### International =

Zardari may be poisoned in

jail, fears Benazir

### Researchers detect more evidence of genetic causes behind diabetes

William Perry says

US troops in Asia to defend

China's interest

said on Thursday they had found more evidence of the complex genetic causes behind diabetes and said their findings could help find better treatment for the disease, reports Reuter.

Two separate reports in the science journal nature described genes directly linked to Type-ii diabetes, which affects two per cent of the world's popu-

In this case the variation of type-ii diabetes involved is Maturity-Onset Diabetes of the Young (MODY), caused when a person inherits one copy of a defective gene.

Graeme Bell and colleagues at the University of Chicago found a mutation in gene known as Hepatocyte Nuclear Factor-1 Alpha (HNF-1a), a gene that had been known to have involvement in liver function. also led to diabetes.

A second report found a mutation in another gene, HNF-4a. was also involved.

US military presence in Asia is

in China's interest and is not an

attempt to contain it Defence

Secretary William Perry said

of engagement with China in a

speech here that coincided with

a controversial US visit by

Chinese Defence Minister Gen-

eral Chi Haotian Chief of Staff

of the People's Liberation Army

during the 1989 Tianamen

The visit — the first by a

Chinese Defence Minister since

1984 follows a meeting 10 days

ago in the Philippines between

nese president Jiang Zemin and

a visit to Beijing by Secretary of

Those meetings Perry said.

"make clear that the US-China

relationship is on a path of en-

gagement not a path of con-

China is worry of the US-

Japanese security alliance see-

ing it as an attempt at contain-

ment acknowledged Perry who

said he would seek to persuade

China that Asian security was

presence in the Asia-Pacific re-

gion - the 100,000 military

personnel that we keep based

there prevents the seeds of con-

lict from being sown and pre-

vents the rivalries in the region

from spiralling into arms

The American military

not a "zero sum game."

State Warren Christopher.

President Bill Clinton and Chi-

Perry defended the US policy

Thursday, reports AFP.

Square massacre.

frontation.

that there are many genes acting together to cause late-onset diabetes." said Roger Cox. a molecular biologist at Oxford University, who helped work on the second study. "These are two

Thursday that she feared he might be poisoned. genes in a multi-gene family." "I fear someone may give Cox said the findings would cyanide to Asif Ali Zardari," help doctors target better she told Reuters after a onetreatments for findings which hour talk with her spouse. "I can endanger pregnant women or can lead to blindness, ganhave informed Asif about the

sinister elimination plan but grene and kidney failure. he says 'I am ready for every "It does point to a list of sacrifice for the sake of my genes that we can now go on to country" test," he said. "It opens up a new She described his cell at area of research. Landhi Prison near Karachi as

Diabetes occurs when calls in the pancreas known as islet cells fail to produce insulin properly. Insulin helps regulate blood sugar levels.

provided is the Oxygen that has

fueled the entire region's explo-

sive growth in this last several

decades. The nation whose eco-

nomic growth has benefited

most of all in the last decade

from this Oxygen is China, he

Pakistan blames

India for bomb

blasts in Lahore

ISLAMABAD, Dec 6: Pak

istani caretaker Prime Minis-

ter Malik Meraj Khalid has

blamed India for two bomb

blasts that left about 30 people

injured in Pakistan this week.

press reports said today, reports

Khalid, speaking to re-

porters at Bahawalpur in Pun-

jab province, said on Thursday

that India was involved in the

explosions, the local news

locked in tension after fighting

three wars. The two countries

routinely blamed each other's

intelligence agencies for acts of

a shopping complex in the east-

ern city of Lahore on Tuesday.

Another 17 people were in-jured in southern effy of

Karachi on Wednesday by a

A car-bomb exploded outside

Pakistan and India remain

agency PPI reported.

sabotage and terrorism.

not see it this way.

"Unfortunately, China does

Bell's group said it was not said he was among several peoclear how inheritance of just ple who wanted to eliminate her one bad gene could cause a perhusband. son to HNF-1a could lead to beta The president, once a close cell (the islet cells in the panpolitical ally of Benazir, recreas) disfunction and diamoved her government on disbetes," they wrote. puted charges of corruption and

misrule. The caretaker gov-KARACHI, Pakistan, Dec 6: ernment he appointed has Pakistan's ousted prime minister Benazir Bhutto said after promised to bring undisclosed charges against Benazir and visiting her jailed husband on Zardair.

