



Two models present proposals by Italian stylist Grace Pear during a fashion show late Saturday as part of the "Divine Rome" fashion week. — AFP/UNB photo

Israel threatens tough action against Palestinians in Hebron

HEBRON, West Bank, July 13: Israel threatened to get tough with the Palestinian population of Hebron today in a bid to quell five weeks of unrest, as violence flared up again in the West Bank city overnight, reports AFP.

Members of the 400-strong militant Jewish settler community also tried overnight to set fire to the house of a Palestinian neighbour, Nabil el Khalabi, the sources said.

The Hebron's old market on Saturday. The soldiers responded with volleys of plastic-coated rubber bullets, injuring nine demonstrators.

Under a January accord, 80 per cent of Hebron is controlled by the Palestinian municipal authorities while the remaining 20 per cent, where the 400 settlers and 10,000 Arabs live, remains under Israeli military control.

Mars Pathfinder mission gets back on track

PASADENA, California, July 13: The Mars Pathfinder mission got back on track on Saturday after scientists successfully dislodged the Sojourner rover from a rock where it had become stuck, a mission scientist said, reports Reuters.

summe it's historic mission on the red planet. Richard Cook, the mission manager, said the rover would spend Saturday analysing "Yogi" with its alpha proton X-ray spectrometer to determine the rock's chemical composition.

Castro receives remains of Che Guevara

HAVANA, July 13: Cuban President Fidel Castro and top government officials received the remains of revolutionary hero Ernesto "Che" Guevara with full military honours in a closed ceremony late Saturday, government officials reported, says AFP.

Castro was at the airport for the simple military ceremony along with relatives of the Argentine-born guerilla, top officials in the Communist Party and some of Guevara's former comrades.

Aga Khan rules out woman as his successor

LONDON, July 13: The Aga Khan appeared to rule out Saturday any chance of his successor being a woman, after his office said remarks he made in a BBC interview had been misinterpreted, reports AFP.

Gujral admits being in 'dilemma' over fodder scam

NEW DELHI, July 13: Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral admitted for the first time he was caught in a "dilemma" over an embezzlement scandal which is rocking his coalition, reports said today, says AFP.

Laloo Prasad Yadav, the Chief Minister of the eastern state of Bihar, first threatened to form a breakaway party when Gujral asked him to quit following allegations he had siphoned off millions of dollars from a state-run cattle fodder fund.

trying to persuade through what I am saying in public — and what I have said in private — what is the instrument I am left with?" Gujral was quoted as saying by the Pioneer Daily.

Tigers attack police post: 3 killed

COLOMBO, July 13: Tamil Tiger guerrillas attacked a police post in eastern Sri Lanka today killing three people and losing one of their own men, officials here said, reports AFP.

By this morning, the body of a Tamil Tiger guerrilla had been recovered together with an automatic rifle, officials said.

Thai PM falls sick at rally

Thailand's Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudt fainted briefly while giving a speech to 30,000 farmers to celebrate Fragrant Rice Day, local papers reported Sunday, AP reports from Bangkok.

For a moment I felt I was floating like the baht," The Nation newspaper quoted Chavalit as saying after he recovered. Thailand let its currency, the baht, float for the first time in history earlier this month, causing it to lose about 15 per cent of its value.

First Hindu 'untouchable' to vie for Indian presidency

NEW DELHI, July 13: When Kocheril Raman Narayanan is elected Indian president on Monday, he will become the first Hindu "untouchable" to hold the post, reports AFP.

The son of a doctor in the southern state of Kerala, he studied at the London School of Economics and has also held the prestigious post of vice-chancellor of New Delhi's Jawahar Nehru University.

3 new NATO entrants agree to coordinate defence purchases

BUDAPEST, July 13: New NATO entrants Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic are to coordinate their large-scale defence purchases in the future, their defence ministers agreed here Saturday, reports AFP.

The applicants would coordinate their defence purchases and consult prior to every large-scale defence technological modernisation move, the ministers told the press.

ASEAN urged to reconsider Myanmar's membership

KUALA LUMPUR, July 13: A chorus of activist and opposition groups at the weekend called on ASEAN to reconsider Myanmar's membership after foreign ministers from the grouping delayed Cambodia's admission because of political violence, reports Reuters.

Foreign ministers from the Association of South East Asian Nations on Thursday decided to delay Cambodia's admission after Cambodian Second Prime Minister Hun Sen's bloody power grab a week ago, citing the use of force there as the reason.

Mandela arrives in Indonesia

South African President Nelson Mandela touched down on the tourist island of Bali on Sunday for the start of a five-day visit to strengthen relations with Indonesia, AP reports from Jakarta.

Mandela arrived on a private jet after a visit to Britain, a government official said. He will travel to the capital Jakarta on Monday for talks with President Suharto, Vice President Try Sutrisno and other senior officials.

Strike cripples life in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, July 13: A militant sponsored general strike crippled life in Srinagar and other major towns of Kashmir valley yesterday where seven militants were killed and nine others were captured while a militant surrendered since evening, reports PTI.

