

**BRIEFLY**



Travelling Mother Teresa (L) receives a warm welcoming by Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro whom she met at Quirinale, Palace in Rome Wednesday. — AFP/UNB photo

**Vietnam's dy FM dies:** Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai, who played a key role in improving relations with the United States, died of a heart attack on Wednesday night, AP reports from Hanoi.

The Foreign Ministry issued a one-sentence statement Thursday announcing Mai's death, but did not give any details. It said he was born in 1940. Mai, deputy minister since 1990, had been regarded as a possible successor to Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam.

**Samper cleared of charges:** The Lower House of the Colombian Congress cleared President Ernesto Samper of charges he accepted drug money for his 1994 election campaign, AFP reports from Bogota.

The televised vote, coming after a two-week debate, close the book on a scandal that had brought the country to a political standstill.

**Bulgaria govt survives no-confidence:** Bulgaria's socialist government survived a parliamentary vote of no-confidence called over its handling of an economic crisis yesterday and Prime Minister Zhan Videnov vowed to press on with tough reforms, Reuters reports from Sofia.

His government, which has an absolute parliamentary majority, was backed by 135 deputies while 99 voted against. "Our decision (to back the cabinet) shows common sense, national responsibility and statement like wisdom," Videnov told parliament after the vote.

**Ghali for extending UNFICYP:** UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali suggested that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for six months to December 31, 1996, Xinhua reports from United Nations.

In his latest report to the Security Council, Boutros-Ghali said that the overall situation on the island remained calm, although tension rose periodically. UNFICYP continued to make every effort to mitigate such situation.

**Huge heroin seized in China:** Police in the Chinese capital have smashed the biggest heroin case in Beijing, seizing 11 kg (24 lb) of heroin and arresting 14 suspects, the Xinhua news agency said yesterday, Reuters reports from Beijing.

Police also confiscated 130,000 yuan (15,662 dollars) in drug money. Xinhua quoted police as saying, Acting on a tip, Beijing police discovered Yang Zhigang and his wife Sun Guiyun, both unemployed local residents, were engaged in drug trafficking between southwestern Yunnan province and Beijing, Xinhua said.

**Ex-aide of Marcos shot dead:** Former colonel Rolando Abadilla, former head of a special intelligence unit under late Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos, was shot dead by five men in an ambush in a Manila suburb yesterday, police said, AFP reports from Manila.

The five men commandeered a car afterwards and escaped, police added. The killing followed a pattern set by communist insurgent urban assassination squads who eliminated more than 200 soldiers, policemen and civilians in Manila in the 1980s.

**'Suu Kyi's marriage a plot by British colonialists'**

**BANGKOK, June 13:** A Burmese state-owned newspaper says British colonialists intent on subjugating Myanmar plotted the marriage of a British academic to Burmese democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, reports AP.

It was the latest salvo in the military regime's escalating media assault against Suu Kyi, the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner, who has brought new attention to the democracy movement in recent weeks by holding a congress of her political party and drawing larger crowds to weekend speeches outside her home.

Suu Kyi, the daughter of Myanmar independence hero, Gen Aung San, is married to Michael Aris, a British professor. They have two children.

All along the British colonialist caused trouble," the state-owned New Light of Myanmar said Thursday in commentary seen in Bangkok.

It was they who connived to get an Englishman married to the one who could provide assurance for setting foot again in Myanmar. The proof was

that Daw Suu Kyi got married to an Englishman, unaware of their scheme."

Myanmar was a British colony from 1824 until 1947.

The junta arrested 262 delegates in efforts to prevent the congress in late May by her party, the National League for Democracy. About half have been released.

Suu Kyi then stepped up her challenge to the authorities, vowing her party would increase its activities.

Last week, the junta announced harsh new laws threatening 20 years imprisonment for anyone seeking to undermine the stability of the state, community peace and tranquility.

Suu Kyi softened rhetoric at gatherings of supporters last weekend to avoid violating the laws. The crowds nonetheless remained large — about 5,000 people, more than twice the usual number, braving arrest to hear her speak.