Benazir accused Leghari of murdering her estranged brother, Murtaza Bhutto, shot dead by police in Karachi on

September 20. "There is no law in the country." Benazir said. "Farooq Leghari is my brother's murderer. He is a worse dictator than (former military ruler General Muhammad) Zia-ul-

Haq."
Murtaza's supporters accuse Zardari of involvement in a conspiracy to kill their leader. He denies the charge.

Leghari's spokesman could not be reached for comment. Zardari's jailers searched a basket of dried and fresh fruit that Benazir had brought for

her husband. Kicking the bars of his cell, Zardari shouted: "Kiye (long

live) Benazir," as she arrived. "The authorities are mentally torturing me," Zardari said. "They want different

statements from me." Zardari, investment minister in his wife's Cabinet, was at the centre of corruption allegations swirling around the ousted government. He and Be-

nazir deny any wrongdoing. Benazir said she had reports that Leghari would be removed between December 25 and 31 because he had failed to produce any proof of the charges he had levelled against her and Zardari.

"The concerned quarters are not happy with Leghari now," she added cryptically, in an apparent reference to the mili-

Benazir said her husband was caged like a convict, but was in good spirits. "Asif is in high morale. He offers prayers in the cage. He has no television or radio," she said.

She said male intelligence agents had stayed nearby while she talked to Zardari through

the bars of his cell. "I could not talk freely with my husband due to bugging devices in and around it," she

"The whole conversation has been taped.'

Armed police guarded the jail and police officers stayed in tough with their superiors in Karachi by hand-held radio

"I am very sorry that the government has given one of the worst treatments in jail to Asif, who is a politician and had been federal minister twice," Benazir said.

"My hands are clean. Leghari, who is the enemy of the Benazir family wants to torture me and punish me. Leghari wants to give as much mental torture to Zardari as possible. am very much disturbed by these tortures." Benazir said.

Bemba, who has never con-

cealed his dislike of Kengo, ac-

Off the Record



US President Bill Clinton speaks with Santa Claus, played by TV personality Willard Scott (R), after lighting the 1996 National Christmas Tree on Thursday in Washington. Clinton took part in a celebration for the first night

of Hanukkah at the White House.

- AFP/UNB photo

### 2,500-yr old relics discovered

HUHHOT: Chinese archaeologists have discovered 2,500year-old relics in north China's inner Mongolia autonomous region, reports Xinhua.

A Mongolian expert from the Regional Archaeology Research Institute said that the relics, found in the northern part of inner Mongolia, included stone spades, stone knives pottery, procelain utensils, potsherds, bon spades, bon knives, Iron hoes, and pieces of knife shaped coins.

A half — buried residence with a mud-walled living room, two fire pits, and ash pit were also unearthed in the area, he

The relics date back to the early Qin dynasty (221-207 BC) and are considered valuable for research on the history of ethnic groups living in the northern part of ancient China, the scholar noted.

### A lesson for child molesters

VALENCIA, Spain: A physical education teacher has been sentenced to 220 years in prison for sexually abusing six boys at the elementary school where he worked, reports AP.

Juan Carrillo Garijo, 35, was sentenced Wednesday after a closed-door trial last week. He pleaded guilty to dozens of charges of sexually abusing six boys between the ages of 8 and 12 from 1991 to 1995, prosecution lawyer Manuel Delgado said

Despite the 220-year sentence. Delgado said Carrillo probably would spend only 15 to 20 years in prison — as is typical for such offenses.

If ever released. Carrillo also would be barred from teaching for six years after leaving prison. Marni. the private school in this southeastern city where Carrillo taught, also was ordered to pay dlrs 8.000 to each victim.

## 'Clean air day'

BUENOS AIRES: Argentina is commemorating 'clean air day in a campaign throughout the country against smoking, reports Xinhua.

