

RIFF

Suu Kyi marks 51st birthday: Myanmar's pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, marked her 51st birthday yesterday amid reports of fresh detentions of her supporters, reports AFP from Bangkok.

Suu Kyi and others at her family compound in Yangon began the day with offerings to Buddhist monks and nuns, in aid of reaching by telephone at her home in Yangon said. Well-wishers were expected to pay their respects in the garden of her home during the afternoon, the aide said.

Search on for ROK's sailors: Rescuers continued to search Wednesday for the remains of 26 sailors believed to have drowned when their cargo ship sank off South Korea's southern coast Saturday, reports AP from Seoul.

Maritime police said the sailors — one Greek, one Egyptian and the rest Filipinos — were presumed dead after nearly four days in open seas. No remains have been recovered yet. On Sunday, rescue ships had found several life jackets and an empty lifeboat from the Cyprus-registered ship Anna Spiratos. It sank after colliding with a Greek-flagged freighter, which safely reached the South Korean port of Pusan, about 300 kilometres southeast of Seoul. The sunk ship was en route from the Russian port of Nakhodka to Taichung in Taiwan with a cargo of steel bars.

UN envoy leaves Bahrain: UN envoy Rolf Ekeus left Bahrain for Iraq yesterday in a bid to defuse a standoff with Baghdad which is preventing his inspectors from searching suspected weapons sites, UN officials said, AFP reports from Manama.

Ekeus, Chairman of the UN special commission, left here on a special UN flight with his staff and Nikita Smidovich, a Russian ballistic weapons expert whose team was denied access to sites last week. Iraq must allow the inspection team to visit and inspect, immediately and unconditionally, all the sites, all the installations and all the equipment that we deem necessary, Ekeus said late Tuesday after arriving here from New York.

25 more executed in China: Twenty-five people were executed in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou for crimes ranging from looting to murder, it was reported yesterday, AFP reports from Hong Kong.

The criminals were executed Tuesday in different parts of Guangzhou, the China-backed Wen Wei Po said. They included Hu Zhongsheng and Li Genshen, who kidnapped a woman and repeatedly raped her, and Chen Ping who broke into a house and chopped a woman and repeatedly raped her, and Chen Ping who broke into a house and chopped to death two people as they slept before stealing 600 yuan (75 US dollars).

Chopper collision kills 6 in US: Two army helicopter collided in mid air during a demonstration in Kentucky Tuesday, killing six people and injuring at least 16 others an army spokesman said, AFP reports from Washington.

The collision between two UH-60 helicopters occurred at a training range at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Army Major Jeffrey Phillips said. At approximately 2:15 pm local time (1815 GMT) two UH-60L helicopter were involved in a mid air collision at Fort Campbell while conducting an air assault demonstration at training range five-four Phillips said.

Christopher meets Cypriot president: US Secretary of State Warren Christopher met Tuesday with Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides and reaffirmed US support for a "bizonal, bicomunal, federated Cyprus," AP reports from Washington.

The breakfast meeting followed the announcement on Monday by President Clinton that he will send an emissary to Cyprus next month to explore the possibilities of a negotiated settlement on the island. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Clerides and Christopher had a "very good and very long" review of the situation in Cyprus.

Colombian security chief resigns: The head of Colombia's secret police has resigned amid allegations his agency was trailing the US ambassador and tapping his phone, AP reports from Bogota.

Marco Tulio Gutierrez, a close ally of President Ernesto Samper, stepped down Tuesday after just five months on the job. A presidential spokesman said he did so "for personal reasons." The timing comes amid complaints from US Ambassador Myles Frechette about Colombian agents following him, most recently on a May 30-31 trip to Medellin, and about phone bugging at the embassy.

New eruption on NZ volcano: A sudden explosion of black ash and hot gas shattered a brief lull in volcanic activity on Mount Ruapehu late Wednesday, AP reports from Wellington.

Volcanologists at the scene said its crater erupted dramatically and shot dark billowing clouds into the sky for a third successive day. The outpouring of debris and renewed earth tremors followed a morning of relative calm.

3 sentenced to death in China: Three men were sentenced to death and six other people were given prison terms for forcing teen-age girls into prostitution, an official newspaper reported Monday, AP reports from Beijing.

