responsibility for their colleague's death last month and resign.

stationed there.

About 7,000 students from universities in Seoul and surrounding areas urged the publie not to vote for Kim's ruling New Korea Party in Thursday's general elections.

"Don't vote for the New Korea Party so we can create a real democratic society." the students shouted. South Korea's general elec-

tions, which are being held

amid rising tensions with North Korea, are regarded as a key mid term test for Kim and his administration The march was part of funeral services for Roh Soo-Sok, 20, a law student at

Seoul's Yonsei University who

An autopsy two days later

found he had died of a heart attack, although there were Students, however, say po-

lice brutality caused Roh's death and have demanded Kim's resignation. The march followed a brief

funeral ceremony on the Yonsei campus attended by Roh's Roh's body was originally scheduled to be taken on April 4 to the southwestern city of

Kwangju to be buried among

the many victims of the 1980 bloody Kwangju massacre. But that was blocked by radical students, who are using the body to focus student anger against Kim before the

On Tuesday, the national Hanchongryon Student Organisation said Roh's body, which had been decomposing even though it was in a refrigerated container, could be taken to Roh's home town of Kwangiu for burial.

Since Roh's death on March 29, students have staged street protests, demanded that Kim

apologise and called for a thorough investigation into his

South Koreans go to the polls Thursday for parliamentary elections with surveys showing the ruling New Korea Party (NKP) gaining an unexpected boost from North Korean sabre-rattling.

Some 31 million voters are eligible to cast their ballots at 16,394 polling stations across the country between six am (2100 GMT Wednesday) and six pm (0900 GMT), officials of the central election marlagement committee said.

Poll results are expected to become clear within four hours after the voting is over when some five per cent of the votes are counted by 10:00 pm (1300 GMT), local press re-

Surveys show last week's North Korean forays into the buffer zone dividing the two Koreans gave a slight but crucial edge to the ruling NKP over the opposition, especially in electoral districts near the inter-Korean border.

Britain recognises Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

LONDON. Apr 10: Britain simply continue previous recognised the shrunken Yumembership. goslavia as the legitimate heir to the title of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia on Tuesday, setting the stage for worldwide peacetime acceptance, reports

The move came a day after Yugoslavia - now consisting only of Serbia and tiny Montenegro - recognised its former republic Macedonia. abandoning all territorial claims on its southern neigh-

Recognising Yugoslavia reflects the changed circumstances in the region following signature of the Bosnia peace Agreement," said the British Foreign Office in a statement.

Simmering territorial disputes between Yugoslavia and Macedonia were the one obstack remaining to international acceptance of Yugoslavia after Serbian President Siobodan Milosevic signed agree ments settling territorial disputes with Croatia, and forced his Bosnian Serbian allies to accept last year's Dayton peace accords.

Milosevic has been insisting that the current Yugoslavia be seen as a continuation of the old one, because this means it does not have to ask to join international bodies, but can

The Serbian strongman is seen by many as being princi-pally responsible for fomenting the ethnic tension that led to three and a half of years war throughout the former Yu-

Cong urged to reject immigration provision in US

WASHINGTON, Apr 10: Education and law enforcement groups are asking Congress to reject Republican legislation that would give states the option of barring illegal alien children from public schools, reports AP

Critics believe denying free public education to children who are in the country illegally would do nothing to slow iflegal immigration and it could increase crime and hurt chil-

"As educators we want all children to receive an education in the schools, not on the streets," said a letter the American Association of School Administrators planned to send to the Senate on Wednesday.

Liberian factions agree to ceasefire MONROVIA. Apr 10

Liberian factions have agreed a ceasefire to end four days of fighting in the capital that has

fierce fighting and looting.

Monrovia was mostly calm. witnesses said. But thousands of people, including foreign diplomats and Liberian civitians, were holed up in the US Embassy compound and at UN offices in the capital.

Three days of gunfire and shelling in the capital came to an abrupt end Tuesday, for no clear reason. "It is the most eerie feeling

have ever had," said Dudley Sims, a spokesman for the US embassy. "It is absolutely calm. There was some light gunfire this morning, but now it's just The conflict among seven

rebel factions has killed more than 150,000 people and left at least half the country's 2.3 million residents homeless in six years of war.

