# Suu Kyi praises Clinton for imposing sanctions on military govt

YANGON, Apr 25: Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi praised President Bill Clinton on Friday for imposing sanctions on her country's military government, reports AP.

Clinton announced on Tuesday he was barring new US investments in Myanmar because of its military rulers' "severe repression" of the democratic opposition.

"I respect the US president for respecting the will of the Congress, which asked for sanctions if there is large-scale repression against the democratic movement," Suu Kyi told a news conference.

As reporters and journalists arrived for the conference at the home of Kyi Maung, a vicechairman of Suu Kyi's political party, they were photographed and videotaped by plainclothes

military intelligence men out-

side the gates. "There has been large-scale repression," Suu Kyi said, flanked by Kyi Maung and Tin Oo, a former defence minister and also a vice-chairman of her

"The reason why the US decided to impose sanctions is because they feel that investing in Myanmar now is investing in injustice," she said.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights group, said 1996 was the worst year in history for human rights in Myanmar citing the arrest of thousands of democracy activists, a government-orchestrated mob attack on Suu Kyi and continued harassment

of all opposition. Suu Kyi said Friday that 30 to 40 of her party members who have been unjustly jailed, including her liaison officer Win Htein, have been transferred to prisons in the distant provinces where conditions can be brutal. and where their families have little opportunity to see them.

"This is a gratuitous piece of cruelty," she said. The US sanctions have been praised by democracy advocates around the world, while business leaders and Myanmar allies in Southeast Asia have

sharply criticised Clinton's ac-

Myanmar's military government has said the sanctions wouldn't hurt them, only US business which would lose out on the opportunity to invest in its country. Business leader say the sanctions won't work because no other countries joined in adopting them.

"As the Myanmar government has been saying sanctions will not affect the country, those who planned and put them into effect can have a clear conscience," Suu Kyi said.

The sanctions are just the latest in a series of economic blows to Myanmar, which is avidly seeking foreign investment and assistance. On Wednesday, for example, the Asian Development Bank said it would not resume assistance to Myanmar unless its political situation changes.

Suu Kyi praised the United Nations Commission on Human Rights for condemning the Myanmar regime, but said condemnations are not enough.

She called on the international community "to take consolidated action to implement the terms" of the United Nations 1990 resolution demanding a restoration of democracy in Myanmar.

# Jiang winds up Russia visit on a positive note

MOSCOW, Apr 25: Chinese President Jiang Zemin, winding up a five-day visit, takes a break from official business today to tour the estate of 19thcentury Russian writer and philosopher Leo Tolstoy, reports Reuter.

Jiang, who speaks Russian and has often expressed his admiration for Russian literature, planned a tour of Yasnaya Polyana, 200 km (125 miles) south of Moscow, where the author of "War and Peace" spent his last years.

The pilgrimage to Tolstoy's home comes after a series of official meetings in Moscow that have marked warmer relations between China and Russia.

On Wednesday Jiang and Russian president Boris Yeltsin issued a declaration in which the two states outlined their vision of the post-cold war world and voiced opposition to claims

by any country for world lead-

"No country should seek hegemony, practise power politics or monopolies international affairs," said the declaration. It did not mention any specific country but clearly had the United States in mind.

Then on Thursday the two men, along with the leaders of Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, signed a pact on troop reductions along the former Sino-Soviet border.

"This day will go down in history," Yeltsin said. "It took us seven years of tense talks to reach this result, which is unprecedented for Asia and the Pacific region."

Moscow and Beijing see the treaty and the declaration as part of their new relationship of "partnership aimed at strategic cooperation in the 21st cen-



Jemima Khan, holds her five-month-old son Sulaiman, whilst canvassing for the Referendum Party in Boehampton on Thursday. Jemima, who campaigned with her husband Imran's Movement for Justice in Pakistan's elections earlier this year, has joined her father, Franco-British millionaire Sir James Goldsmith, to campaign for his anti-European Referendum Party in the British general elections on May . — AFP/UNB photo

Arson kills 3 in Hong Kong: A woman was detained for questioning following a suspected arson early Friday morning that killed three men and injured six others, a police spokesman said, AFP reports from Hong Kong.