The Supreme People's Court in the capital confirmed a lower court's decision to give the death sentence to Wang Guoqing and Lei Zhiyong, both unemployed workers from southwest China's Hunan province, the Xinhua Daily Telegraph said. Wang and Lei were to be executed immediately for recruiting five young girls two years ago and selling them for 70,000 yuan (\$5,000) to a health club in coastal China's Zhejiang province ostensibly as massage attendants, the report said.

UN demands unrestricted access to suspected Iraqi weapons sites

MANAMA, Bahrain, June 19: The chief UN weapons inspector said Tuesday on his way to Baghdad that he will impress on Iraqi leaders that they must provide immediate, unrestricted access to suspected weapons sites, reports AP.

Rolf Ekeus, a Swedish diplomat, was due to fly to the Iraqi capital Wednesday morning in a trip prompted by Baghdad's refusal to let a team of UN weapons inspectors visit several sites last week.

He stressed after arriving in Bahrain, the UN Special Commission's regional headquarters, that his mission was not to negotiate with Iraq.

Ekeus said he would then report to the council on the results of this trip and the policy adopted by the Iraqi authorities.

But he also said he hoped his discussions in Baghdad will include "political talks in the form of a forward-looking dialogue, and I hope we'll be able to do it successfully."

Ekeus said he had not yet decided whether he would ask some of the inspectors to accompany him to Baghdad so that they can carry out site inspections during his trip if the Iraqis allow it.

Team leader Nikita Smidovich, a Russian, said the Iraqis completely denied access to three sites.

Clinton, Dole camps trade shots on character issue

WASHINGTON, June 19: With Republicans openly questioning President Clinton's credibility and character, the White House has fashioned a strategy to turn the tables and accuse Bob Dole of playing "Pinocchio politics," reports AP.

Vice President Al Gore, in an unusually harsh assessment of Clinton's Republican rival, used Dole's record on tobacco issues to challenge the senator's integrity Monday.

The former senator and fellow Republicans "seem to believe that the way to turn their tattered campaign into a Cinderella story is to engage in the politics of Pinocchio: Forget about the truth, tell a bunch of lies and let someone else pull the strings," Gore said in a speech in Philadelphia, an electoral vote battleground.

The remarks could be the first volley in a character war, with both camps dialing up reporters and feeding fax machines to prove how low each side can stoop.

After months of raising doubts about Clinton's character, Republicans hoped to make inroads this week from a scathing report on the White House's handling of Whitewater matters, a second trial of Clinton supporters in Arkansas and mounting interest in the collection of FBI files on Republicans.

"Let's face it," said Dole spokeswoman Christina Martin. "On the issue of truth, if the Clinton administration practices what it preaches they wouldn't be having such a bad week."

Gore's speech Monday was meant to counter the Republican character strategy.

International

Palestinians, other Arabs urged to talk peace

Netanyahu takes over as new Israeli prime minister

JERUSALEM, June 19: Benjamin Netanyahu formally took office as Israel's new Prime Minister today in a brief hand-over ceremony with outgoing premier Shimon Peres, reports AP.

"I wish you success for the good of Israel and the Jewish people," Peres told his successor as he introduced him to the staff in the prime minister's office.

AP from Tel Aviv adds: In his inaugural address, Netanyahu called on the Palestinians and other Arabs to talk peace. But his policies, emphasizing security, are a jarring departure from those of Nobel laureate Shimon Peres, who saw peace as his career's crowning achievement.

Netanyahu says no to a Palestinian state, no to returning the Golan Heights to Syria, and no to surrendering Israel's sovereignty over any part of Jerusalem — positions that may leave him with few Arab partners.

"To widen the circle of peace with all our neighbours... is a primary goal of the government," Netanyahu told the Knesset, which convened Tuesday to approve his 17-member Cabinet.

He called on Syria, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia to negotiate peace "without preconditions."

— a reference to Syria's past insistence that Israel agree to a total return of the Golan Heights before details of a peace treaty are worked out.

Netanyahu said he would negotiate with Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority but warned that Israel's army would have "full freedom of action to act against terrorism." In the past he has argued that troops should be allowed to chase suspected terrorists even in autonomous areas, although this would violate the Israel-PLO accords.

Arab nations are holding a summit in Cairo this weekend to discuss the new situation. The Palestinians, whose leaders have appeared somewhat shocked by Netanyahu's narrow, come-from-behind May 29 election win, condemned his emerging policies Tuesday.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Hanan Ashrawi termed them a formula for "peace destruction, not peacemaking."