Pucho Club' foundation, organisers of the celebration, said

Clean air day is celebrated in Argentina on the third with fresh air and with the freedom we lost when we became

Suu Kyi sides with students

### Tutsi rebels agree to let observers probe into atrocities

### Zaire edging closer to total disintegration tence is threatened," Bemba national unity government

KINSHASA, Dec 6: As rebels carve out territory in the east of WASHINGTON. Dec 6: The The stability that it has the country and President Mobutu Sese Seko sits in his villa in southern France, Zaire seems to be edging closer to total disintegration, reports AFP.

a cage worse than that one in

which she keeps her parrots at

Farooq Leghari a month ago.

Benazir sacked by President

A new power struggle is now looming between Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo and opposition leader Etienne Tshisedeki, who this week won the support of one of Mobutu's closest asso-

Bemba Saolona, president of said. the employers' organisation the Association of Zairean Businesses (ANEZA), called Wednes day for the "constitution of a government of national union headed by a credible figure listened to by the population.

"National reconciliation. necessary for development in times of peace, is even more so when the country's very exis-

The call for a "credible fig ure" was taken as a direct reference to Tshisedeki, who despite

the president had a meeting with him in France two weeks Since then the radical oppo-

sition leader has made no public statement apart from saying that he was prepared to form a

cused the government of failing to prevent the advance of the rebels, whose declared aim is being a longtime opponent of the overthrow of Mobutu. A new government should restore confidence to the army and ensure a decent standard of living for the population while

> bringing about "free," democratic and transparent elections," Bemba said Reuter adds from Washington: Tutsi rebels have agreed to let independent observers investigate allegations of atrocities against civilians in eastern

> > said on Thursday. The rebels have now agreed to allow access to human rights investigators to eastern Zaire. and the rebels have offered assurances that they are committed to cooperating with an international investigation of these political killings. spokesman Nicholas Burns

Zaire, the US State Department

He said this message and communicated to the acting deputy chief of mission at the US Embassy in Kinshasa, who met rebel leader Laurent Kabilla on Wednesday.

"Actions will always be more important than promises but we perhaps have made ... progress on this very important issue." Burns told a news brief

The United States this week voiced concern over mounting evidence" of abuses of civilians by Tutsi rebel fighters known as the Banyamulange in eastern

## against smoking

The Argentine League for Combating Cancer and the 'Chan

smokers must put aside cigarettes for 24 hours in the campaign. They also called on people to stop smoking from today, and to carry a flower in their lapels to half clean air day! " ' ' '

Thursday of every November: It aims to "improve the quality of life, to care for our bodies, to live in health, and to meet again tobacco addicts."

# bomb blast in a government

### Queen's car pelted with eggs: Student protesters pelted a car carrying Britain's Queen Eliza

beth with eggs on Thursday when she visited a university, the media said. Reuter reports from London.

About 200 students thronged around the queen's car as she arrived to open a new humanities department at a university in Manchester, northwest England. They were protesting against government cuts in education spending, media reports said. The students pounded on windows while the queen and her

husband Prince Philip were inside the building until police arrived to push them away, they said

Ghali hails Albright's nomination: UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said Thursday he was delighted for Madeleine Albright, US ambassador to the United Nations, on her nomination as US Secretary of State. AFT reports from United Nations

The said he was delighted for his dear friend Madeleine Albright with whom he always had very warm and cordial relations," said his spokeswoman Sylvana Fao. Albright has played a key role in the move to block a second term for Boutros-Ghali who's mandate expires December 31.

Doctor diagnosed as HIV positive: More than 100 patients who had surgery in two flospital were being called in Thursday for screening after confirmation that a doctor who treated them was diagnosed as carrying the HIV virus which can lead to AIDS, AFP reports from Dublin.

