

## International

## BRIEFLY

## Deuba arrives in Pakistan

Nepalese Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba was warmly received by his Pakistani counterpart Benazir Bhutto when he arrived in Islamabad Friday for talks aimed at promoting trade and economic ties, officials said. AFP reports from Islamabad.

Deuba, the first democratically elected Nepalese Prime Minister to visit Pakistan, is responding to an invitation by Bhutto who visited Nepal in May 1994. Formal talks between the two premiers will be held on Saturday when Deuba will also meet Pakistani President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, officials said.

## 8 buried alive in France

Eight people were buried alive when a violent explosion believed caused by gas flattened a house in this eastern French town, firemen said early yesterday. AFP reports from Sarreguemines, France.

They said the eight remained buried for several hours after the blast, which was heard all over the town.

Rescue workers dug out a 65-year-old woman who was rushed to hospital where both her legs were amputated.

## Diana's trip to Sydney ends

The Princess of Wales concluded the official portion of her three-day trip to Sydney when she visited more than 100 patients at the Sacred Heart hospice on Saturday morning. AP reports from Sydney.

Diana met with patients in the inner-city hospice's day care unit and those in two other wards for around 90 minutes. Around 250 people outside the hospice greeted her arrival and two drag queens shouted "Di, Di, we love you, Di" as Diana stepped out of her limousine.

## 8 killed in Somalia

At least eight people were killed and 13 others injured on Friday during a heavy mortar and artillery exchange between militia supporters of two Somali factions in South-Mogadishu, AFP reports from Mogadishu.

Most of the shells landed on residential areas of the war-torn city's southern districts.

## Plane crash kills 14 in Guatemala

Fortyteen people were killed Friday when their turbo-prop plane crashed into Lake Peten-Itza in northern Guatemala, civil aviation officials said. AFP reports from Guatemala.

The 14 included 13 Guatemalans and an American woman, officials said. The cause of the crash, which took place at 1405 GMT, was under investigation, said civil aviation chief Juan Luis Munoz. The pilot did not make contact with the nearby airport, Santa Elena, to report mechanical trouble, Munoz said.

## Frank Sinatra hospitalised

Legendary singer Frank Sinatra was admitted to the hospital on Friday suffering from a pinched nerve, his publicist said. Reuters reports from Los Angeles.

Susan Reynolds said the singer, who will be 81 next month, was in the Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre in Beverly Hills undergoing tests. "It's a pinched nerve, that's all there is," she said, declining to elaborate.

## Morocco's ex-PM passes away

Maati Bouabid, Morocco's prime minister from 1979 to 1983, died Friday after suffering a heart attack, his political party said. He was 69, AP reports from Rabat.

Bouabid, head of the Constitutional Union party since it was founded in 1983, held several ministerial posts beginning in 1958 including labour, social affairs and justice. His party is currently a member of the governing coalition.

## Road mishap claims 39 in Peru

A bus plunged off a cliff near Lima Friday, leaving at least 39 people dead and 15 injured, police said. AFP reports from Lima.

The crash occurred near the towns of San Antonio and Matucana 244 kilometres (150 miles) east of Lima.

The bus, which was carrying about 60 passengers, lost control, rolled several times and plunged 500 metres (1,650 feet), police said.

Local residents helped rescue the injured.

A police team which specialises in traffic accidents arrived on the scene to determine the cause of the accident.

## Quake shakes Japan

An earthquake registering 5.0 on the Richter Scale shook eastern Japan's Izu group of islands, south of Tokyo, on Saturday, but there was no danger of tsunami tidal waves, the Meteorological Agency said. AFP reports from Tokyo.

## Israel, PA may sign Hebron accord during Cairo confce

JERUSALEM, Nov 2: Israel and the Palestinians are close to finalising an accord on an Israeli troop pullback from Hebron and it will be signed during the November 12-14 economic conference in Cairo, Israeli radio said today, reports AFP.

In contrast to the Israeli optimism, the Palestinian leadership charged that Israel's right-wing government was holding up an accord by rejecting commitments already undertaken by the previous Labour administration.

The radio, citing US diplomatic sources, said US Secretary of State Warren Christopher was expected to attend a signing ceremony in Cairo.

Israel was scheduled to pull out of 80 per cent of Hebron in March, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been de-

manding greater security guarantees for the 400 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank City.

