

## International

## Pak tribal leaders to enforce strict laws

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Feb 22: Tribal leaders in Pakistan's rugged Northwest Frontier Province announced Saturday that their own vigilante force would impose strict justice in the region, reports AP.

Maulana Abdul Hadi, the leader of the Tanzin Ittihad-e-Ulema, or Council of Clerics, appeared to be testing the new government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Hadi's group had been banned as part of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto campaign against religious extremism in Pakistan.

It was unclear Saturday if the new federal government had permitted the restoration of Hadi's group, which functioned legally under during Sharif's first term as prime minister, from 1990 to 1993.

Hadi held a meeting in Bara, a village in the Khyber tribal zone, 10 kilometers (6 miles) north of the provincial capital of Peshawar, that ended with Saturday's announcement of his version of Islamic law.

He said murders and kidnappers faced having their homes burned down, a typical form of punishment in the tribal belt, and fines of up to 1 million rupees (dhs 25,000).

There would also be 'strict

punishment' for those involved in the heroin trade or producing counterfeit money, he told thousands of tribes people at the rally.

Earlier edicts by Hadi's group have barred women from working or appearing in public unless covered head to toe.

Ms. Bhutto's government was ousted last November on charges of corruption.

### 140 Tamil rebels drown in boat capsized

COLOMBO, Feb 22: Almost 140 Tamil refugees were drowned when their boat capsized off Nachechakudah in north Sri Lanka on its way to India according to reports reaching here today, reports Xinhua.

The reports said the overloaded boat was carrying at least 140 people when it sank Wednesday night off the northern Mannar coast.

Women and children were among the victims who lived in Tamil rebel controlled area. The rebels had ordered them to board the ill-fated craft and were trying to send them to India, the reports said.

Diplomats term Jinag's statement as a sign of self-assurance

## Deng's successor delivers barely disguised criticism

BEIJING, Feb 22: Two days after the death of Chinese paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, his appointed successor has clearly implied that the man who wrenched China into the modern age did not do well enough, reports Xinhua.

President Jiang Zemin, Deng's protégé and now the most powerful man in China, delivered the barely disguised criticism when he greeted a visiting leader from Kazakhstan on Friday and spoke publicly for the first time since Deng died on Wednesday aged 92.

After vowing, as expected, that China would pursue the Deng-era reforms that propelled the impoverished Stalinist state towards the status of superpower, Jiang said:

"We would run China's undertakings still better, and make greater contributions to the cause of peace, development and progress of the mankind. To ordinary Chinese Jiang's words, quoted by the official Xinhua news agency, were an unmistakable rebuke.

"Of course that's a criticism,"

said a Chinese worker without hesitation.

Diplomats described Jiang's statement made to Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, as a sign of self-assurance following the death of the man who plucked him from relative obscurity to run China in 1989.

But diplomats said Jiang's swift undertaking to outdo Deng before the last rites for him at a funeral next Tuesday could be seen as disrespectful and politically risky.

"Now is the time for China to pay its respects to Deng, and that is what people want to do right now," said a western diplomat.

A boast like that could be regarded as in bad taste, not to mention politically risky, when China wants to mourn.

Since Imperial China, social convulsions and power struggles often accompanied the transfer of the 'mandate of heaven' to a new emperor — or party chief.

While the latest power shift so far has been seamless, the

analysts said upheavals were possible — specially with Jiang's post as Communist Party chief up for re-election at the 15th party congress later this year.

Jiang, 70, must now defuse challenges from other aspirants to power, among them Qiao Shi, the former security star who heads parliament, economic supremo Zhu Rongji and Premier Li Peng, shadowy figures little known in the outside world could be in the wings.

Jiang's remarks to Nazarbayev were the first public commitment that he planned to press on with Deng's market-oriented reforms.

Deng's reforms, grounded in the belief China's people should be allowed to get rich, ended a decade of chaotic rule by Mao Zedong, who believed his people should be "Red"—communist.