Khalil Shekaki, head of a West Bank think tank, predicted Netanyahu will allow Arafat a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip — where almost half the Palestinians now under autonomy live — while seeking a complex "functional arrangement" in the larger West Bank, possibly with a role for neighbouring Jordan.

Netanyahu's government was later approved by a 62-50 vote, and Peres is to formally hand over the Prime Minister's office at a ceremony Wednesday morning.

Netanyahu's first test of intentions will come soon: he must decide whether to honour the outgoing government's commitment to withdraw troops from Hebron, the last West Bank city under Israeli occupation.



Tamil women await their turn Tuesday at a government food store amid a serious shortage of essentials in this embattled region in northern Sri Lanka. Troops are to be deployed to sell food and kill a thriving black-market. — AFP/UNB photo

Britain to stage biggest war game in Europe in Sept

WARSAW, June 19: Britain is to stage its biggest army exercise in Europe for seven years in September, using training grounds rented from Poland in the first such agreement with a NATO member, reports AP.

An agreement to this effect was signed Tuesday by visiting British Defence Minister Michael Portillo and his Polish counterpart Stanislaw Dobranski.

The accord deals with such matters as the use of the training areas, ecological questions and the status of British troops in Poland.

Lebed discusses political situation with Communists

MOSCOW, June 19: Alexander Lebed, the powerful nationalist who agreed to back President Boris Yeltsin for reelection, held a surprise meeting Wednesday with the Communist candidate to discuss the political situation, reports AP.

Lebed, who was named chief of Yeltsin's Security Council on Tuesday in exchange for endorsing the president, said his meeting with Gennady Zyuganov was part of "ordinary political consultations following Sunday's vote."

Zyuganov said the two men had discussed security issues, but gave no further details.

The gruff general's third place finish in Sunday's first round of voting catapulted him into the role of kingmaker. Lebed, a staunch anti-communist, quickly threw his support behind Yeltsin.

Meanwhile, Yeltsin was picking up support from a liberal economist who finished fourth in Presidential balloting.

In an interview late Tuesday on Moscow Television, economist Grigory Yavlinsky criticized Yeltsin's reforms but said his supporters were well aware "they must not vote" for the Communist candidate.

And Otto Latsis, a prominent columnist with the Izvestia newspaper, urged the democratic intelligentsia to support Yeltsin in Wednesday's newspapers.

11 killed in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, June 19: Security forces ambushed Tamil Tiger guerrillas in northeastern Sri Lanka, killing at least five rebels as the militants gunned down six civilians in the region, the defence ministry said today, reports AP.

Government forces attacked the guerrillas of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the district of Trincomalee and destroyed three abandoned rebel hide-outs on Tuesday, the ministry said.

It said there were no casualties among the security forces but the Tigers fired automatic weapons and killed six employees of the survey general's department in the same district on Tuesday.



Opposition MP's physically barricade temporary House Speaker Kim Myon-Yoon from approaching the Speaker's podium to declare parliament open Tuesday, dragging South Korea's parliamentary crisis into its third week. The opposition charges the ruling New Korea Party with mustering a "false majority." — AFP/UNB photo

Gunmen kill 7 Russian soldiers

MOSCOW, June 19: Seven Russian soldiers were killed and four wounded when unidentified attackers opened fire with grenades and automatic rifles on an armoured troop carrier in Ingushetia, Interfax News Agency said today, reports AP.

The ambush late Tuesday in the autonomous republic in the Russian Caucasus was so sudden that the soldiers in the armoured personnel carrier did not have time to fire back. Interfax reported, Ingushetia borders on Chechnya where separatist forces have been fighting the Russian army for 18 months, and has close ethnic links with the rebels.

The troops were travelling from a hilltop checkpoint to their base in the main Ingush town of Nazran when they were hit by rocket propelled anti tank grenades and automatic rifle fire, the agency said.

The attackers seized five rifles, a machinegun and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

Is this presidential election about truth and character?

You bet it is. And those characters — Senator Dole and Speaker Newt Gingrich — are just not concerned with the truth, the vice president said. "They're trailing in the polls, so they're flailing for a lifeline." But the only line they can find is the fraying, knotted rope of falsehood and deception, Gore said.