Earlier AP says: American mediator Dennis Ross is likely to rejoin negotiations next week between Israel and the Palestinians with the hope of completing an accord on the future of the West Bank town of Hebron, reports AP.

The unannounced target date for the long-elusive agreement is November 12, when Israelis and Arabs are due to hold an economic conference in Cairo, Egypt, according to diplomatic sources.

An agreement on Hebron would be celebrated there, with Secretary of State Warren Christopher heading the US delegation, said the sources, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The accord would give the Arabs impetus to resume expanding economic ties with Israel. Arab countries have slowed down or stopped their economic dealings with Israel until they are convinced Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's hardline government will give up ground as his predecessor's did.

US State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said Friday. Ross had been in touch with the two sides and planned to speak to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on the telephone this weekend.

The negotiators are taking a break Friday and Saturday for the Muslim and Jewish Sabbaths.

On Wednesday, Ross said Israel and the Palestinians were close to an agreement and most issues were resolved.

## Row over expulsion of embassy staff

## Pakistan rejects Indian protest

ISLAMABAD, Nov 2: Pakistan on Friday rejected an Indian protest over the expulsion of its embassy official in Islamabad on alleged charges of espionage, reports AFP.

The concern expressed by the Indian Ministry of External Affairs is misplaced, a foreign office spokesman said in a statement.

India lodged the protest after Pakistan expelled A K Wahi, a non-diplomatic staffer at the Indian High Commission last week, claiming he was caught by the Islamabad police while purchasing information of a sensitive nature from his local contacts.

The foreign office had said Wahi "confessed" he was an agent of the Indian secret service. Research and Analysis Wing RAW.

Wahi's expulsion came a day after a Pakistan embassy official, Hafiz Mushtaq Ahmed Khoso, was "abducted" by Indian intelligence in New Delhi on October 25 and declared persona non grata on similar charges.

## Jayewardene's funeral tomorrow

COLOMBO, Nov 2: One of former Sri Lankan Presidents Junius Jayewardene's eyes have been sent to Japan, the local eye donation society here said today, reports AFP.

Jayewardene is to be given a state funeral on Monday and hundreds of mourners were seen lining up at his residence here to pay their last respects to Sri Lanka's first executive president.

Khoso returned late Friday, saying he was coerced into signing the confession.

The foreign office accused India of making a big issue out of the apprehension and expulsion of one of their own officials who is a confirmed RAW agent and was caught red-handed.

"India is trying to divert attention from the indefensible action of its intelligence agencies" against Khoso and was "conveniently ignoring" his kidnapping, the Pakistani spokesman said.

"Khoso was physically man-handled and assaulted before his release the next morning," the spokesman said adding he was "coerced to make a false confession which was videotaped".

## Rwandan troops enter Goma

## US strongly advises Rwanda not to make invasion attempt into Zaire

WASHINGTON, Nov 2: The United States on Friday strongly advised Rwanda's military not to attempt an invasion into neighbouring Zaire, the State Department said, reports AFP.

Following the recent incursion of Rwandan troops into Zairean territory, Washington made a clear denunciation to the Rwandan government that it ought to restrain its own military. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"We recognise the current borders of Zaire and they ought to be respected," he said, adding that the United States has "ongoing concern" about the stability of Zaire.

Burns said that US ambassadors in Kigali and Kinshasa were involved "on a daily basis"

with efforts to get both governments to stop the fighting, and that a State Department official would visit the region next week. He declined to identify the official.

Burns said he could not confirm reports from humanitarian sources that Rwandan soldiers had entered the Zairean city of Goma on Friday.

Meanwhile, the UN envoy to the region, Canadian ambassador to the United States Raymond Chretien, will meet on Monday at the state department with Peter Tarnoff, Assistant Secretary for Political Affairs, and George Moose, Assistant Secretary for Africa.

Burns also reaffirmed US support for a regional African conference to seek a solution to the conflict.