Jiang was the man chosen by Deng as his heir in 1989 after the political upheaval that accompanied the crushing of pro-democracy demonstrations centred on Tiananmen Square.

## No progress in talks between UNSCOM, Iraq

BAGHDAD, Feb 22: No progress was registered in the talks between UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) chief Rolf Ekeus and the Iraqi side on transferring the missiles destroyed by Iraq to the US for testing, UN official said, reports Xinhua.

Rolf Ekeus also her focused on the disclosure of the documents about Iraqi weaponry programmes to the UNSCOM, said Roger Knight, a special assistant to the director of the Ongoing Monitoring and Verification (OMV) centre in Baghdad.

There is not any movement on the talks between Ekeus and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. And it is too early to say that any key dispute can be solved during the UNSCOM chief's stay, said Roger.

Two rounds of talks were held between Ekeus and the Iraqi side on Thursday evening and Friday morning.

The Iraqi delegation was headed by Tariq Aziz and included other senior officials such as Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf and Oil Minister Amir Mohammed Rashid.

Another session of the talks between the two sides will be held this evening, according to the UN official.

## Peru hostage crisis Government extends state of emergency for 2 more months

LIMA, Feb 22: Peru on Friday extended for another two months the state of emergency it enforced around the besieged Japanese ambassador's residence where Marxist rebels have held 72 VIP hostages for 66 days, reports Xinhua.

The government also extended the state of emergency for 60 days in 12 mainly outlying poor districts of Lima that are traditional hotbeds of leftist guerrilla activity.

A decree in the official newspaper El Peruano said the measures were needed "because disturbances to internal order still exist and it is necessary to complete the process of pacification in these areas of the country."

Emergency rule, decreed to give the government a free hand in combating left-wing rebels, places areas under the control of security forces and suspends many constitutional rights.

Despite a dramatic drop in violence since the peak of the guerrilla violence between the mid-1980s and the early 1990s, about 30 per cent of Peru continues under a state of emergency.

Police believe Tupac Amaru

Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) members have been approaching the diplomatic residence disguised as street-vendors or journalists to do intelligence work and meet with comrades inside. Various suspects have been arrested by anti-terrorism police using emergency laws.

## NATO allies for major arms cuts

VIENNA, Feb 21: NATO allies presented proposals for major arms cuts to a security summit on Thursday in a bid to appease Russian fears over the alliance's plans to expand eastward, reports Xinhua.

The alliance is prepared to take significant steps in this regard, said the proposal delivered to the body dealing with the treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE).

"Specifically, the total of future aggregate national ceilings of ground treaty limited equipment of (NATO's) 16 members will be significantly less under the adapted treaty."

## UN team to oversee rebels' disarmament in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY, Feb 22: Dozens of UN military observers moved on Friday to camps in Guatemala where they were to oversee the disarmament of guerrillas laying down their arms after 36 years of civil war, reports Xinhua.

The 155 so-called "blue berets" will oversee disarmament at eight camps in six rural areas.

Before March 3, when several thousand ex-guerrillas will move into the camps in the UN mission will prepare equipment for registering each guerrilla, giving official registration cards, and administering medical checks.

More than three decades of civil war ended in this Central American nation on December 29 when the government and leftist rebels of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unit (URNG) signed a historic peace treaty.

Rebel disarmament is one aspect of the peace agreement. "Among the URNG here there are certainly people who have been fighting in very difficult terrain for 10-15 or even more

## Myanmar to host RCA meet

YANGON, Feb 22: Myanmar will host the 19th working group meeting of the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) in Yangon from March 10 to 15, the official New Light of Myanmar newspaper said today, reports Xinhua.

It will be the first international meeting to be held in Myanmar on nuclear science. The meeting is to be attended by representatives from the International Atomic Energy agency (IAEA) and 17 RCA member states — Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Pakistan, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.