The summer capital wore a deserted look Saturday as government offices banks courts, educational institutions, semi-government institutions and business markets remained closed in view of general strike called by Shoura-e-Jehad a conglomeration of seven pro-Pakistan militant outfits, against the alleged custodial death of their Chairman Asadullah Mir alias Maulvi Muneer Hussain on July 9 at Ganderbal on the outskirts of the city.

Floods in China kill 10

Torrential summer rains have killed ten people in southeastern China over the past week and forced 130,000 others to flee their homes, according to official newspapers, AP reports from Beijing.

At least 250,000 hectares (600,000 acres) are flooded in Zhejiang province, south of Shanghai, the Liberation Daily reported Sunday. It said rivers around the city of Hangzhou, southwest of Shanghai, were at record-high levels. The Saturday edition of the Yangcheng Evening News reported 10 deaths but did not give any details. It said many areas of Zhejiang have received more than 10 centimetres (4 inches) of rain since July 6.

Floods leave 28 dead in Prague

Floods which have ravaged the Czech republic for almost a week have left 28 dead and a further three people are missing, according to the latest toll released Saturday by rescue workers, AFP reports from Prague.

Since the devastation began last Sunday, nearly one third of all districts have been affected. Some 290 villages and 50 towns or cities have been submerged, as well as 100,000 hectares (247,000 acres) of farm land. Since Friday, five bodies have been pulled from the rubble of 140 houses which collapsed in the village of Troubyk-Nad-Becvou, in northern Moravia, after a tide of water and mud rushed swept the main street.

Clinton arrives in Washington

US President Bill Clinton arrived in Washington late Saturday from Copenhagen, where he wound up a historic eight-day tour of four European countries that included a NATO summit in Madrid, AFP says from Washington.

The presidential plane touched down at Andrews Air Force Base around 7:00 pm (2300 GMT), according to the CNN Television Network. Clinton's trip began with a summit of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation which agreed to admit in 1999 three new members: Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Landslide claims 4 in Japan

A landslide triggered by torrential rains killed a family of four Sunday after smashing into their home in a western Japanese city, police said, AP reports from Tokyo.

Company worker Shohei Hashimoto, his wife and two children were buried under an avalanche of mud after rain washed away the side of a hill behind their home in Takarazuka, Hyogo Prefecture (state), 400 kilometers (248 miles) west of Tokyo. No other damage or injuries were reported, police said. Torrential rains have been lashing western and southwestern Japan since early Saturday morning, and the Meteorological Agency has issued heavy rain and flood warnings in many parts of the country.

Militants kill 21 in Algeria

Twenty-one people have been killed by suspected Islamic extremists in two separate massacres on the Algerian coast, the press reported yesterday, AFP reports from Algiers.

Fourteen members of the same family were killed on Friday night by an armed group, which included a member of the family, at Bou Ismail on the coast west of Algiers. On Saturday morning seven travellers were killed and another 11 injured in an attack on a bus near Dellys on the coast east of Algiers.

Number of drug users rising in Lanka

Sri Lanka has more than 100,000 heroin and 40,000 cannabis users, and the number is rising, the state-owned Sunday Observer said, quoting a recent survey by the Sri Lanka Anti-Narcotics Association, Reuters reports from Colombo.

The newspaper quoted the survey as saying that Sri Lankan drug users spend a staggering 8.3 billion rupees (143 million dollars) each year to keep themselves "high". It said the Police Narcotics Bureau seized 27 kg of heroin and 51.538 kg of cannabis in 1994. In 1996 the seizures rose to 40 kg of heroin and 85,342 kg of cannabis.

2 Israeli soldiers hurt in Lebanon

At least two Israeli soldiers were wounded in attacks by Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas on Israeli positions in southern Lebanon on Sunday, security sources said, AFP reports from Beirut.

Hezbollah fighters opened fire with automatic weapons and anti-tank rockets on Israeli positions at Dabshe and Ali Taher in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon, the sources said.

Hun Sen resumes routine work amid int'l condemnation

PHNOM PENH, July 13: The man who sent tanks rumbling through the streets of Phnom Penh a week ago has switched to the role of smiling and gregarious politician, insisting on a normal routine in the face of international condemnation, reports AP.

Moving smoothly through a crowd of thousands, Hun Sen mingled, chatted and shook hands during a groundbreaking ceremony Saturday for a new school and temple. As with most schools in Cambodia, the new building will bear Hun Sen's name.

Off the Record

Phone to catch out wily businessmen

LONDON: A new telephone has gone on sale in Britain that can tell whether the person on the other end of the line is telling the truth according to the Sunday Times, reports AFP.

The telephone equivalent of the human lie detector has been developed to catch out wily businessmen who may be trying to stretch the truth with their trading partners, the newspaper says.

Lonely Di

LONDON: Diana, Princess of Wales, told US supermodel Cindy Crawford she was "lonely" and might never find another man, the news of the world reported Sunday, reports AFP.

"Cindy, I'm never going to meet anyone because who would want to go out with me?" She reportedly told Crawford when the princess invited the supermodel to Kensington Palace to meet her teenage son Prince William.

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