The reason behind the rhetoric: Gore was angry about a Dole campaign statement that quoted Gore as saying in a 1992 television interview that there is "no proven link between smoking and lung cancer."

Gore, supported by a transcript of the interview, said that the Dole campaign failed to mention that the vice president had attributed the assertion to scientists working for tobacco companies.

The vice president, whose sister died of lung cancer, urged Dole to "correct the record" and accused him of being beholden to wealthy tobacco interests.

"It's not worth stinking up your reputation with the smoky stench of special interest politics and the dangerous din of dishonesty."

"Their Pinocchio politics are easy to unmask," Gore said. It was surprisingly tough language aimed at a man whose record and service to the country were praised by Clinton after Dole resigned the Senate.

And it didn't stop there.

The Clinton-Gore campaign circulated Phillip Morris ads running in Europe that compare the hazards of smoking to drinking milk. It was a clear reference to Dole's saying last week that smoking is not good for kids. "But a lot of other things aren't good. Some would say milk's not good."

Clinton-Gore campaign spokesman Joe Lockhart said Phillip Morris paid big money to advertise in Europe, but "over here, they just have to give money to Bob Dole and he'll do it for them."

The Dole campaign has done some research, too. They provided copies of articles dating to the 1980s, that show Gore's family once grew tobacco. Gore accepted donations from tobacco interests as a US senator and he opposed a ban on tobacco ads in 1987.

Lobbying the day's final bomb in this war on character, Dole dismissed Gore's speech as a diversionary tactic. "I know they're worried about all these FBI files they're finding around the White House," he said.

Tuesday's inauguration was marked by Netanyahu's tussling with his party's right wing over a Cabinet position for fiery ex-general Ariel Sharon, who expected to be repaid for tireless campaigning with the coveted defence or finance portfolios.

Another AP report adds: Israel denied entry permits to 165 Palestinian patients seeking to reach Israeli hospitals for urgent medical treatment during the first 11 days of this month, a human rights group said Tuesday.

Only 30 out of 195 applicants from June 1-11 received the permits, said the Palestinian Center for Human Rights in its monthly report on the effects of the closure Israel imposed Feb. 25 on the West Bank and Gaza in response to a wave of terrorist attacks.

There was no immediate response available from Israel's liaison office to the Palestinians.

Although Israel claims exceptions are made for medical emergencies, human rights groups say that since the closure was imposed, at least 24 Palestinians — eight of them children under the age of 6 and four newborn babies — have died because they were unable to get to Israel for required treatment.

Fertiliser scandal Rao's nephew Sanjeeva held

NEW DELHI, June 19: Federal agents from the Central Bureau of Investigation arrested a relative of former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao for his alleged involvement in a \$100 million bribery scandal involving a Turkish firm, officials said Wednesday, reports AP.

Sanjeeva Rao, nephew of the former prime minister, was arrested by CBI, which is similar to American FBI, from Hyderabad, capital of the southern Andhra Pradesh state on Tuesday, said CBI officials in New Delhi.

CBI agents also arrested Prakash Chandra Yadav, son of a former fertiliser minister in the federal Cabinet for his involvement in the scandal. Yadav was arrested in New Delhi also on Tuesday.

The arrests came as a big blow to P V Narasimha Rao's Congress Party.

Newspapers resume publication in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, June 19: Newspapers in the troubled Kashmir valley resumed publication yesterday after a two-month strike in protest against alleged infringement of their freedom by Indian authorities and separatist guerrillas.

"We have resumed publication in the interest of our readers," Noor-Ul-Qamrain, Editor of English-language daily The Mirror of Kashmir, told Reuters. "Let us face whatever is ahead of us."

More than a dozen newspapers suspended publication on April 19, just before Indian general elections, after Indian authorities and Hizb-Ul-Mujahideen guerrillas told the newspapers to refrain from printing certain material.

Japan may take strong action if Suu Kyi held

TOKYO, June 19: Japan's top spokesman warned the Myanmar military junta today that his country may take strong action if pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi is arrested, reports AP.

"We've been calling for restraint of the Myanmar government while showing some understanding, but in case of an arrest, we would not be able to keep the current approach," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama told a news conference.

Kajiyama was referring to a major Japanese newspaper report Wednesday that the military junta was likely to arrest Aung San Suu Kyi later this week.