US President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton read "The Tortoise and The Hare" to a first grade class at Garrison Elementary School on Thursday in Washington DC. The president and the first lady then spoke to teachers, students and volunteers about the importance of teaching young people to read. —AFP/UNB photo

## Albright in ROK for peace talks

SEOUL, Feb 22: US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrived in South Korea today for talks expected to focus on Korean peninsula peace efforts, reports Xinhua.

She arrived from Moscow on the seventh leg of a nine-nation tour of Europe and Asia, her first overseas trip since becoming Secretary of State last month.

Albright was to meet South Korean president Kim Young-sam and Foreign Minister Chong Ha Yoo and then visit US troops in the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea.

North Korea on Friday announced it would attend a briefing with the United States and South Korea on Korean peace talks, a sign the communist north was trying to put on a normal face after an embarrassing high-level defection.

In a brief statement by the foreign ministry, Pyongyang said it would attend the US south Korean briefing in New York on March 5 to discuss four-way peace talks involving China.

North Korea twice delayed the talks earlier this month in what was seen as an effort to press Washington to provide more food aid for its hungry population.

The United States insists if never promised Pyongyang a specific amount of food aid in return for North Korea's participation in the briefing.

## Lankan army plane crash death toll rises to 3

COLOMBO, Feb 22: Sri Lanka's military today raised the death toll from a military plane crash near Colombo to three and said another 36 people had been injured, reports Xinhua.

Sixteen people were hospitalized after the crash on Friday with the rest discharged after being treated for minor injuries, a military spokesman said.

The Russian-made AN-32 plane with 59 passengers, including four crew, veered off the runway during take-off and crashed into a marshy patch at Ratmalana Airbase, 11 kms (seven miles) south of Colombo.

Air Force officials said the cause of the crash had yet to be determined. The plane, which cracked in the middle, was being removed in two sections to a hanger for investigations to begin, they said.

Some Air force officials said on Friday that the crew had decided to abort the flight as it was about to take off but did not say why.

The plane was carrying servicemen to Palaly, a key northern base for the military in its fight against separatist Tamil guerrillas, who are waging a 13-year war for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in Sri Lanka's north and east.

The crash was the third incident involving an Air Force plane this year. In January, a Chinese-built Y-12 airplane went missing off northern Sri Lanka while on a surveillance mission. Its crew of four was never found.



UN Secretary General Kofi Annan (L) greets Louise Arbour (R) prosecutor for the International Tribunal for Rwanda on Friday at UN headquarters in New York. The fate of top officials of the International War Crimes Tribunal for Rwanda was in the balance as they prepared to meet with Annan to discuss mismanagement charges. —AFP/UNB photo

## US, Israel officials may drop plans to extradite Hamas leader

NEW YORK, Feb 22: Israeli and US officials may drop plans to extradite Hamas leader Moussa Mohammed Abu Marzouk from the United States to Israel, The New York Times reported Thursday, says AFP.

Marzouk, who has been detained in a New York jail for 19 months, must be extradited soon as his lawyers made a surprise decision January 28 to refuse to fight extradition to Israel.

But Marzouk claims his work for Hamas consisted only of raising money for social services.

## Rwandan refugees in Zaire fear rebels' attacks

KISANGANI, Zaire, Feb 22:

Tens of thousands of Rwandans at Zaire's largest refugee camp are caught between a government that doesn't want them and a rebel leader who has threatened to overrun their temporary refuge, reports AP.