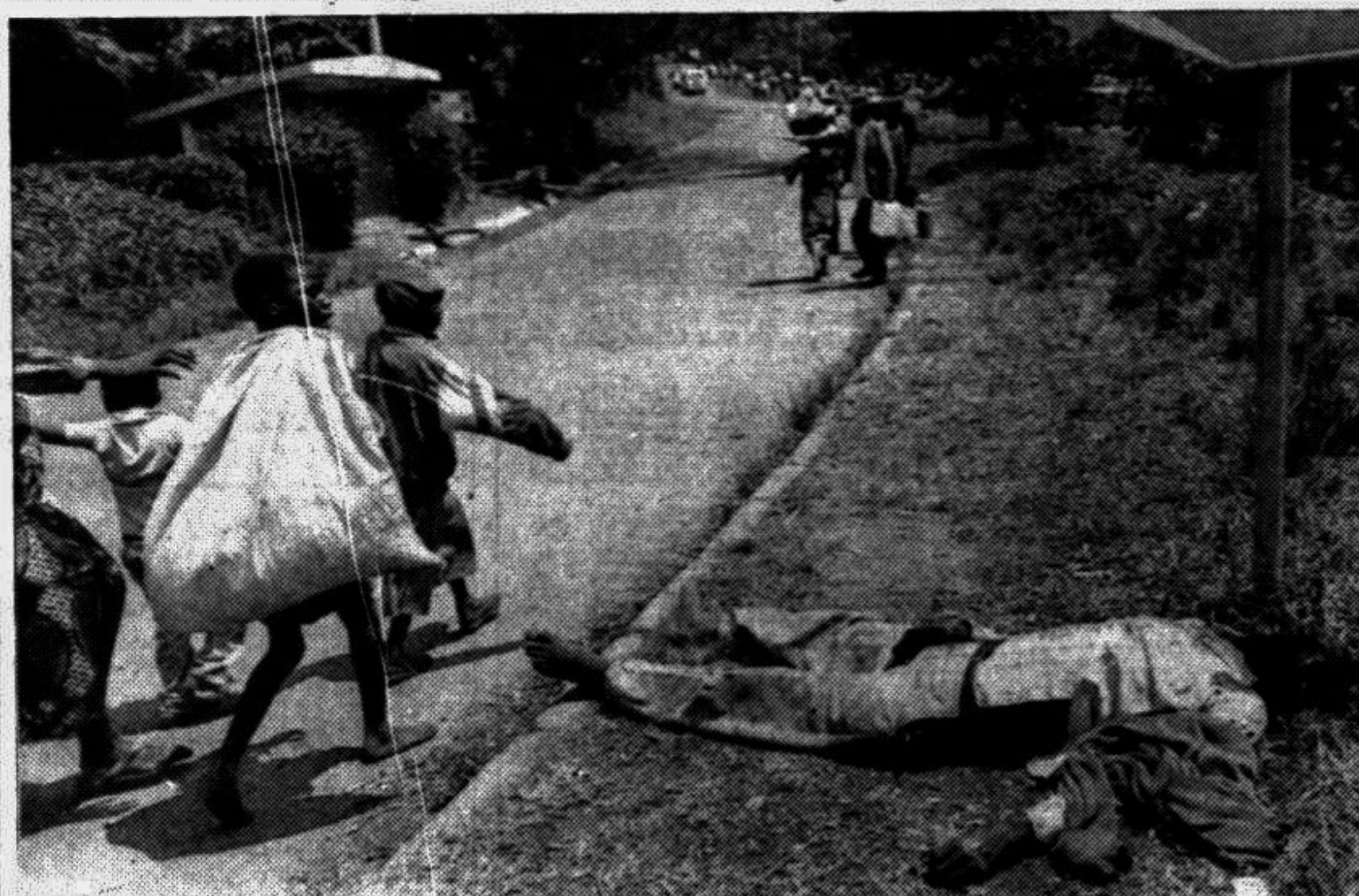
Meanwhile the Zairean gov-

ernment, faced by fighting in the east of the country, said Friday it had decided to deport Rwandan and Burundian Hutu refugees from Zaire "progressively and by force."

In a statement issued after a cabinet meeting, the transitional Zairean government said that it had decided to start turning "progressively and by force" all the Rwandan and Burundian refugees on its territory.

Zaire has since last year several times started moving small numbers of refugees out of the camps that were set up in eastern Zaire in 1994.

More than one million Rwandan and Burundian refugees, mainly Hutus, have taken refuge in eastern Zaire since July 1994.



A group of children walk past the body of a man that was hit by a bullet as part of Rwandan Gisenyi residents fleeing the shelling of their town, on Friday, that injured five people as a result. Rwanda and Zaire troops exchanged mortar and anti-aircraft fire for a few hours with shells falling both on Goma in Zaire and Gisenyi in Rwanda.