Meanwhile, the junta has launched a relentless media campaign against Suu Kyi, dubbing her a tool of colonialists.

**Major armed conflicts decreased in '95**

**STOCKHOLM, June 13:** Major armed conflicts decreased last year, but that heartening trend is offset in part by concerns that superpowers can no longer control developments in other countries, the Swedish International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) says, reports AP.

In its yearbook released Thursday, the institute listed 30 wars in 25 locations, continuing the pattern of recent years. It said there were 32 wars in 28 places in 1994 and 36 conflicts in 32 locations in 1995.

Also, as in 1994, all of last year's wars were internal rather than between states, and the risk of global nuclear war has diminished, the group said. Although both those de-

velopments, can be seen as boons of the post-Cold War era, the report also said there was a dark said to the decline of the superpowers.

The serious threat at the present is the loss of control of developments by the great powers, and the multilateral security organizations," the report said.

The only major conflict to end through negotiation last year — the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina — was "spectacular" but hardly provides a heartening example of mediation's efficacy, the institute said.

Neither side has won a decisive victory and neither is satisfied with the status quo. Historically, such conditions have been a prescription for renewed warring," the report said.

Washington Post cites draft govt report  
**Pakistan has obtained missiles made by China**

**WASHINGTON, June 12:** US intelligence agencies have unanimously concluded with "high confidence" that Pakistan has obtained medium-range ballistic missiles made by China, the Washington Post reported in today's editions, citing a draft government report, says Reuters.

The new report, disclosed by the Washington Times on Wednesday, says for the first time that Pakistan probably has finished developing nuclear warheads for these missiles, the Post quoted US officials as saying.

The reported unanimous affirmation that Pakistan has complete Chinese M-11 missiles could put new pressure on the Clinton administration to consider imposing tough economic sanctions against both countries, as required under a US law aimed at curbing the spread of such

weapons.

In the past US officials have said that Washington lacked concrete evidence that complete missiles were in Pakistan, despite evidence that components of the M-11 might be there.

As a result, these officials have said, Washington did not invoke the law and cut off US government contracts with China, halt licenses for US exports to China or ban Chinese imports worth up to several billion dollars.

But with "the imminent completion of the new report, which updates a US intelligence assessment on the issue prepared in 1994," policymakers may have a tougher time fending off calls by many proliferation experts, intelligence analysts and certain lawmakers to acknowledge publicly that the M-11 missiles are in Pakistan," the Post said.

Meanwhile, US officials expressed concern today about new reports that Pakistan may have deployed nuclear-capable Chinese-made M-11 missiles and said they are investigating the matter.

"We are looking into this. Are we concerned about them? Yes... these are serious allegations. They will be pursued seriously," one senior US official told reporters.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, was responding to a report in the Washington Times newspaper that US intelligence agencies had concluded that Pakistan had deployed the M-11 missiles and that the transfer was part of conspiracy to skirt missile-control agreements.

If the Clinton administration determines formally that Pakistan has the missiles and has deployed them, it could trigger sanctions against both

Islamabad and Beijing under a 1990 US law.

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns, asked about the newspaper story, told a news briefing: "We've seen these charges... the United States has not made a determination that China has conducted activities inconsistent with its October, 1994 commitments to Secretary of State Warren Christopher."

"We have not made a determination that either China or Pakistan have engaged in activity that would be sanctioned by the transfer of missiles from China to Pakistan. That's our position."

Burns refused to go into detail on the substance of the allegations, which were apparently based on intelligence reports. He decried "leaks of highly classified, sensitive intelligence information as being against the law and unethical."

**Tigers attack police post: 3 cops killed**

**COLOMBO, June 13:** Three policemen were killed when Tamil tiger rebels attacked a police post in the eastern Ampara district early today, Sri Lankan defence officials said, reports Reuters.

A large group of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) stormed the Eagle's Post police detachment in the central camp area, about 200 km (125 miles) east of the capital Colombo shortly after midnight on Wednesday, they said.