Possible Japanese action against the junta is expected to be a review of its grant-in-aid to the country, Japanese media said.

Arms sellers share responsibility for HR abuses: AI report

LONDON, June 19: The United States and other developed nations that train and supply foreign security forces bear "a heavy responsibility" when those forces oppress and torture their people, Amnesty International said Tuesday, reports AP.

In its annual report on human rights abuses, Amnesty International focused criticism on the world's biggest weapons dealers: the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia.

"These countries... bear a heavy responsibility when human rights abuses are committed by police security or military, personnel whom they have supplied and assisted," the report said.

Pierre Sane, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said arms producers often try to abdicate responsibility for atrocities by claiming they are "local affairs" over which they have no influence.

"But who is arming and training those committing the atrocities?" he asked.

Amnesty International cited a number of examples:

— Armoured personnel carriers and helicopters from the United States, France and Russia were used by Turkish forces to attack civilians in remote Kurdish villages.

— The United States, France and Iraq, among others, supplied and trained Chad's security forces in the 1980s when those forces killed an estimated 40,000 people. Chad is the No. 1 recipient of French weapons in

Off the Record

'Beastly priest'

HOUMA, Louisiana: A Roman Catholic priest who prosecutors said had sex with an altar boy for six years was convicted Tuesday night of rape, and will be sentenced to life in prison without parole, reports AP.

Prosecutors said Robert Melancon had intercourse with the youth after weddings and funerals, sometimes two and three times a month, in the rectory of Annunziata Catholic Church.

The rapes took place between 1985, when the boy was 8 years old, until 1991, when the priest left for another church, prosecutors said.

The verdict came despite a parade of defence witnesses who said they rarely saw the alleged victim in the Annunziata rectory and that Melancon's accuser once named another priest as the molester.

Melancon, 60, denied the charges. His lawyers promised an appeal. Sentencing was set for Aug. 12.

Melancon's accuser, now 19, told police Melancon had raped him repeatedly between 1985 and 1991. Another young man also testified, saying he, too, had sexual contact with Melancon.

Planked by his parents, the accuser made the sign of the cross as the jury filed back into the courtroom after less than two hours of deliberations. After the verdict, he burst into tears as his therapist sat by his side.

Desperately seeking mom

GUADALAJARA, Mexico: Eight year old Elmer Javier Licona missed his mother so much that he set out from his Honduran home with no money on a 2,000-mile (3,200-kilometer) trek to find her in California, reports AP.

He had no address, but knew that his mother, Martha Serana, had headed north five months ago to find work and believed she was in the Los Angeles area. Mexican authorities said Tuesday.

He didn't reach her. But he did manage to hitchhike more than 1,000 miles (1,600) and cross two national borders before officials found him in this north-central Mexican city.

The child was in a city shelter in Guadalajara on Tuesday while Honduran and Mexican officials decided what to do with him.

The boy showed no signs of mistreatment during the journey, said Javier Duenas Garcia, regional chief for the federal immigration department.

Elmer, who had been living with his grandmother, set out last week from his home near San Marcos in Honduras, persuading truck and car drivers to give him rides and food.

Elmer went to the international airport here Friday, slipped past guards and began asking pilots of small planes for a lift.

Rebuffed, he asked pilots of jetliners.

Immigration officials at the airport spotted the boy and gave him food, candy and a Mickey Mouse watch before turning him over to the city's children's shelter.

Duenas said the boy told immigration officials that if he could not continue his trip to see his mother, he would like to stay in Guadalajara. He said he knew how to fix bicycles and asked permission to learn to type so that he could help at the immigration office.

Man who never saw a doctor before

BEIJING: A centenarian living in east China's Jiangxi province had never seen doctor in this century until he recently went to a hospital to treat a cough and fever, reports Xinhua.

Wu Donglian, who is retired from a water transportation company in Zhangshu city, was diagnosed with a respiratory tract infection. But doctors said that Wu was as healthy as most middle-aged men, the Beijing-based Workers' Daily reported Thursday.

With a straight back and thick hair, Wu could still carry 50-kilogram (110 pounds) objects, the paper said.

Wu's 94-year-old wife and a son, who is now over 70, are also in good health, according to the report.