Off the Record

Misuse of Di!

LONDON: Queen Elizabeth on Tuesday won a complaint against a cable television channel which ran a faked photograph purporting to show her daughter-in law Princess Diana kissing soccer star Paul Gascoigne, reports Britain's advertising stan-

dards authority ruled that live TV had been wrong to use the photograph in a newspa per promotion because featuring members of the royal family in advertisements was not allowed without special permission.

The queen said the advertisement — headlined "Who knows what the future holds was distasteful. Gascoigne. well known for a childish sense of humour and turbulent private life, was see wearing a crazy grin.

The original photograph showed Diana kissing her husband Prince Charles on the balcony of Buckingham Palace after their wedding in 1981. The couple, who both admit to

being unfaithful. The authority asked live TV to withdraw the advertisement but Kelvin Mackenzie. Managing Director of the cable channel, was unrepentant.

This image was simply a piece of fun ... I have no intention of withdrawing the advertise, he said. The royals are just like the rest of us and it is no longer

right that they should be protected by this sort of behaviour. said Mackenzie, who as editor of the Sun tabloid was responsible for running a string of royal scandals.

Female circumcision improves hygiene! CAIRO : One of the Muslim world's leading religious au-

thorities has apparently eased his stance against female circumcision, alarming opponents of a practice that not only deprives women of sexual satisfaction but often threatens their lives, reports AP.

cumcision _ a widespread custom in Africa that critics call genital mutilation — an Islamic duty.

Asharq Al-Aswat, he suggested that the practice could improve hygiene. "Circumcision is cleanliness if used moderately and is use-

The comments were surprising coming from Tantawi, whom many conservative Muslims consider liberal. He gained international attention during a 1994 UN population confer-

Mohammed Tantawi did not go so far as to call female cir-

But in an interview Tuesday with the Arabic newspaper

ul to women as well as men." he said.

ence for disagreeing with his predecessor over the necessity for the procedure.

One killed in Pak-held Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD, Azad Kashmir, Apr 10: Indian troops opened fire on a border village in Pakistani-administered Kashmir Tuesday, killing a man, officials here said, reports AFP.

- They said the "unprovoked" shooting started around 3:15 pm (1015 GMT) along the line of control that separates the Pakistani-and Indian-administered zones of the disputed state of Kashmir.

Intermittent firing continued late into the evening, they said, adding that a man identified as Roshan Deen died in Taroti village near the border.

Officials said Tuesday's killing brings the death toll to five from Indian, shootings along the line of control over the past one week.

NEW YORK, Apr 10: Jourmonths after he died at age 35 nalists who exposed wrongdofollowing the final dress reing - cigarette makers who hearsal for his rock opera secretly heightened nicotine "Rent." potency, esteemed fertility

The News and Observer doctors who stole eggs from series told of the rapid transthe womb, soldiers who comformation of a rural region east mitted Europe's worst masof Raleigh, where big compasacre since the Holocaust nies were replacing small fam-ily hog farms with massive won 1996 Pulitzer Prizes. high-tech complexes. The New York Times won

But waste pits were leaking into groundwater and creeks. Finally, heavy rains created a series of spills. One dumped 25 million gallons of feces and sludge into a fragile waterway. killing fish and driving off fish-

The series "Boss Hog" was a fitting topic for one member of the News and Observer team. reporter Pat Stith, who grew up on his family's farm. One of

his chores: Slop the hogs. The staff of The Orange County (California) Register

won the investigative reporting award for uncovering fraud at a fertility clinic. Reporters were able to sub-

stantiate rumours that doctors at the University of California-Irvine were stealing eggs from patients, fertilizing them, then implanting the embryos into other unwitting patients - resulting in live births.

The paper eventually documented egg thefts involving more than 60 women and identified 10 babies born from them. The scandal closed the

clinic, led to a federal grand jury investigation and spurred the American Medical Association to issue new fertility guidelines. Two of the three doctors implicated in the series fled the country. The award for explanatory

prize went to Alix M Freedman of The Wall Street Journal for coverage of the tobacco industry, including a report that showed how ammonia additives heightened nicotine po-

had agreed to support each other in the international arena.