The rebels were beaten off in a firefight which lasted several hours, they added.

The LTTE has stepped up attacks in recent weeks after government forces ousted them from their Jaffna Peninsula stronghold, 320 km (200 miles) north of Colombo, in April.

On Tuesday the Tigers hacked 14 Sinhalese villagers to death in the remote village of Aruwakalu, bordering the Wilpattu Wildlife Park, 180 km (115 miles) north of Colombo.

**Chechens to use 'any means' to foil polls: Yandarbiyev**

**OUTSIDE VEDENO, Russia, June 13:** Chechen rebel leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev said today that his guerrillas would use "any means" to oppose planned legislative elections in Chechnya on Sunday, reports AFP.

"We will use any means to oppose the elections being held," Yandarbiyev told reporters near the southeastern rebel village of Vedeno.

When asked if such methods included the use of force, he insisted "we will use any means."

Pro-Moscow Chechen leader Doku Zavgayev insisted Wednesday that early local elections would go ahead despite warnings that they could sink a fragile peace accord signed between Moscow and the rebels.

**18 Australian commandos die as 2 choppers collide**

**BRISBANE, Australia, June 13:** Two Blackhawk army helicopters collided and burst into flames Wednesday night during training exercises, killing 18 commandos in Australia's worst peacetime military accident in three decades, reports AP.

Ten others were hospitalized in Townsville, home to a large army base in the tropical northeast about 700 miles (1,100 kilometers) from Brisbane.

Three were critically injured.

Australian Defence Force spokesman Brig. Adrian D'Hage said the two helicopters had been flying above the ground in darkness when they collided at speeds of 70 mph (113 kph) to 100 mph (160 kph).

Both crashed and burned, scattering debris over the hilly terrain, D'Hage said.

"They collided 150 feet (45 meters) above the ground. The two Blackhawk went to the ground and burst into flames," said Brig. Mike Smith, a senior officer in Townsville.

**Burmese exiles burn Lee's effigy**

**NEW DELHI, June 13:** Nearly 50 Burmese exiles burnt an effigy of Singapore's elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew at a public protest here today to denounce his criticism of dissident leader Aung San Suu Kyi, reports AP.

The activists of the all-Burma Students League whipped Lee's effigy before setting it alight here and said his "constructive engagement policy with the military dictators in Myanmar was reprehensible."

Lee told a forum with foreign and local media in Singapore last Friday that "if I were Aung San Suu Kyi, I think I'd rather be behind a fence and be a symbol" than be "found important" to lead the country.



Rescue workers go through the rubble of the collapsed building to find out bodies in Hyderabad, some 160 Km from Karachi, Wednesday. At least 22 people were killed and 40 injured when a three-story building collapsed in the early hours. — AFP/UNB photo

**Int'l confce begins to review Balkan peace process**

**FLORENCE, Italy, June 13:** With NATO's year-long mission in Bosnia half over, a two-day international conference begins Thursday to review some reports on the progress of peace and consider whether NATO should extend its stay, reports AP.

High on the agenda are Bosnia's scheduled September elections, and the failure to make the country safe enough for unfettered travel or to achieve any large-scale return of the millions of refugees left by a 43-month war.

Top officials from Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia will join Thursday and Friday with others from some 40 nations, NATO and other international organizations involved in the

costly effort to restore Bosnia. NATO's military might has halted fighting and separated armies. But there is near-universal agreement that foreign troops will have to stay on if peace is to mean more than an absence of fighting.

US Defence Secretary William Perry said Wednesday that US ground troops and air power could remain into next year in Bosnia if NATO decides that "some further action is needed to preserve the peace."

"NATO will not want simply to give up on the investment that they've made in Bosnia," Perry told reporters. If the alliance decides to remain, the United States should too, he added.

NATO commanders in Bos-

nia say some presence is needed.

"There will be need for continuing military stability in Bosnia-Herzegovina beyond the end of the year," said Britain's Lt Gen Sir Michael Walker, commander of NATO-led ground troops in Bosnia, on Wednesday.

