

## International

## BRIEFLY

**Cholera kills 1800 in Nigeria**

A cholera epidemic has killed more than 500 people in the northeastern Nigerian state of Borno since early June, medical officials said Thursday. AFP reports from Lagos.

The Borno deaths brings to more than 1,800 the fatality toll across Nigeria since the start of the year, with the epidemic affecting more than half of the West African country's 30 states. On June 14 a UNICEF report said that 1,342 people had died from the disease out of 23,304 cases detected.

**New Mongolian PM elected**

Mongolia's parliament, the Great Hural, elected M. Enkhbayar yesterday as Prime Minister of the North Asian country. Reuter reports from Mongolia.

Enkhbayar, 41, won a commanding majority with 49 votes for his candidacy with 24 votes cast against him in the Great Hural. Enkhbayar is leader of the Democratic Union coalition which dealt a stunning defeat to the formerly Communist Mongolian Revolutionary People's Party (MPRP) in parliamentary elections held last month.

**2 Filipinos die in chopper crash**

A pilot and his lone passenger died yesterday after the Philippine Air Force helicopter they were flying crashed in the mountainous northern Philippine province of Benguet, rescue officials said. AFP reports from Manila.

The Huey helicopter was flying from an air base in the northern province of La Union and was on its way to a military camp in the province of Nueva Ecija north of Manila when it encountered bad weather, the Manila rescue coordinating centre of the air transport office said.

**Israeli FM to meet Arafat**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Thursday that his Foreign Minister David Levy would meet Palestinian President Yasser Arafat next week. AFP reports from Cairo.

Foreign Minister Levy will meet with Arafat next week. Netanyahu said at a joint press conference with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

**Suu Kyi joins martyr's day ceremony**

Burmese leader and Aung San Suu Kyi attended a sombre Martyr's Day ceremony in Yangon, laying a wreath at the tomb of her father, independence hero Aung San, who was assassinated 49 years ago. AFP reports from Yangon.

Aung San Suu Kyi arrived for the ceremony at Martyr's Mausoleum at the base of Yangon's renowned Shwedagon Pagoda in a Limousine provided by the government, accompanied by seven young girls. The opposition leader left the mausoleum just minutes after laying a wreath to her father.

**Death toll in flood in China 716**

The number of people killed in devastating floods across eight provinces of south and central China has reached 716, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said yesterday. Reuter reports from Beijing.

Nearly four million people have been cut off by flood waters, two million have been forced to leave their homes, 810,000 homes have collapsed and 2.8 million homes have been damaged, the ministry said in a statement.

**Blasts kill 10 in Algiers**

At least 10 people were killed in two bomb attacks, one a car bomb, in the town of Blida, south of the Algerian capital which has been hit with a series of bombings since May, the Daily El Watan said yesterday. AFP reports from Algiers.

Neither of the blasts, which occurred Wednesday, had been reported by officials as of yesterday. Blida is 35 kilometers (21 miles) outside Algiers. At least 10 people were killed in one of the blasts, which hit a busy cafe in downtown Blida Wednesday evening, the paper said.

**Yeltsin invites Suharto to Moscow**

Boris Yeltsin has invited Indonesian President Suharto to visit Moscow, the Russian President's office said Thursday. AP reports from Moscow.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov will deliver Yeltsin's letter and invitation to Suharto during his visit to Indonesia's capital, Jakarta, beginning Friday, a statement from Yeltsin's office said.

# Karadzic removes himself from power: Holbrooke

BELGRADE, July 19. Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic has signed a statement removing himself from public life. His political career came to an end last night.

Holbrooke was speaking to CNN from the Serbian capital Belgrade where he held marathon talks with Milosevic Thursday on removing Karadzic from power.

The statement was signed in Belgrade late Thursday and witnessed by Serbian president Slobodan Milosevic. Holbrooke said.

"As of today Dr Biljana Plavsic has assumed the office of temporary acting president of Republika Srpska until completion of elections on September 14, therefore as of today Dr Karadzic has relinquished the office of president of Republika Srpska," Holbrooke said.

Earlier report says, US envoy Richard Holbrooke today announced he had sealed an agreement removing from

power hardline Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, an indicted war crimes suspect.