— AFP/UNB photo

## Beijing elects committee to select chief executive of HK

BEIJING, Nov 2: Hong Kong came a step closer Saturday toward knowing who will lead it into Chinese rule next year, with the election in Beijing of a committee to select the Chief Executive, reports AP.

The selection of the Chief Executive is one of the most closely followed issues in Hong Kong ahead of the British colony's return to Chinese rule on July 1, 1997.

Replacing the British governor as Hong Kong's top official, the Chief Executive will be expected to hold China to its promise that the territory can keep its capitalist system and a "high degree of autonomy" after the handover.

The Chief Executive is expected to be chosen before the end of the year by a 400-member Selection Committee.



Former US president Gerald Ford (L), US Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole (2nd-L), Elizabeth Dole (2nd-R) and former US president George Bush (R) listen as they are introduced at a Dole/Kemp campaign rally in president Ford's hometown of Grand Rapids, Michigan, on Friday. Dole is starting a marathon 96-hour campaign trip across the United States.

— AFP/UNB photo

## Taliban down plane

KABUL, Nov 2: The Taliban militia ruling Kabul said today a warplane which bombed the Afghan capital and killed three children was shot down as it flew back north, reports Reuters.

The official radio, renamed Radio Shariat after Islam's stern law which the Taliban want to impose on Afghanistan, said the plane was brought down by "special guided missiles" after a bombing run over Kabul on Thursday.

It said the pilot was killed when his plane was brought down over the Kohistan mountains north of Kabul after he "bombed Kabul city's residential areas."

There was no independent confirmation of what would be the first known shooting down of a warplane since the Taliban took Kabul on September 27.

A northern alliance between Uzbek leader Abdul Rashid

Dostum and the ousted government's military chief Ahmad Shah Masoud has been battling towards Kabul for the past two weeks.

Dostum, who has a small air force, has conducted several air raids on Kabul over the past week, most of them aimed at the airport on the northeastern edge of the city which is used for both civilian and military traffic.

Although one of first bombs landed at night in a city centre park, there had been no civilian casualties in the raids until Thursday.

But then one plane dropped two 250 kg (550 lb) bombs on a northwestern residential area, destroying two houses, killing three children and wounding seven people, some seriously.

Local people said the attack was probably aimed at a nearby military base.

## Rutskoi moves to make peace with Yeltsin

MOSCOW, Nov 2: Alexander Rutskoi, the ousted vice president who led an armed rebellion against Boris Yeltsin in 1993, says he ready to make peace with the ailing Russian leader, reports AP.

Rutskoi, who was recently elected governor of the Kursk region, assured Yeltsin's chief of staff, Anatoly Chubais, on Friday that he would abstain from political confrontations.

Chubais said he welcomed Rutskoi's "eagerness to constructively cooperate with Moscow and strictly implement presidential decrees and government resolutions."

Rutskoi, Yeltsin's former vice president, won a landslide victory earlier this month in elections for the governor of Kursk, an economically depressed region in southern Russia. Yeltsin congratulated him on the victory.

According to Chubais, Rutskoi even said he wanted to meet with Yeltsin, who is now awaiting heart surgery, and wished the president speedy recovery.

Rutskoi led the hard-line opposition to Yeltsin in 1993, when the president dissolved Russia's Soviet-era parliament. The confrontation led to bloodshed in Moscow on October 3-4, 1993, with Yeltsin sending in tanks and troops to crush the armed hard-liners.

Dozens of people died in the clash. Rutskoi, an air force veteran and once Yeltsin's close ally, was jailed along with other ringleaders, but was later pardoned by the country's new parliament.

Rutskoi voiced regret on Friday that he and Yeltsin had failed to find a way to resolve their differences peacefully in 1993. ITAR-Tass reported.

## Driver of explosives-laden truck held KSA detaining 40 Saudis involved in Dhahran blast

WASHINGTON, Nov 2: A man believed to have driven the explosives-laden truck that destroyed part of a housing complex in Dhahran last June, killing 19 Americans, is being held by Saudi officials, The Washington Post reported Friday, says AP.

The man is among 40 Saudi citizens now detained because Saudi officials believe they were involved in the truck bombing, according to the newspaper, quoting sources they did not name.

The newspaper quoted sources as saying that the investigation inside Saudi Arabia had been completed, but that there was evidence as well that implicates both Iran and Syria.