But the elections envisaged by the Dayton agreement by September 14 seem unlikely to bring the desired stability required for NATO to leave.

The international community is divided on whether the vote should go ahead regardless. The controversy means the Florence conference is unlikely to announce a date for the balloting.



A young girl wearing a T-shirt with a large No-word raises her hands in a symbolic protest against the advancing communist rally (behind downtown Moscow, Wednesday). The rally was aimed to protest the Russian Independence Day holiday, a holiday which is not accepted by the communists, and to support Russian Communist leader Gennady Zuganov's pre-election campaign. — AFP/UNB photo

**Panel of US judges block law against indecency on Internet**

**PHILADELPHIA, June 13:** A panel of US judges blocked the new federal law against indecency on the Internet, declaring the global computer network deserves the highest level of free-speech protection the courts can muster.

"Just as the strength of the Internet is chaos, so the strength of our liberty depends upon the chaos and cacophony of the unfettered speech that the First Amendment protects," the panel of three federal judges unanimously decided Wednesday in the first major ruling on free speech on the Internet.

The panel said the Internet is entitled to at least as much protection under the First Amendment as newspapers receive.

Ira Glasser, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, one of the par-

ties challenging the Communications Decency Act, was overjoyed. "This is a historic case as we have had in our history on the First Amendment," he declared.

"This is a victory for anyone who cares about freedom of expression or the future of the Internet," said Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, another plaintiff. "Technology can provide a much more effective safeguard without restricting the free flow of ideas and opinions on the Internet."

The US government has said it will appeal directly to the US Supreme Court, but following the ruling, Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern said no decision had been made about the next move.

Supporters of the law were undaunted.

"This wasn't unanticipated with the direction and liberal leanings of these judges. We fully anticipated it going to the Supreme Court level and ultimately, we believe we will be victorious," said Mike Russell, spokesman for the Christian Coalition.

News of the ruling spread quickly on the Internet. Within a half-hour, 4,000 World Wide Web site linked to a page run by the Voters Telecommunications Watch were trumpeting the news with a graphic that read: "Free Speech!"

Although Web pages set up by the Christian Coalition, the Family Research Council and the American Family Coalition contained information on the CDA, none had been updated to reflect Wednesday's ruling.

Signed into law by President Clinton on February 8, the CDA makes it a crime to

**Nigerian govt relaxes controversial decrees**

**LAGOS, June 13:** The government Wednesday announced changes to weaken the power of a special tribunal that condemned nine political activists to death last year, reports AP.

The decree that created the so-called Special Disturbances Tribunal was amended to keep military officers — strong supporters of the military regime's iron-fisted rule — from sitting on the panel, the government announced.

In addition, it said defendants convicted by the tribunal now will have the right to appeal — a right denied in the past.

The tribunal's power and makeup has been a source of controversy since November, when it convicted playwright Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other activists of murder in the deaths of four political opponents.

The nine were hanged, despite international pleas for clemency and opposition groups' claims they were framed because of their opposition to Gen Sani Abacha's government.

They were not permitted to appeal the convictions before being put to death.

"The amendment is a welcome one," said Payo Oyetibo, a human rights activist and lawyer in Lagos. "If Ken Saro-Wiwa and the others had a second chance, they probably would not have been killed."

As is normal, Abacha's government did not elaborate on its decisions or explain the reasons for them.

The changes had been expected following the visit in April of United Nations team sent to investigate Abacha's commitments to reform.

The November executions prompted some international calls for oil sanctions against Nigeria, a major oil-producer. The UN team recommended against sanctions, and in return Abacha promised the relaxation of some draconian laws.

In addition to amending the Special Disturbances Tribunal, the government said it was relaxing a law that permitted indefinite detention without court appearances.

**Off the Record**

*Now, it's out in the open*

**LONDON:** Tennis star Thomas Muster denied for months being involved with the Duchess of York. Now, it's out in the open, reports AP.

The Sun newspaper on Wednesday splashed an account of Muster's dinner date Tuesday night with Sarah Ferguson — divorced two weeks ago from Prince Andrew — on its front page and carried a photograph of the two leaving a London restaurant in a chauffeur-driven car.