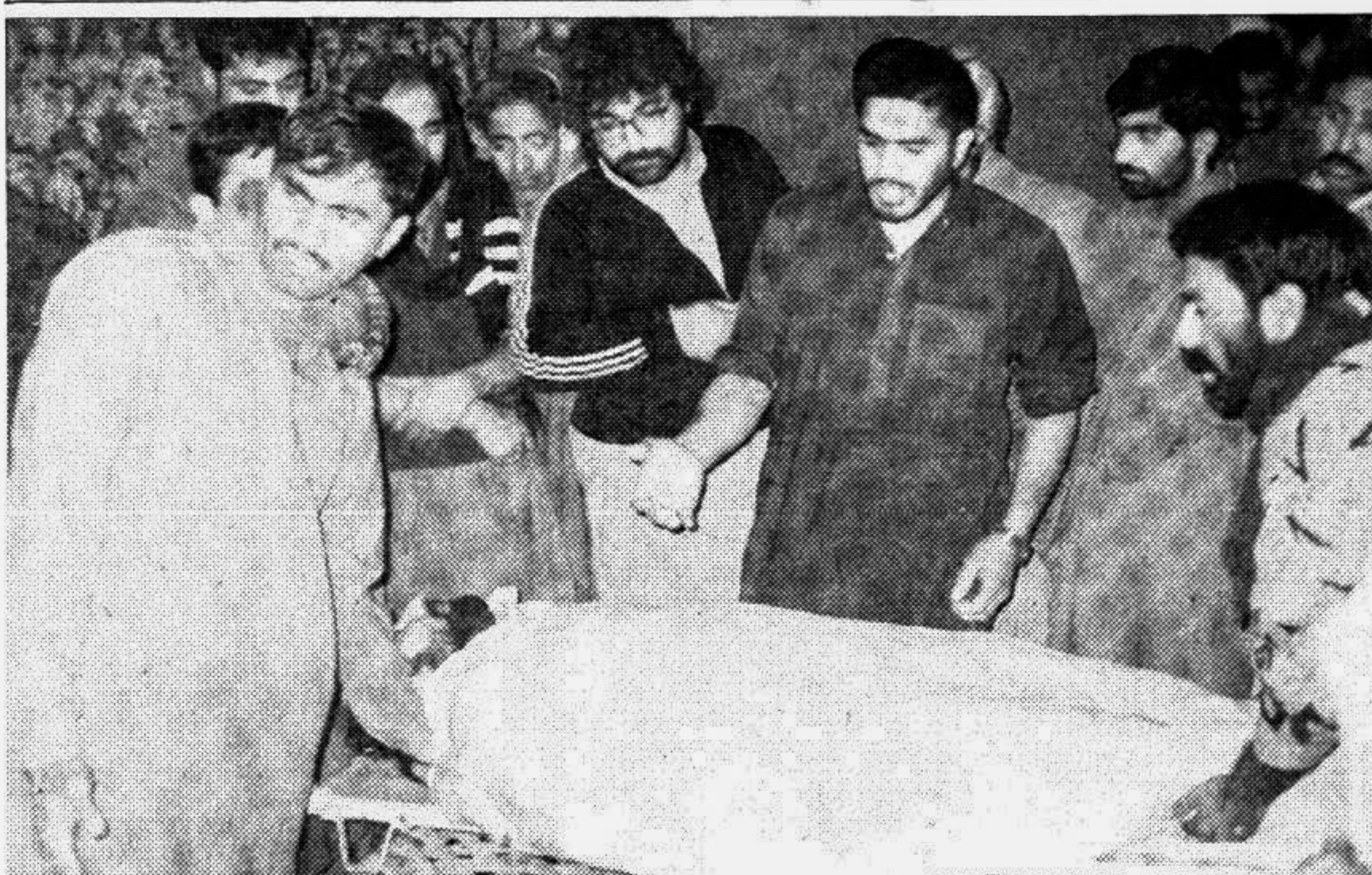
Even as diplomats met in South Africa on Friday to try to stop Zaire's civil war, many of the 160,000 displaced people were left to wonder where they might have to flee next.

"Some say if we have to die, let's go home and die in our own country," said Jean Francois Nsengiyumva, who fled Rwanda in 1994.

Nsengiyumva, gesturing toward a tent housing scores of women with sick children, said: "We've come so far from our home that if they tried to get there now, they wouldn't make it."

"We know that we're a big burden to these people, but we're here. Where else do they want us to go?"

Laurent Kabila, Zaire's rebel leader, has threatened to attack the refugee camp of Tingi-Tingi because former Rwandan soldiers and Hutu militiamen armed by the Zairian government are among the Rwanda Hutu refugees.