But in the Saudi capital of Riyadh, Saudi security sources said Friday the investigation into the June 25 bombing is still under way and authorities are questioning dozens of detainees.

Many of the suspects had connections to Iran, said the

sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity. They did not elaborate.

Earlier this week, FBI officials decided to pull out the last of the agents sent to Saudi Arabia to help with the bombing investigation, a US law enforcement official who requested anonymity, disclosed Friday.

The decision to withdraw was made by FBI Director Louis Freeh, who had become frustrated in his efforts to persuade Saudi officials to let the agents participate fully in the investigation, the official said.

Despite two trips by Freeh to the kingdom to appeal to top Saudi officials, FBI agents in Riyadh were never allowed to interrogate any suspects in the case and did not have full access to the Saudis information, this official said.

Immediately after the bombing more than 70 FBI agents were sent to help, the largest contingent ever sent abroad

## Off the Record

## Fergie denies her suicide report

LONDON: The Duchess of York on Friday denied a report that she said she would have committed suicide in 1992 if it had not been for her daughters, a news agency said, reports AP.

The suicide claim came from a book being published this month that the duchess tried to ban, the tabloid Daily Mail said. It quoted author Alan Starkie, described as a former friend.

Later Friday, the national news agency Press Association quoted an unidentified spokesman for the duchess as calling the report "absolutely ludicrous."

The spokesman insisted she had never contemplated killing herself, the agency said.

The Daily Mail says Starkie quotes the duchess as saying: "If it weren't for the children, the only answer would be to kill myself."

The paper quotes Starkie's book, "Fergie: Her Secret Life", as saying the distraught duchess made the remark while she was stranded between her husband, Prince Andrew, and her erstwhile American lover John Bryan as her debts soared to millions.

## Village on sale!

BERLIN: An entire village, complete with castle, about 50 houses, a farm and woodland, is up for sale, the office responsible for privatisation in the former East Germany said on Friday, reports AFP.

According to a spokesman Wolf Schoede, who did not reveal the asking price, the best way of keeping intact the village of Liebenberg, with its 350 inhabitants, is to sell it as a unit.

Otherwise, he said there was a strong risk that only the "best parts" of the village, 60 kilometres (38 miles) north of Berlin, would be sold.

The 1,500 hectare (3,700 acre) site, which formerly belonged to an aristocratic family, was confiscated during the Soviet occupation in 1947, then handed to the East German Communist Party during the 1940s.

Following German reunification in 1989, the former owners had no right of restitution because the property had been expropriated before the creation of the former East Germany in 1949.

Since then efforts to sell or rent out the village have failed to produce a solution. Residents, who have expressed fears they will be driven from their homes, were informed by letter of the decision to sell their village, Schoede said.

## Man underwent operation to remove knife from his brain

SAO PAULO: A Brazilian man underwent a successful nine-hour operation to remove a knife lodged in his brain since a bar brawl, Globo television said on Friday, reports Reuters.

Construction worker Sidney de Queiroz has been paralysed on the right side of his body since he was stabbed in a fight over a 5 dollar debt two weeks ago.

Doctors had to cut open the man's skull and remove the blade with special tweezers. X-ray images showed the five-inch (13 cm) blade completely buried between Queiroz's right eye and the bridge of his nose, just two millimetres from the main arteries that supply blood to the brain.

"No artery was cut in the operation — that was the greatest worry," neurologist Luiz Alcides Manreza told Globo. Queiroz was expected to be released in two weeks before the operation, he had told doctors he wanted everything to be done as quickly as possible so he could get back to work.



Diana, Princess of Wales, smiles as she meets wellwishers outside St. Vincent's hospice in Sydney on Saturday — her last official engagement in Australia. Diana departs Sydney today after a four-day private visit.

— AFP/UNB photo

## Legal immigration to US reaches record high

WASHINGTON, Nov 2: Legal emigration to the United States is at a record high, jumping significantly during the first half of the 1990s, reports USIS.

And according to the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS), the trend is likely to continue throughout the rest of the decade.

During the 1980s, more than 7 million people emigrated to the United States, more than at any other time except for the first decade of this century, when 8 million people arrived.

Thus far in the 1990s, however, the emigration rate to the United States is at an even higher rate than at the beginning of the century, when the demand for labour to supply the nation's infant industrial economy was high. According to the INS, from 1990 through 1994 alone, legal immigration totaled more than 6 million.