She showed how, despite journalism went to Laurie Gardenials, some manufacturers rett of Newsday for reporting manipulate nicotine in ci-

from Zaire on the Ebola virus garettes. Ammonia-based additives convert nicotine into a far outbreak. At the height of the more potent form that gets absorbed more quickly by the it wasn't clear how transmissismoker and eludes detection ble the virus was. Garrett went by the Federal Trade Commisinto homes ravaged by the sion's nicotine detection pro-

- AFP/UNB photo

David Rohde of The Christian Science Monitor won the international reporting award for covering the massacre of thousands of Bosnian Muslims

in Srebrenica. With the help of a translator, he talked authorities into allowing him to travel without supervision behind Bosnian Serb lines. Using a blurry. faxed copy of a satellite photo. he found mass graves and collected the first on-site evidence of mass executions by

the Bosnian Serb forces. The prize for spot news went to Robert D McFadden of The New York Times for writ-

ing and reporting on a variety of stories on deadline. The feature writing prize went to the Times' Rick Brage for his stories about conteni-

E R Shipp of the New York Daily News won in commentary for columns on social is

porary America.

Jim Morin of The Miami Herald won the editorial cartooning Pulitzer. The criticism prize was awarded to Boston Globe architecture critic Robert Campbell, and the editorial writing prize went to

environmental issues.

A special award was given to Herb Caen, the San Francisco Chronicle columnist, for his "extraordinary and continuing contribution as a voice and a conscience of his city."

Robert B Semple Jr of the New

York Times for editorials on

Newsmen who wrote about wrongdoing capture Pulitzers | Jiang urges Bush to help smooth ties with USA

BEIJING, Apr 10: Calling him "an old friend," China's President has urged US former President George Bush to use his influence to help smooth Washington and Beijing's troubled ties, reports AP. Jiang Zemin issued the ap-

peal during a meeting with Bush in Beijing on Tuesday. urging him "to use his influence and make new contributions to the enhancement of mutual understanding - between China and the United States, the People's Daily said Wednesday

"Mr Bush is an old friend of the Chinese people," the official newspaper quoted Jiang as saving. For many years he has been working to promote US -China relations, either at his post or as a private citizen."



delivery of 28 F-16 planes for

which Islamabad had paid 658

million dollars. Brown was op-

timistic that the aircraft would

be sold to a third country and

visit to Afghanistan said he met

for the past six months.

Brown, who paid a 36-hour

The senator who met Pres-

The Islamic warriors who

control more than half of the

country declined to meet him.

Pakistan given its money back.

Amendment in US Congress

won't be reversed The delivery of the equip-The 1990 ban also halted

ISLAMABAD. Apr 10: US Senator Hank Brown said Tuesday that the amendment he introduced in the US Congress to pave the way for possible release of military hardware to Pakistan was unlikely to be reversed, reports

Peninsula.

Pakistan is treated fairly and the money it paid for stalled deals is returned, he told a news conference here. The Republican senator for Colorado initiated the amendment last year for the release

million dollars to Pakistan.

personally trying to see that

of military equipment and

spare parts worth about 368

ment which Islamabad had already paid for was blocked in 1990 amid US concerns that Pakistan was developing nuclear weapons. Ruling out the possibility that the amendment might be

revised following speculation President Bill Clinton is that China recently transferred nuclear technology to Pakistan. Brown said, "My amendment deals with old deals. It does not

various faction leaders and got to know their viewpoint: ident Burhanuddin Rabbani's strongman Ahmed Shah Masood and some other leaders could not see leaders of the Taliban militia besieging Kabul

allow new military sales." Brown, who arrived here on Saturday on a four-day visit that also took him to Afghanistan, described the legislation as "the first step toward renewal of our friend-

China's National Assembly President Quiao Shi (2nd-L) and his delegation meet with Cuban

President Fidel Castro (R) and Cuba's National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon and

other Cuban officials on Tuesday in Havana. Quiao Shi and Alarcon said Cuba and China

outbreak, she spent nine days

in the epicenter. Even though

Newsday's Bob Keeler won

the beat reporting prize for his

detailed portrait of a year in

the life of a Roman Catholic

parish on Long Island -

where the people gather to-

gether to be church for one

The national reporting

virus to get her story.