Mourners carry the dead body of Iranian diplomat Mohammad Ali Rahimi who was killed by unidentified gunmen in the Iranian cultural centre in Multan, situated in southern Punjab province, on Friday. At least seven more people were killed and one seriously injured when four armed unidentified gunmen opened fire in the Iranian cultural centre on Friday. —AFP/UNB photo

## Germany to try 2 Bosnian Serbs accused of war crimes

FRANKFURT, Feb 22: Trying two Bosnian Serbs accused of participating in the genocide of Muslims during the war in Bosnia will pose unique challenges for the German justice system, from tracking down reluctant witnesses in hostile territory to proving that a genocide occurred, reports AP.

Four Bosnian war crimes suspects have been arrested in Germany, home to hundreds of thousands of refugees from the 1992-95 war.

The first, Dusan Tadic, was sent to the International War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands. His trial ended in November and a verdict is expected any week now.

But the tribunal's caseload is too full, so it encourages nations with a good standard legal system such as Germany's, to prosecute suspected war criminals themselves. Such trials have already been held in Denmark and Austria.

So Germany will try two suspects and can claim jurisdiction because the charges violate international law and both men were living in Germany at time of their arrest.

Novislav Djadic, 33, will be tried in Munich and Nikola Jorgic, 50, in Duesseldorf. Both trials start next week.

Federal prosecutors in Karlsruhe said Thursday that another man, identified only as Dragan L., 27, a Serb, was arrested in Stuttgart Wednesday for alleged war crimes.

In Djadic's case, federal prosecutors say he and his comrades in a Bosnian Serb army unit overran the Muslim village of Djedjevo on April 21, 1992, then abused 13 Muslim men before shooting them dead.

Two months later, the unit allegedly executed 14 residents in the village of Trnovec after a Bosnian Serb van ran over a mine planted nearby.

The indictment against Jorgic, who has worked in west Germany's Ruhr Valley as a locksmith since the 1970s, charges he and other Serbs shot dead 22 Muslims in front of a restaurant in the village of Grapska in 1992.

Jorgic faces 14 other counts, including placing a metal bucket over an inmate's head in the Doboj prison and pounding it with a wooden plank. The man died.

Both Djadic, who lived in Munich, and Jorgic say they are victims of mistaken identity. Judge Wolfgang Kellner, a court spokesman in Munich, said prosecutors must first

prove that there was a genocide in former Yugoslavia before they can convict someone of participating in it.

Prosecutors in both cases intend to call a human rights lawyer from the University of Bochum and have submitted UN reports to back the charge. As a backup, however, both men are also charged with murder.

The prosecution intends to call about 30 witnesses, all of whom are living in Germany as refugees.

"But we also have to consider that the defense may want to call other witnesses who, for example, are living in the Serb republic," said Klaus Forsen, spokesman for the state court in Duesseldorf. "That could be a problem in this trial."

Witnesses outside Germany are not required to appear be-

fore a German court. Whether German officials can travel there to take statements from potential witnesses depends on what the conditions are and whether the court receives legal support from Bosnian Serb authorities, Forsen said.

One of the biggest points of contention will be whether the defendant was at a specific place exactly at a certain time," Forsen said. Jorgic's defence wants to present a deposition to support his alibi.

"But how were such depositions made at that time," Forsen asked. "How did the officials function? If there's no more legal security, can someone just get any kind of document?"

Federal prosecutors are investigating war crimes charges against 47 other suspects in Germany.

Dragan L., the latest arrested, originally arrived in Germany in January 1994. He is suspected along with three other members of his unit, of ordering two Bosnian Muslim men and a woman out of their house at the town of Visegrad in the summer of 1992, a prosecutor's statement said.

Dragan L. allegedly shot the woman dead when she refused to hand over money and gold. Either he or his comrades then allegedly killed the two men.

The bodies were later found buried under manure, the statement said.