It was the second dinner date in two nights for the two. They met this year at a tennis tournament in Doha, Qatar, and continued their friendship a week later when Fergie flew to Australia to see Muster at the Australian Open.

Muster arrived Monday in London with his ex-fiancee Mariella Theiner — who returned to Austria hours later — to play in the Queen's grass-court tournament, the traditional warm-up for Wimbledon.

The Sun quoted friends of the Duchess as saying she was "like a schoolgirl with a crush" before their first date Monday. Muster, meanwhile, declined to answer questions about his relationship with Fergie.

**Cat on cockpit!**

**NEW DELHI:** A stray cat sneaked into an Indian Airlines plane flying from the southern city of Madras to New Delhi, delaying its departure by three hours, the Statesman Daily said Thursday, reports AP.

It said passengers on Wednesday's morning flight were greeted by air hostesses and the cat which then settled itself behind the equipment centre below the cockpit.

The cat was discovered after a three hour search. Thereafter, the patrified female was unceremoniously disembarked from the aircraft, it added.

**Perfectly modern divorce**

**LONDON:** It's a perfectly modern divorce: Rock star Bob Geldof gave his house to his ex-wife, and he'll move into her lover's place down the road, reports AP.

Geldof and Paula Yates, who have three daughters, divorced last month after 10 years of marriage.

"After three days of complete bloody nightmare in the High Court of Justice, Bob and Paula have with collective sighs of relief arrived amicably at a half-decent solution to their housing arrangements," they said in a statement.

Geldof, 41, who organised the Live Aid concert in 1985, agreed to give his London house to the 36-year-old Ms. Yates. In exchange, he gets a home owned by INXS rock star Michael Hutchence, whose baby Ms Yates is expecting.

Geldof has a second home in Kent, outside London, where he is living with 25-year-old French actress Jeanne Marie.

**UNSC demands access to Iraqi arms sites**

**UNITED NATIONS, June 13:** The standoff between the United Nations and Iraq escalated Wednesday as the Security Council demanded unconditional access to weapons sites after Iraq for the first time flatly denied entry to sensitive facilities, reports AP.

Iraq said it would no longer grant UN inspectors access to facilities used by the elite Republican Guard and the main offices and buildings of ministries and security organisations.

Deputy chief inspector Charles Duelfer said Iraq had also banned UN helicopters from conducting aerial surveillance of facilities before access is granted.

In setting such conditions, Iraq defied UN resolutions approved after the 1991 Gulf War that allowed inspectors to search for banned chemical, nuclear and biological weapons and long-range missile.

"We have a new dimension by the outright refusal," chief UN weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus said after briefing the

council. "It is no longer a question of delay but a matter of complete refusal. Iraq has decided to raise the issue higher up than ever before."

Faced with Iraq's new conditions, the 15-member council unanimously approved a resolution demanding "immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access to any and all areas, facilities, equipment, records and means of transportation which they wished to inspect."

The resolutions also "deplored the refusal of the Iraqi authorities to allow access to sites" designated by the monitors.

"Blocking... inspectors from an entire category of suspect sites in a new situation and is a matter of grave concern to my government," US Ambassador Madeleine Albright said.

Ekeus said the inspectors were looking at "sites where there is a high probability that Iraq is hiding items" related to its banned nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programmes.

**Panel of US judges block law against indecency on Internet**

does allow for the expression of all viewpoints would receive at least the same protection from intrusion." US District Judge Stewart Dannel wrote.

The plaintiffs had contended the law was too vague and feared it may cover materials with serious literary, artistic or intellectual value, including works of art and information on abortion, AIDS, safe sex and breast cancer — material constitutionally protected for adults.

The US government, noting that cyberspace images flow on telecommunication lines, had argued that the Internet resembles the broadcast media, which are regulated by the government, and that the law is needed to protect children.

The judges, however, said the Internet resembles neither print nor broadcast but is a wholly unique medium.