A new law to deter illegal immigrants — estimated to be more than 300,000 annually — and changes in the regulations governing legal immigrants are not expected to alter the increased flow, since no new restrictions were placed on the total number of legal immigrants allowed, an INS spokesperson said in a recent interview.

The law toughening measures against illegal immigrants was enacted September 30. "It strengthens the rule of law by cracking down on illegal immigration at the border, in the workplace, and in the criminal justice system, without punishing those living in the United States legally," President Clinton said after signing the legislation, which was part of a larger omnibus bill.

Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole, who supported the law, has made illegal immigration an issue during the campaign, particularly in California. But he also has stressed his support for legal immigration. In San Jose, October 27, Dole spoke in front of a banner which proclaimed, "celebrating Legal Immigration: The American Dream."

In addition to the measures taken against illegal immigra-

tion, the new law imposes some new requirements on would-be legal immigrants, the INS spokesperson said, "mostly with regard to family-sponsored immigrants who now will need legally binding affidavits of support from sponsors, whose incomes must exceed the federal poverty level by at least 25 per cent."

There also are new restrictions on assistance to legal immigrants already in the country who are not US citizens, as a result of the passage of the welfare reform bill. But the overall, allowable levels of legal immigration have not changed.

According to INS data, the vast majority of legal immigrants admitted to the United States are found eligible on the basis that they have relatives in the country, or because they have employment skills that are in demand. There are precise, objective criteria that would be entrants have to meet.

A new immigration act passed in 1990 dealt with those anomalies and was designed to attract more skilled workers, according to the INS spokesperson.

The 1990 law made provision for:

- The number of immigrants based on family associations in the United States to remain unchanged.
- Immigration based on employment skills to be increased.
- Admission of "diversity immigrants" from under-represented countries. Under the new law, immigrants from Ireland, Belgium and 32 other countries were to be allowed into the United States as immigrants who were "disadvantaged" by the 1965 Immigration Reform Act.

The 1990 act also repealed the provision, known as the McCarran-Walter Act, that permitted the exclusion of aliens on foreign policy grounds, such as having ties to Communist organizations. Other restrictions based on beliefs and sexual orientation also were removed.

Four federal departments have primary responsibilities for admission of legal immigrants and refugees into the United States. They are:

- The Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS), an agency of the US Department of Justice, is charged with administration of immigration laws. INS determines the eligibility of people seeking entry into the United States, both would-be immigrants and refugees.

- The Bureau of Consular Affairs, US Department of State, is responsible for controlling the number of immigrant visas issued. The Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration handles refugee admission.

- The Office of Refugee Settlement and The Office of Refugee Health, both in the Department of Health and Human Services, assist refugee settlement.

- The US Department of Labour is responsible for foreign labour certification for would-be immigrants seeking entry on the basis of employment skills.

Immigration is not just a federal mandate, however. State agencies also play a role, particularly with regard to providing assistance.

To be eligible for US citizenship, with the right to vote in national as well as local elections, immigrants must be permanent residents of the United States for at least five years. The process of becoming a citizen in known as naturalisation. When it is complete, naturalised citizens have all the rights granted to native-born US citizens, except the right to run for president.

Immigrants to the United States do not remain disenfranchised, as is required by the immigration regulations of many other countries.

While the US Constitution does not specifically address the power to control immigration, it does deal with naturalisation. In order to become citizens, immigrants must:

- Have been lawfully admitted into the United States.
- Have demonstrated "good moral character" during their residence.
- Have shown they are literate and understand the basic principles of the US Constitution.

## Kashmiri, Turkish, Palestinian, Mexican newsmen win Press Freedom Awards '96

NEW YORK, Nov 2: A Turkish reporter who chose jail over exile, a Palestinian reporter who challenged censorship and Mexican and Kashmiri journalists who survived assassination attempts were named on Friday as winners of the 1996 International Press Freedom Awards, reports Reuters.

The New York-based committee to protect journalists, which gives the awards, said it will also present a special honour to New York Times publisher Arthur Ochs Sulzberger to mark the 25th anniversary of his paper's decision to publish the Pentagon papers, a secret history of the Vietnam war that the Nixon administration tried to stop from being made public.

The awards will be given at a block-tie dinner in New York on November 26 at which a special tribute will be given in memory of Veronica Guerin, the Irish journalist who won the 1995 Press Freedom Award and who was murdered last June in apparent retribution for her investigation of the drug trade in Ireland.