11 killed in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, June 19: Security forces ambushed Tamil Tiger guerrillas in northeastern Sri Lanka, killing at least five rebels as the militants gunned down six civilians in the region, the defence ministry said today, reports AP.

Government forces attacked the guerrillas of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the district of Trincomalee and destroyed three abandoned rebel hide-outs on Tuesday, the ministry said.

It said there were no casualties among the security forces but the Tigers fired automatic weapons and killed six employees of the survey general's department in the same district on Tuesday.

Gunmen kill 7 Russian soldiers

MOSCOW, June 19: Seven Russian soldiers were killed and four wounded when unidentified attackers opened fire with grenades and automatic rifles on an armoured troop carrier in Ingushetia, Interfax News Agency said today, reports AP.

The ambush late Tuesday in the autonomous republic in the Russian Caucasus was so sudden that the soldiers in the armoured personnel carrier did not have time to fire back. Interfax reported, Ingushetia borders on Chechnya where separatist forces have been fighting the Russian army for 18 months, and has close ethnic links with the rebels.

The troops were travelling from a hilltop checkpoint to their base in the main Ingush town of Nazran when they were hit by rocket propelled anti tank grenades and automatic rifle fire, the agency said.

The attackers seized five rifles, a machinegun and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

Japan may take strong action if Suu Kyi held

TOKYO, June 19: Japan's top spokesman warned the Myanmar military junta today that his country may take strong action if pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi is arrested, reports AP.

"We've been calling for restraint of the Myanmar government while showing some understanding, but in case of an arrest, we would not be able to keep the current approach," Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiroku Kajiyama told a news conference.

Kajiyama was referring to a major Japanese newspaper report Wednesday that the military junta was likely to arrest Aung San Suu Kyi later this week.

Possible Japanese action against the junta is expected to be a review of its grant-in-aid to the country, Japanese media said.

Arms sellers share responsibility for HR abuses: AI report

LONDON, June 19: The United States and other developed nations that train and supply foreign security forces bear "a heavy responsibility" when those forces oppress and torture their people, Amnesty International said Tuesday, reports AP.

In its annual report on human rights abuses, Amnesty International focused criticism on the world's biggest weapons dealers: the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia.

"These countries... bear a heavy responsibility when human rights abuses are committed by police security or military, personnel whom they have supplied and assisted," the report said.

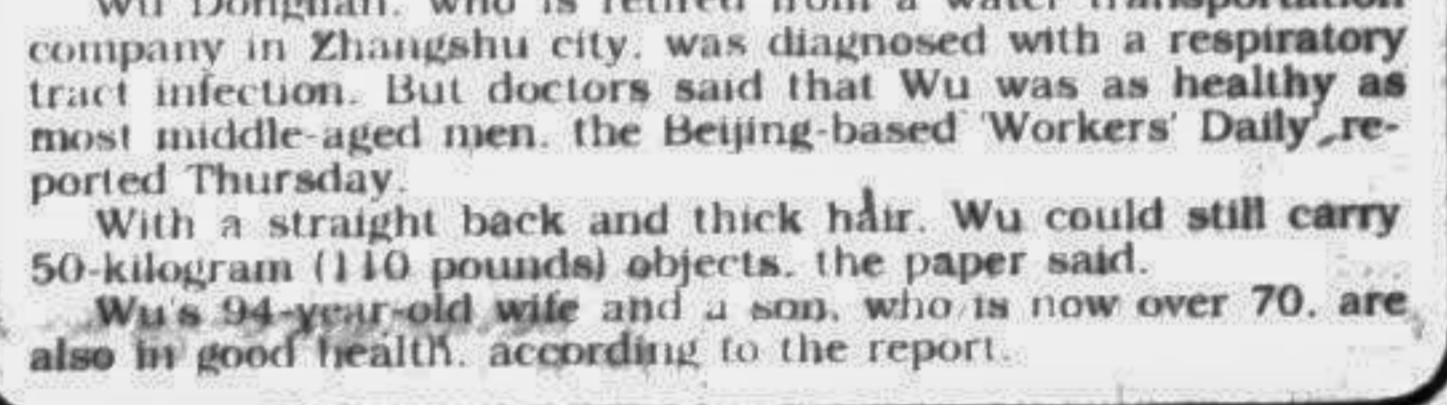
Pierre Sane, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said arms producers often try to abdicate responsibility for atrocities by claiming they are "local affairs" over which they have no influence.