The woman, aged 36, was detained at the scene of the fire which broke out on the first floor of a four-story residential building in Sai Wan Ho on Hong Kong island, said senior police superintendent Gregory Lam.

"We believe she may be connected in the case," which showed "the sign of somebody setting the fire," Lam told reporters, adding the woman was arrested inside the building.

Romania's intelligence chief resigns: The head of Romania's intelligence agency SRI Virgil Magureanu, resigned Thursday, presidential advisor Zoe Petre said, AFP reports from Bucharest

Magureanu handed his resignation to President Emil Constantinescu who will decide on whether to keep Magureanu in his post after parliament debates the SRI report for 1996 next week, said Petre.

Atlas rocket blasts off: An unmanned rocket blasted off early Friday with the United States' newest weather satellite. On board the Atlas rocket was the dlrs 220 million GOES-K, short for Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite, AP reports from Florida.

The National Weather Service currently relies on two Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites for forecasting: GOES-8 for the East Coast and GOES-9 for the West.

#### 11 killed in Delhi road accident: Eleven people travelling on top of an overloaded lorry carrying

sand died when it overturned and crashed into a ditch, the Press Trust of India reported Friday says, AFP from New Delhi. Six others were injured in the accident, which took place in the Medhak district of the southern state of Andhra Pradesh on

Thursday. Gujral to visit S Africa: New Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral has accepted an invitation by President Nelson Mandela to pay a state visit to South Africa, Mandela's spokeswoman said today, Reuter reports

from Johannesburg. "An invitation has been extended to him to come to South Africa on a state visit as a guest of the state president. He has accepted and a date is to be confirmed soon," spokeswoman Priscilla Naidoo told the news agency.

Rocket attacks on Israeli border: Lebanese guerillas launched rockets at Israeli border positions in southern Lebanon early Friday, drawing retaliatory artillery fire, se-

curity officials said, AP reports from Lebanon. Initial reports said that some of the rockets may have overshot the border and landed in northern Israel, but the Israeli army said none had fallen in Israeli territory.

#### Hand over corpses to us, appeal slain MRTA rebels' mothers

LIMA, Apr 25: Mothers of Tupac Amaru rebels killed in

"I beg with tears in my eyes that the body of my son be rebeg you," pleaded Maria de Rojas, mother of the hostage-takers' second-in-command Rolly

The sobbing mother was one mandos in the raid to free 72 hostages.

# ROK officials meet to discuss food-aid for

SEOUL, Apr 25: Top South Korean officials met Thursday to discuss a possible multi-million-dollar food-aid package to North Korea's starving, despite the failure of peace talks in New York, Yanhap news agency said,

Yanhap said the ministers of defence, unification, national security and foreign affairs were present at the meeting held in the presidential Blue House to discuss the package.

agencies," Yanhap said, while The Korea Times said the corn might be bought from China.

#### It would 'seriously impair' the UN Security Council's role in the maintenance of peace, he added.

Termination of UN army observers

Pakistan concerned at US move

ISLAMABAD, Apr 25: Pak- South Asia." istan today expressed concern over a United States move seeking termination of United Nations military observers monitoring the tense frontier in Kashmir, reports AFP.

The government has taken up the matter with the United States as well as the UN Secretary General, a foreign office spokesman said here.

US Senator Jesse Helms Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has proposed that US financial support for UN peacekeeping operations be linked with termination of UN military observers group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

The spokesman said termination of one of the UN's oldest peace-keeping operations would "seriously jeopardise peace and security in a volatile region like

TOKYO, Apr 25: Hundreds of

thousands of children could die

of illnesses brought on by mal-

nutrition if the world fails to

prevent a famine in North Ko-

rea, a relief agency predicted to-

vation in North Korea," said

Dean R Hirsch, president of

World Vision International,

who just returned from a five-

reach them before the end of

July, hundreds of thousands of

Korean children are likely to

die of disease because their little

bodies are so weakened by

malnutrition," he said at a news

Programme, which is distribut-

ing all the food being given to

the North, appealed for 95.5

On April 2, the World Food

"If massive food aid does not

"It is only 90 days until star-

day, reports AP.

conference.

day visit to the North.