The two hospitals are in the western towns of Limerick and Letterkenny, where 25 and 80 patients respectively are caught up in the alert, health officials said in Dublin

Izetbegovic lauds Bosnia confce: Bosnia President Alija Izetbegovic praised the new tough line on arresting indicted war criminals taken by the delegates at the two day international conference on Bosnia which finished in London Thursday, AFP reports from Sarajevo

He told Bosnian TV that he now warned actions to match words. "Certain measures" were announced, the measures that should lead to bringing the indicted ones in front of the Hague war crimes tribunal, he said

Chinese minister to meet Perry: China's Defence Minister Chi Haotian and US Defence Secretary William Perry will meet Monday for talks that Washington hopes will help stabilise relations and address tough issues, officials said on Thursday. Reuter reports from

Chi and a delegation of 20 Chinese defence and foreign ministries officials were scheduled to arrive in New York Thursday and will meet with US officials Monday and Tuesday.

### Fertiliser scam. Cases filed against Nepal's Agri-Minister

KATHMANDU. Dec 6 Nepal's government corruption control body has filed legal cases against Agriculture Minister Padma Sunder Låwati at the Appellate Court here for his alleged involvement in fer tiliser deal scandals, the local press said today, reports Xin

The Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) Thursday accused Minister Lawati and other 11 senior officials of carrying out finan cial irregularities in three fertiliser deals separately, the re-

LTTE opposes local polls COLOMBO, Dec 6 Tamil Jaffna next month. They said rebels Friday opposed a government plan to hold local

elections for the first time in 13 years in the northern Jaffna Peninsula, which was recently captured by the Sri Lankan mil itary, reports AP. The Tamil Tigers called the election proposal "a conspiracy

Human remains lie on Thursday in a mass grave containing some 50 corpses in the Katale

refugee camp, north of Goma. The grave was discovered about a month after refugees in

the region fled into nearby mountains to escape fighting between mainly Tutsi rebels and

Zairean government troops. Although around 610,000 mainly Hutu refugees have already

crossed back into Rwanda, aid workers estimate some 300,000 still remain in eastern Zaire.

to thrust an administrative machinery on the Jaffna people at gunpoint," according to a statement from the rebels' London office.

Government forces captured the rebel stronghold of Jaffna city last December. They claimed control over the entire peninsula five months later.

In the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo, five Tamil political groups also criticised as premature the plan for elections in

normalcy is yet to be restored and hundreds of thousands of registered voters have been dis-

- AFP/UNB photo

But officials said elections to town and village councils in Jaffna and the other northern districts of Vavuniya and Mannar would give the people a chance to return to representative government.

The guerillas accused the government of human rights violations in the peninsula and cautioned the people against what they called a political trap by the government

The people are living as bonded slaves without fundamental rights and elementary freedoms under an oppressive military regime, the rebel statement said.

### African govts likely to submit new candidates for UN secy gen

UNITED NATIONS. Dec 6: African governments are expected to submit two or three new candidates for the top UN post now that Boutros Boutros-Ghali has "suspended" his bid

for re-election, reports AP. Boutros-Ghali on Wednesday suspended his candidacy for secretary-general in the face of unrelenting US opposition.

In Burkina Faso, African and French heads of state were meeting at the 19th Franco-African summit, and UN diplomats said they expected the session to produce the names of a few new candidates.

### Russia offers to help modernise India's Mig fleet

BANGALORE India, Dec 6 Russia's Mikovan Design Bu reau, or Mig. has offered to help India domestically modernise its fleet of obsolete Mig 21 fighters officials said today reports AFP. Alexander Anikine, direc

tor-general of Mig-Mapo Corp. a Russian consortium, said since India was unable to revamp it fleet of fighters the company was ready to help. We have no restriction in

India doing it with indigenous capability." Anikine said Thursday at the International Aero India '96 airshow in this southern Indian city. The officials also said a pro-

gramme to modernise the Mig-29 frontline aircraft of the Indian Airforce was under consideration and that the Mig

### protesting police action YANGON. Dec 6: Struggling ernment attacked her car. No against a crackdown on her attack.

pro-democracy movement. Aung San Suu Kyi has taken sides with students who staged Myanmar largest protest since the bloody 1988 uprising against military rule, reports

Suu Kyi broke three days of government-imposed house confinement Thursday to attend a friend's wedding and to meet 250 supporters at the home of Tin Oo, a senior leader of her National League for Democracy.

Since police dispersed hundreds of protesting students early Tuesday outside Yangon's holiest shrine, the Shwedagon Pagoda, the authorities had warned Suu Kyi not to leave her home for her own safety. Suu Kyi called the order "illegal confinement.