The tribunal in The Hague has seven suspects in custody and has issued arrest warrants against 67 others, including former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and his military chief, Ratko Mladic.

## BRIEFLY

**India to test-fire Prithvi:** India will Sunday test-fire a medium-range missile, defence sources said Friday, AFP reports from New Delhi.

The officials said the surface-to-surface Prithvi (Earth) missile would be launched in the eastern state of Orissa. Some 600 people living around the town of Balasore, near the missile test site, had been evacuated temporarily. The Prithvi missile, which has yet to become fully operational, has a range of between 150 kilometres (93 miles) and 250 kilometres (155 miles) and can carry a one-tonne nuclear, chemical or a conventional warhead. It has been tested 15 times.

**Ethnic violence flares in E Timor:** One migrant was killed and scores of buildings and vehicles damaged when ethnic violence flared in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor, a human rights official said yesterday, AFP reports from Jakarta.

There was unrest in Ambeno yesterday and reports that I have received say that one person died, eight vehicles were burned and scores of buildings were damaged," the head of the East Timor Chapter of the National Commission on Human Rights, Alex Refilly, told AFP by telephone.

Ambeno is an enclave on the northern coast of west Timor province, some 150 kilometres (93 miles) southwest of the East Timorese capital of Dili, but is an administrative district of East Timor.

**Quake jolts China:** Another large earthquake has jolted China's northwestern Xinjiang region where about 50 people died in a tremor last month, the Xinhua news agency said yesterday. Reuter reports from Beijing.

The earthquake, measuring 5.0 on the Richter scale, rocked Jiashi county at 10.29 (2229 GMT) on Friday night, the Xinhua news agency said.

**Azeri MP killed in Baku:** Ziya Buniyatov, a historian and prominent political figure in Azerbaijan, was stabbed and shot to death as he walked home from work Friday, police said, Reuter reports from Baku.

Police said they did not yet know the motive for the killing of Buniyatov, 75, a member of Parliament who was also vice president of the Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences.

He was returning from the Parliament building in the centre of the capital Baku when an unknown number of attackers stabbed him four times and shot him once. He was operated on in hospital but later died.

**20 drown in Indian boat capsized:** A river taxi overturned and sank in a river in northern India on Saturday, and at least 20 passengers drowned, a local news agency reported, AP reports from New Delhi.

Details of the boat capsized were sketchy, but United News of India quoted unnamed officials as saying that three bodies were retrieved from the Markand River in Bihar state. At least 25 people were traveling in the boat, it said.

The boat sank near Rasulpur village, 900 kilometers (550 miles) southeast of New Delhi.

**'Burundi troops kill 150 civilians':** Foreign aid workers said Friday troops killed 150 civilians in the southern region of Burundi in reprisals after attacks by Hutu rebels but the army denied the charge, Reuter reports from Bujumbura.

"Armed bands attacked in the three communes overnight on Monday. They killed 13 people, but the army didn't kill anybody," said army spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Isaie Nibizi.

**8 counterfeiter held in Colombia:** Colombian police said on Friday they broke up one of the biggest counterfeiting operations in the nation's history in the northwest city of Medellin, Reuter reports from Bogota.

"This is the biggest operation ever in the fight against currency counterfeiters," national police chief Gen Rosso Jose Serrano told reporters.

He said summary police searches of 10 houses in Medellin had led to the arrests of eight people involved in the manufacture of huge piles of bogus US dollars, Colombian pesos, Venezuelan bolivares and Ecuadorean sucres.

**UN seeks aid for Angolan refugees:** The United Nations launched an appeal Friday for 38.2 million dollars to help repatriate more than 300,000 Angolan refugees, AFP says from Geneva.

An estimated 200,000 Angolans in Zaire will benefit from the programme launched by the UN refugee agency, as well as 96,000 in Zambia, 12,000 in Congo and 1,000 in Namibia, another 15,000 Angolan refugees are scattered in 32 other countries.