UNMOGIP made up of some 40 personnel from different countries has been monitoring ceasefire violations along the line of control in Kashmir, the disputed Himalayan region divided between India and Pak-

Of the three wars between Pakistan and India since their independence in 1947, two were fought over Kashmir.

The spokesman said any change in the status of the monitoring group could be brought about only by the security council which had established it. "It cannot form part of any

deal or benchmarks for UN reform, the spokesman said.

Severe famine likely in DPRK

# mercenaries killed in Kashmir till February

482 foreign

JAMMU, Apr 25: As many as 482 foreign mercenaries were killed in anti-militancy operations by security forces in Jammu and Kashmir till February this year, Chief Minister Dr Farooq Abdullah told the state assembly yesterday, reports PTI.

In a written reply, Dr Abdullah, who also holds the portfolio of Home, said 121 militants who had infiltrated into Kashmir were arrested till the same month. However, the exact number of arrested foreign mercenaries is not available.

He said altogether 7823 militants were killed in the state from 1989 to December 1996 and 15173 militants were arrested by the security forces during this period.

# Off the Record

### Oldest mother

LOS ANGELES: Imagine coping a teen-ager at age 76. That's what the world's oldest known new mom faces. At age 63, the unidentified woman gave birth to her first child after lying about her age to get into an in vitro fertilisation program, doctors said. She delivered a healthy baby girl last year and breast fed the child, reports AP.

The woman, whose name was not released, said she was 50 when she approached the doctors for the treatment. She was actually 60.

It took her three years to get pregnant through a donated egg and her husband's sperm.

Program director Richard Paulson and his colleagues at the University of Southern California's Program for Assisted Reproduction believe their patient is the oldest on record to have a successful pregnancy.

"Had the individual disclosed her actual age ... she would not have qualified for treatment at USC, since the program uses an arbitrary upper age limit of 55 for women seeking fertility ther apy," the program said in a statement Wednesday.

The woman, a Philippine-American, had minor complications during pregnancy, including elevated blood pressure and gestational diabetes. The problems were controlled by bed rest and diet, said Dr Hermina S Salvador, an obstetrician at Loma

Linda University Medical Center. The baby was delivered by Caesarean section and weighed 6 pounds, 4 ounces. She and her 60-year-old husband have been

married for 16 years.

### Shakespeare park in Japan

TOKYO: Shakespeare lovers in Japan can now indulge their passion at a newly opened theme part dedicated to the bard of Avon, his works and times, reports AP. The Maruyama Shakespeare Country Park, located in the

town of Maruyama, 64 kilometers (40 miles) east of Tokyo, recreates a small part of 16th century Britain. The Japanese are passionate about Shakespeare's plays and the park is designed to give them an insight into the period dur-

ing which the works were written. The 12 million dollars facility boasts a replica village, including a recreation of Shakespeare's home, his mother, Mary

Arden's house, and a village square. The only modernisation of the buildings is that they are earthquake-proof, a danger the Elizabethans did not have to contend with but Japanese, both ancient and modern, always

"Shakespeare wrote his works in the 16th century, yet what he says about love, about passion, about ambition, about hate, about jealousy, about a whole range of human emotions is common throughout the world," British Ambassador David Wright told a ceremony marking the park's opening, held on April 23, the bard's birthday.

### Largest Roman villa unearthed

LONDON: What may be the largest ever Roman villa found in Britain has been discovered by labourers on one of the country's biggest house-building developments, according to press reports

here today, says AFP. Archaeologists using geophysical surveying methods before carrying out an actual dig claim the complex includes outbuildings, storehouses and up to 12 tiers of vineyards, the Daily Tele-

graph reported. The remains of the building were found when mechanical diggers began to tear into the earth outside Swindon, in south

central England.

"We have found evidence of mosaics, an intricate hypocaust system of under-floor heating, baths and the surviving earthworks of what were probably vine terraces.