Breaking the order to attend celebrations of the 1920 student protest against British rule. Suu Kyi said she had no role in the current demonstrations but sympathised with the students. What I understand is that

they were demonstrating against police brutality and injustice," she said. "We're against police brutality and injustice. too. So I could say that we are all on the same side.

To cheers from supporters she said: "I firmly believe that we will be able to set up a democratic government one day."

The regime has increasingly cracked down on Suu Kyi in recent months. Since September. roadblocks have stopped her from holding weekend rallies before thousands of supporters that were virtually her only chance to meet the public.

On November 9, a mob allegedly organised by the gov-

But the Pentagon is now ask

one was seriously hurt. The regime has denied ordering the

There has been no apparent link between Suu Kyi and the students, who have staged two protests since late October stemming from police beating three Rangoon Institute of Technology students after a dispute with a food stall owner.

The protest by 1,000 students this week took on political overtones, however, with some demonstrators carrying banners demanding freedom and human rights. Pictures of independence hero Aung San. Suu Kyi's father, were also seen.

### Pakistan prepares for polls in Feb

ISLAMABAD, Dec 6: Pakistan has begun preparing for general elections in February, but popular interest is focused more on the interim rules' anticorruption, crusade then on the

poll campaign, reports AFP. "Accountability, the official name for a drive launched by the month old caretaker government has caught the imagination of the muslim country since the ouster of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Novem-

An 'Accountability' law was proclaimed by president Farooq Ahmed Leghari after he sacked Bhutto, accusing her government of mismanagement, corruption and lawless-

Work is in full swing and corruption cases will be forwarded to the courts soon, said chief accountability commissioner, Ghulam Mujadid Mirza,

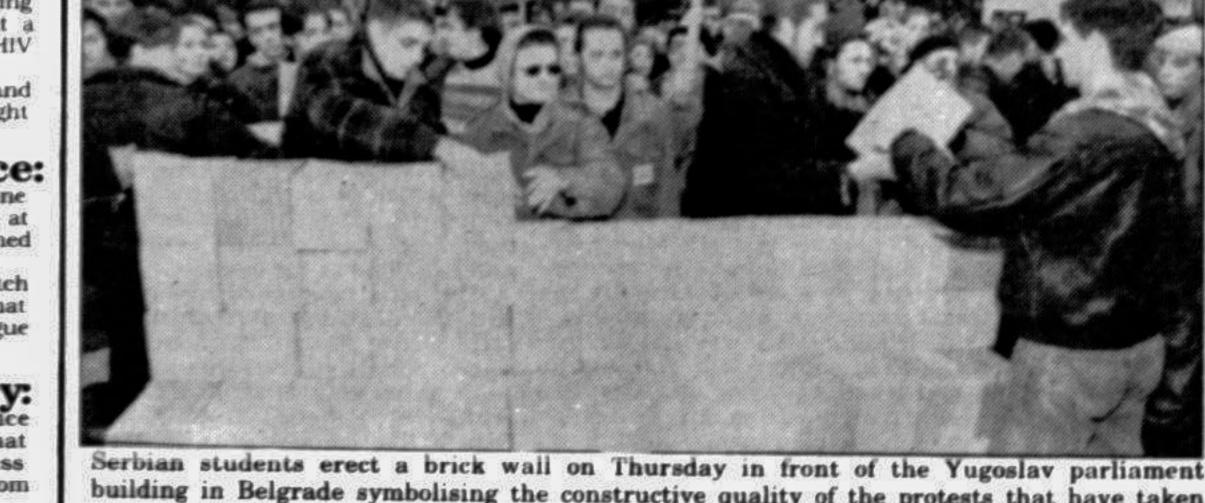
a former Supreme Court Judge. Mirza and the caretaker government have drawn criticisms for alleged tardiness in investigating and prosecuting politicians and civil servants.

But the interim leaders say they are working within the bounds of law, gathering solid evidence to initiate a case and avoiding a with hunt.

Those convicted could face penalties including up to seven years in jail, fine, dismissal from service confiscation of ill gotten wealth and disqualification from politics.