"But who is arming and training those committing the atrocities?" he asked.

Amnesty International cited a number of examples:

— Armoured personnel carriers and helicopters from the United States, France and Russia were used by Turkish forces to attack civilians in remote Kurdish villages.

— The United States, France and Iraq, among others, supplied and trained Chad's security forces in the 1980s when those forces killed an estimated 40,000 people. Chad is the No. 1 recipient of French weapons in



Arms sellers share responsibility for HR abuses: AI report

LONDON, June 19: The United States and other developed nations that train and supply foreign security forces bear "a heavy responsibility" when those forces oppress and torture their people, Amnesty International said Tuesday, reports AP.

In its annual report on human rights abuses, Amnesty International focused criticism on the world's biggest weapons dealers: the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia.

"These countries... bear a heavy responsibility when human rights abuses are committed by police security or military, personnel whom they have supplied and assisted," the report said.

Pierre Sane, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said arms producers often try to abdicate responsibility for atrocities by claiming they are "local affairs" over which they have no influence.

"But who is arming and training those committing the atrocities?" he asked.

Amnesty International cited a number of examples:

— Armoured personnel carriers and helicopters from the United States, France and Russia were used by Turkish forces to attack civilians in remote Kurdish villages.

— The United States, France and Iraq, among others, supplied and trained Chad's security forces in the 1980s when those forces killed an estimated 40,000 people. Chad is the No. 1 recipient of French weapons in

Arms sellers share responsibility for HR abuses: AI report

LONDON, June 19: The United States and other developed nations that train and supply foreign security forces bear "a heavy responsibility" when those forces oppress and torture their people, Amnesty International said Tuesday, reports AP.

In its annual report on human rights abuses, Amnesty International focused criticism on the world's biggest weapons dealers: the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia.

"These countries... bear a heavy responsibility when human rights abuses are committed by police security or military, personnel whom they have supplied and assisted," the report said.

Pierre Sane, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said arms producers often try to abdicate responsibility for atrocities by claiming they are "local affairs" over which they have no influence.

"But who is arming and training those committing the atrocities?" he asked.

Amnesty International cited a number of examples:

— Armoured personnel carriers and helicopters from the United States, France and Russia were used by Turkish forces to attack civilians in remote Kurdish villages.

— The United States, France and Iraq, among others, supplied and trained Chad's security forces in the 1980s when those forces killed an estimated 40,000 people. Chad is the No. 1 recipient of French weapons in

Arms sellers share responsibility for HR abuses: AI report

LONDON, June 19: The United States and other developed nations that train and supply foreign security forces bear "a heavy responsibility" when those forces oppress and torture their people, Amnesty International said Tuesday, reports AP.

In its annual report on human rights abuses, Amnesty International focused criticism on the world's biggest weapons dealers: the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia.

"These countries... bear a heavy responsibility when human rights abuses are committed by police security or military, personnel whom they have supplied and assisted," the report said.

Pierre Sane, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said arms producers often try to abdicate responsibility for atrocities by claiming they are "local affairs" over which they have no influence.

"But who is arming and training those committing the atrocities?" he asked.

Amnesty International cited a number of examples:

— Armoured personnel carriers and helicopters from the United States, France and Russia were used by Turkish forces to attack civilians in remote Kurdish villages.

— The United States, France and Iraq, among others, supplied and trained Chad's security forces in the 1980s when those forces killed an estimated 40,000 people. Chad is the No. 1 recipient of French weapons in

Arms sellers share responsibility for HR abuses: AI report

LONDON, June 19: The United States and other developed nations that train and supply foreign security forces bear "a heavy responsibility" when those forces oppress and torture their people, Amnesty International said Tuesday, reports AP.

In its annual report on human rights abuses, Amnesty International focused criticism on the world's biggest weapons dealers: the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia.

"These countries... bear a heavy responsibility when human rights abuses are committed by police security or military, personnel whom they have supplied and assisted," the report said.

Pierre Sane, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said arms producers often try to abdicate responsibility for atrocities by claiming they are "local affairs" over which they have no influence.

"But who is arming and training those committing the atrocities?" he asked.

Amnesty International cited a number of examples:

— Armoured personnel carriers and helicopters from the United States, France and Russia were used by Turkish forces to attack civilians in remote Kurdish villages.