"This was no ordinary villa, but a palatial building that clearly had an important administrative function", Bryn Walters, the archeologist in charge of the site, was quoted as saying. He said the villa was likely to have been home to a Roman procurator, an official who answered directly to the emperor for the fiscal management of whole regions of the empire.

Rwandan children, separated from their families fleeing the rebel advance and who have been taken under the care of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees at the Karuba camp, some 40 km from Goma, sit at the Goma transit camp on Thursday. AFP/UNB photo

Tuesday's bloody hostage rescue begged the Peruvian government on Thursday to hand the corpses over to their families, reports Reuter.

turned to me. He is dead now, I Rojas, known as "the Arab".

of a handful of women gathered in front of Lima's military hospital morgue, which housed the corpses of 14 Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) rebels killed by com-

# DPRK

reports AFP.

"The ministers decided to buy 30,000 to 40,000 tonnes of corn on the international market and send it through UN

million dollars in donations to fight widespread food shortages that first began with disastrous flooding in 1995 and 1996.

But a week ago, the UN agency announced that it only had received about 35 per cent of that from donor nations.

Earlier this month, US congressman Tony P Hall returned from the secretive communist country with grim accounts of families eating grass, weeds and bark: orphans whose growth has been stunted by hunger and diarrhoea; people going bald for lack of nutrients; and hospitals running short of medicine and

During his visit, Hirsch got nowhere near the North's hardest hit areas and said he saw no starving children in Pyongyang, the capital, or in the nearby counties of Kumchon

and Pyongsan. Nevertheless, he visited schools and nurseries where he said many children were absent because of weakness or illness.

The government has reduced the daily food rations to 100 grams a day, leaving many people hungry, he said, and fuel is so scarce that many people cut down trees to burn them at

night. "Unless food aid reaches these children within the next 30 to 60 days, the future of North Korea is very grim, Hirsch said.

World Vision International which is based in Monrovia, California, has provided 4.2 million dollars in food, seeds, agricultural assistance and pharmaceuticals to North Ko-

## Researchers say

# HIV virus may be growing more aggressive

LONDON, Apr 25: Italian researchers who studied 208 men and 77 women all infected with the HIV virus which causes AIDS say their findings indicate that HIV may be growing more aggressive, reports AP.

"The emergence of more virulent strains due to multiple biological mechanisms may be responsible for more aggressive course of HIV disease in patients who have recently seroconverted," the team reported.

Seroconversion is the process in which the body develops antibodies to HIV, usually within two weeks of initial infection by the virus. The report by Allessandro

Sinicco and six colleagues at the University of Turin is in the April 26 issue of the British Medical Journal, advanced copies of which were available Friday. Sinicco is the university's senior lecturer in infectious

"Our findings suggest possible changes in the course of HIV epidemic in the 1990s and raise intriguing issues on the course of HIV infection," their report "If our data are confirmed,

therapeutic approaches to the

infection will need to be re-

viewed," it said. "If HIV disease

has become more aggressive,

more frequent screening would

be essential to identify patients

who have just seroconverted

and could benefit from early

antiretroviral treatment."

Experts recommend treating HIV patients with anti-viral drugs as soon as the body's immune system shows damage. The damage can be measured by counting the decline by what are known as CD4 immune system cells.

Sinicco's team studied the total of 285 patients in various groups at various times from September 1985 to January 1995 and found that the loss of CD4 cells was faster among the more recent HIV cases.

"The patients who seroconverted after December 1989 had a higher probability of decline in CD4 cell count and progression to AIDS than did patients who had seroconverted before this date," their report said.

Average age of the 285, who

included male homosexuals

and injecting drug users, was

## New HK passport holders to get 10-yr US visas

HONG KONG, Apr 25: The United States said today it would grant 10-year multipleentry visas to holders of new Hong Kong passports after China takes the territory back from Britain in July, reports Reuter.



US President Bill Clinton speaks on the telephone from the White House on Thursday in Washington to Senators on Capitol Hill trying to gain support for passage of the chemical weapons treaty.