Officials sources said teams from the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) were shifting a mass of records to uncover irregularities and misappropriations of state funds.

Several officials in the pusted government have been detained. They include former Science and Technology Minister Nawaz Khokhar.



building in Belgrade symbolising the constructive quality of the protests that have taken place in the Serbian capital for the past two weeks. Some 100,000 people took to the streets in Belgrade for the 17th day of protest against President Slobodan Milosevic.

- AFP/UNB photo

### T 7 3 7 . UN investigators found sarin at destroyed Iraqi weapons dump: Pentagon has been any effort to conceal a single Gulf War syndrome

WASHINGTON Dec 6: UN CALCUTTA. Dec 6: A cheer investigators have confirmed the presence of the deadly chemical agent sarin at the site order, a further sign that her of an Iraqi weapons dump heart condition is improving blown up by Americans during the Persian Gulf War, the Pentagon said Thursday, reports

> They drilled into a rocket and sarin spurted out of that rocket. Bernard Rostker, the Pentagon's coordinator for Gulf War illnesses, said. "So sarin was present, and they did find a cache of mustard gas.

The Pentagon has previously spoken of chemical agent canisters found by UN investigators at the site of the Kamisiyah ammunition depot, but the detail of sarin shooting out of one of the rockets provided graphic evidence of the chemical's pres

Many Gulf War veterans blame chemical or biological weapon exposure for a series of unexplained illnesses with symptoms that include memory loss, joint and muscle pain, depression skin rashes and chronic fatigue

The Pentagon and the Department of Veterans Affairs. after a slow start, have ac knowledged a serious health problem exists and are conduct ing extensive studies. Other possible causes being examined include experimental vaccines parasites, environmental pollutants, and stress and psychological factors.

The government thus far says it has found no evidence of

And until recent revelations that US troops blew up the Kamisiyah dump in March 1991, the government had denied there was any evidence that Americans might have been exposed to chemical or biological agents.

Rostker said he had no doubt that there were chemical munitions at Kamisiyah. The bunker contained chemical munitions and "we destroyed the bunker. he said. "Well, I guess I have to conclude that there were chemical weapons that were destroyed. It is literally pieces of information like that I have to put together and you have to put

At the same time, the Pentagon again denied that there missing records from March 1991 that could show whether American officers were aware of chemical exposure at the weapons dump in southern The New York Times on

Thursday, and The Birming ham (Alabama) News earlier. pointed out that military logs are missing from eight days during which troops destroyed the weapons cache We aren't holding back any-

thing, said Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon. "We want to get to the bottom of this as quickly and as carefully and as accurately as possible. Our lives would be much easier if there were no facts unexplained Life isn't always that-

posures in field records from Kamisiyah that have so far been examined. The missing data are from computer logs a the Central Command head quarters in Riyadh. Saudi Ara-We aren't shirking from any

is no mention of chemical ex-

finding or any piece of informa tion. But we have not been able to put together a completely comprehensive, seamless story of data for this period. And we may not be able to." Bacon said.

The Pentagon says there is no record of any soldier coming down sick after the Kamisiyah pit and bunker that contained chemical agents were detonated on March 4 and 10.

Bacon pointed out that there ing some 20,000 troops who were in the vicinity of the detonations to contact officials with details of the events and any possible health problems. Until the existence of the Kamisiyah chemicals was an-

nounced by the pentagon last June, the military had denied the existence of any evidence that any Americans were exposed to Iraqi chemical or biological weapons during the war.

Many veterans have questioned why it took the Pentagon so long to reveal possible chemical exposure, and they say chemicals may be behind the chronic health problems still afflicting thousands of Gulf War veterans.

### Mother Teresa improves further ful Mother Teresa chatted past midnight with nuns from her

after two weeks in hospital doctors said Friday, reports AP But doctors want to see her irregular heartbeat stabilize before releasing her. We don't have any estimate of time of her recovery "said US cardiac spe-

cialist Patricia Aubanel

said they might consider a weekend release for the 86year-old Catholic nun On Thursday, she walked about 20 feet (6 metres) down a

Earlier, the medical team

corridor in the intensive care unit of the BM Birla Heart Research Center