Holbrooke said the agreement had been thrashed out during lengthy talks here with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and senior Serb leaders.

The official final version of the text, signed by Karadzic, Milosevic and a raft of senior Bosnian Serb leaders, is as follows:

1) As of July 19, 1996, Dr Biljana Plavsic has assumed the office of temporary acting president of Republika Srpska until completion of the elections of September 14, 1996, scheduled in accordance with the Dayton peace agreement when a new president will be elected.

2) Dr Radovan Karadzic states that he shall withdraw immediately and permanently



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (R) confers with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who pay a visit to Cairo on Thursday for talks, bearing new proposals on Palestinians to prove his seriousness in seeking peace.

— AFP/UNB photo

# ASEAN FMs prepare to take credit for regional peace

JAKARTA, July 19: Foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations gathering for their annual meeting are preparing to take credit for peace and stability in the region, reports AP.

No surprises are expected from the two-day meeting starting Saturday. It will be followed next week by separate but related sessions of the ASEAN Regional Forum, a fledgling security organisation, and talks between the seven ASEAN members and their so-called dialogue partners, which include the world's top economic and military powers.

India and Myanmar are to be inducted as members of the forum. Myanmar will also be come an observer at ASEAN's

deliberations, the step before gaining full membership.

The United States and several European countries are disappointed by ASEAN's willingness to welcome the Yangon regime before it improves its record on human rights and democracy.

Russia, China and India will be formally promoted to full dialogue status with ASEAN, which consists of Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

On hand for the dialogues will be US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

Primakov also will deliver an invitation from Boris Yeltsin

for Indonesian President Suharto to visit Moscow. Suharto, in his first major public appearance since rushing to Germany for a medical examination, opens the ASEAN meeting Saturday.

In their joint communique, the foreign ministers say "the relative peace and stability in the region could be largely attributed to the endeavours of ASEAN to cultivate the habits of dialogue, consensus and cooperation."

However, they acknowledged that tensions existed and expressed concern over the situation in the South China Sea, a reference to overlapping claims to some or all of the Spratly Islands by Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, the Philippines, Vietnam and China.

# 'Arabic newspaper received warning before TWA jet blast'

WASHINGTON, July 19: A major Arabic newspaper received a warning on Wednesday of an attack on an American target from the same group that claimed responsibility for an earlier bombing in Saudi Arabia, ABC News reported on Thursday, says Reuter.

John McWethy, ABC's national security correspondent, reported that the warning, in Arabic, said there would be an attack on an American target and predicted it would occur about the time the TWA jetliner with 228 persons aboard exploded over Long Island, New York.

ABC did not name the Arabic newspaper — which received the warning at its overseas offices, including Washington — at the newspaper's request out of fear of retaliation, sources said.

It said the "very specific warning" was given by a group calling itself the "Movement for Islamic Change", the same group that claimed responsibility for an earlier bombing in Saudi Arabia that killed five Americans in November.

The written warning "was apparently not passed along to authorities," the network said.

"In Arabic, it warned there would be a strike at an American target and then in chilling specifics, said: 'All will be surprised by the size of the attack, the place and the time,' adding: 'The time will be tomorrow morning and tomorrow morning is soon.' When TWA Flight 800 exploded on Wednesday night," because of the time differences, it was already tomorrow morning in the Middle East," ABC said.

There was no immediate

comment from the State Department.

AFP adds from Morches, New York: Rescue crews searching for survivors of a TWA jumbo jet that exploded and crashed into the Atlantic with 228 people aboard, are keeping a lookout for a container of blood infected with the AIDS virus the US Coast Guard said.

The white container is filled with eight liters (two gallons) of blood infected with the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) which causes AIDS the Coast Guard said.

They did not specify why the container was aboard the TWA Boeing 747 that exploded in a fireball and plunged into the ocean shortly after taking off from New York's Kennedy International Airport late Wednesday.

There was no immediate

reaction to the warning, but the container was aboard the TWA Boeing 747 that exploded in a fireball and plunged into the ocean shortly after taking off from New York's Kennedy International Airport late Wednesday.

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