Be tolerant of each other's beliefs, advises Dalai Lama

# Kim's son denies corruption allegations

guered son of South Korea's president today admitted he had intervened in government personnel changes but denied corruption allegations during a nationally-televised parliamentary hearing, reports AFP.

lected, and recommended the most respected and renowned people to him," said the president's 38-year-old son, Kim Hyun-Chul. He said, however, the allegations about his role in appointing government officials had

been exaggerated, adding that

he had never taken any kick-

The opposition charged that the son, who holds no official position, had intervened in the naming of cabinet ministers and others, including heads of

In response to a question about allegations to the failed hanbo business group from a German company. Kim Hyun-Chul said: "They are ground-

ports AP. He also said "it's OK" to be an atheist, but said the non-religious should still show compas-

terfaith celebration of religious freedom at Washington's National Cathedral Thursday ers efforts of the 6 million Tibetans to preserve their culture and religion under Chinese rule in their Himalayan homeland. President Bill Clinton and

Wednesday and, according to a spokesman, "welcomed the Dalai Lama's commitment to non-violence and to negotiations with China.

liefs, be sincere rather than superficial about them, the Buddhist leader advised. Speaking in English, he said if people must act against their "own re-

ligious tradition, at least minimize it and afterward have a feeling of regret," he said.

"All major religious traditions carry basically the same part of our daily lives," the Dalai Lama said. He urged cultivating "some

some kind of appreciation or understanding about the value of others' religions," to foster understanding.

Noting the diversity of races family backgrounds, clothing and hairstyles in his audience. the Dalai Lama said, "Basically we are all the same human beings (with) the same potential to

— AFP/UNB photo

human being. negative side and try to reduce. That's the way.

(Anglican) cathedral began with Preah Maha Ghosananda, led

There were readings from Hindu and Hebrew Scriptures and from the New Testament. The Very Rev. Nathan D. Baxter, the cathedral dean, then introduced the Dalai Lama as "a source of inspiration for so many around the world."

Before the interfaith service, the Dalai Lama donned a yarmulke, ate matzo, the unleavened bread eaten by Jews during Passover, and compared notes with Jewish community leaders on the endurance and survival of the Tibetan and

Passover Seder marking the exodus of the Jewish people from Egypt and their struggle for sur-

The exiled leader thanked his hosts for incorporating into the traditional Passover ritual mention of his own people's efforts for cultural survival. To the traditional hope for "Next Year in Jerusalem," the words "Next Year in Lhasa," the Tibetan capital, were added.

"In our dialogue with rabbis and Jewish scholars, the Tibetan people have learned about the secrets of Jewish spiritual survival in exile," the Dalai Lama said in a message to American Jews. "Even in very difficult times, the Jewish people remember their liberation from slavery to freedom and this has brought you hope in times of difficulty.

# backs for recommending ap-SEOUL, Apr 25: The belea-

banks and broadcasting com-"When my father asked me, I panies, and interfered in state gave my opinion about what affairs. kind of persons should be se-

> Opposition politicians accuse the son of being a key figure in the Hanbo Scandal and being involved in influence

Dalai Lama, Tibet's Buddhist leader in exile, advised an applauding interfaith congregation to be tolerant of each other's beliefs and look for positive things in their daily lives, re-

WASHINGTON, Apr 25: The

The Dalai Lama received two standing ovations lasting more than a minute from a near-capacity throng of 3,050 at an in-

He had spent most of the week discussing with US leadVice President Al Gore received him at the White House

Before returning to his exile haven in Dharamsala, India, he planned a visit to Europe, starting with France this weekend. Whatever your religious bemessage, that is love, compassion and forgiveness... the important thing is they should be

For those "who may not find happiness to exercise religious faith, it's okay to remain a radical atheist. It's absolutely an individual right, but the important thing is with a compassionate heart — then no prob-

be a good human being or a bad "The important thing is to realize the positive side and try to increase that; realize the

Thursday's service in the towering Gothic Episcopal a call to prayer by a local Muslim leader, Shanawaz Khan. A Buddhist patriarch from Cambodia, the Venerable Samdech

Jewish people. That occasion was a