— The United States, France and Iraq, among others, supplied and trained Chad's security forces in the 1980s when those forces killed an estimated 40,000 people. Chad is the No. 1 recipient of French weapons in

Arms sellers share responsibility for HR abuses: AI report

LONDON, June 19: The United States and other developed nations that train and supply foreign security forces bear "a heavy responsibility" when those forces oppress and torture their people, Amnesty International said Tuesday, reports AP.

In its annual report on human rights abuses, Amnesty International focused criticism on the world's biggest weapons dealers: the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia.

"These countries... bear a heavy responsibility when human rights abuses are committed by police security or military, personnel whom they have supplied and assisted," the report said.

Pierre Sane, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said arms producers often try to abdicate responsibility for atrocities by claiming they are "local affairs" over which they have no influence.

"But who is arming and training those committing the atrocities?" he asked.

Amnesty International cited a number of examples:

— Armoured personnel carriers and helicopters from the United States, France and Russia were used by Turkish forces to attack civilians in remote Kurdish villages.

— The United States, France and Iraq, among others, supplied and trained Chad's security forces in the 1980s when those forces killed an estimated 40,000 people. Chad is the No. 1 recipient of French weapons in

Arms sellers share responsibility for HR abuses: AI report

LONDON, June 19: The United States and other developed nations that train and supply foreign security forces bear "a heavy responsibility" when those forces oppress and torture their people, Amnesty International said Tuesday, reports AP.

In its annual report on human rights abuses, Amnesty International focused criticism on the world's biggest weapons dealers: the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia.

"These countries... bear a heavy responsibility when human rights abuses are committed by police security or military, personnel whom they have supplied and assisted," the report said.

Pierre Sane, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said arms producers often try to abdicate responsibility for atrocities by claiming they are "local affairs" over which they have no influence.

"But who is arming and training those committing the atrocities?" he asked.

Amnesty International cited a number of examples:

— Armoured personnel carriers and helicopters from the United States, France and Russia were used by Turkish forces to attack civilians in remote Kurdish villages.

— The United States, France and Iraq, among others, supplied and trained Chad's security forces in the 1980s when those forces killed an estimated 40,000 people. Chad is the No. 1 recipient of French weapons in

Arms sellers share responsibility for HR abuses: AI report

LONDON, June 19: The United States and other developed nations that train and supply foreign security forces bear "a heavy responsibility" when those forces oppress and torture their people, Amnesty International said Tuesday, reports AP.

In its annual report on human rights abuses, Amnesty International focused criticism on the world's biggest weapons dealers: the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia.

"These countries... bear a heavy responsibility when human rights abuses are committed by police security or military, personnel whom they have supplied and assisted," the report said.

Pierre Sane, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said arms producers often try to abdicate responsibility for atrocities by claiming they are "local affairs" over which they have no influence.

"But who is arming and training those committing the atrocities?" he asked.

Amnesty International cited a number of examples:

— Armoured personnel carriers and helicopters from the United States, France and Russia were used by Turkish forces to attack civilians in remote Kurdish villages.

— The United States, France and Iraq, among others, supplied and trained Chad's security forces in the 1980s when those forces killed an estimated 40,000 people. Chad is the No. 1 recipient of French weapons in

Arms sellers share responsibility for HR abuses: AI report

LONDON, June 19: The United States and other developed nations that train and supply foreign security forces bear "a heavy responsibility" when those forces oppress and torture their people, Amnesty International said Tuesday, reports AP.

In its annual report on human rights abuses, Amnesty International focused criticism on the world's biggest weapons dealers: the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia.

"These countries... bear a heavy responsibility when human rights abuses are committed by police security or military, personnel whom they have supplied and assisted," the report said.

Pierre Sane, Amnesty International's Secretary General, said arms producers often try to abdicate responsibility for atrocities by claiming they are "local affairs" over which they have no influence.

"But who is arming and training those committing the atrocities?" he asked.

Amnesty International cited a number of examples:

— Armoured personnel carriers and helicopters from the United States, France and Russia were used by Turkish forces to attack civilians in remote Kurdish villages.

— The United States, France and Iraq, among others, supplied and trained Chad's security forces in the 1980s when those forces killed an estimated 40,000 people. Chad is the No. 1 recipient of French weapons in