students from

Shi'ite school

in Lahore

police detained about 200 students from a Shi'tte Muslim school in Lahore, capital of

LAHORE, July 23: Pakistani

Hafiz Kazim Raza, acting

Police refused to confirm the

AI asks Tigers

to stop killings

COLOMBO, July 23: Amnesty International on Wednesday

asked Tamil Tiger rebels to stop killing civilians and taking

The London-based human

"The killing of members of

rights group also said the

guerillas should condemn the

recent killing of lawmakers in

Parliament simply on the basis

of their political activities is a

contemptible act," Amnesty

said in a letter to the rebels

copies of which were faxed to

news agencies in Colombo, the

killing Mohamed Maharoof, an

opposition lawmaker, and five

other people over the weekend

India to sign UN

convention

against torture

has decided to sign a UN con-

vention against torture, the

government announced today.

the decision, taken Tuesday,

was part of "India's determina-

tion to uphold the greatest val-

ues of Indian civilisation" and

its commitment to human

date for signing the convention

against torture and other cruel,

inhuman or degrading treat-

ment or punishment, which

torture was still widespread in

many countries while corporal

punishment was rising in Is-

lamic nations like Saudi Ara-

bia, Pakistan and the Gulf

criticised by human rights

groups for its record of treating

detainees in Kashmir, where a

India has repeatedly been

A UN report in March said

came into force in June 1987.

The statement did not give a

An official statement said

reports AFP.

States.

NEW DELHI, July 23: India

Rebels are suspected of

northeastern Sri Lanka.

hostages, says AFP.

Sri Lankan capital.

# US wants to coordinate with ASEAN on Cambodia

**KUALA LUMPUR, July 23:** The United States wants to coordinate its Cambodian policy with Southeast Asian nations, President Clinton's envoy on the crisis said Wednesday, reports AP.

"We very much want to work with (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and other countries in the region." Stephen Solarz said after meeting with the regional group's chairman, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"We think the best chance of achieving an acceptable resolution of the Cambodian crisis is that we all should work together to find a way to solve the problem," Solarz said.

The United States has said that the power grab by Second Prime Minister Hun Sen should not be recognised. The United States has also cut off aid to Cambodia.

Our position has been made led to elections in 1993 con-

ports from Washington.

reports from Ankara.

years and 30 years.

ports from Miami.

Arkansas' governor and as president.

clear. But I have come here to try to consult with our friends in this region with a view to achieving a common position on this," said Solarz, a former New York congressman.

ASEAN foreign ministers are meeting this week in Kuala Lumpur to accept Laos and Myanmar into the group. Cambodia was also to have joined on Wednesday, but its membership was delayed earlier this month in the wake of Hun Sen's coup against co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

Other members of ASEAN are Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Brunei and Singapore.

"I think it is clear that everyone believes the (1991) Paris agreement should be respected and upheld," Solarz said, noting the Principal point of agreement with ASEAN and other countries on the Cambodian issue. The Paris peace agreement

BRIFFIY

Lader new US envoy to UK: President

Bill Clinton nominated longtime friend and political supporter

Philip Lader as US ambassador to Britain on Tuesday, AP re-

House officials said Clinton had chosen the South Carolina na-

tive pending a background check. Lader is a former White House

deputy chief of staff and director of the Small Business Admin-

istration under Clinton. He is best known as host of the annual

"Renaissance Weekend," which attracts politicians, academics

and other elite guests to a getaway filled with seminars and

recreational activities. Clinton has attended for years as

China grant passport to dissident vet

eran Chinese dissident Xu Shuiliang said Wednesday he had

been granted a passport, in an apparent attempt by the authori-

Public Security Bureau in the eastern city of Nanjing, where he

lives. "It was quite a surprise," said Xu, who plans to travel to

the United States where he hopes to meet with other exiled dis-

47 slaughtered in Algeria: A total 47 peo-

ple were slaughtered this week, some after having their throats

slit, in the latest massacre to hit troubled Algeria, a daily news-

region of Blida, 50 kilometres (30 miles) south of Algiers, in the

early hours of Tuesday morning and slaughtered 39 people, in-

cluding a family of 15, Le Matin reported. At the same time, a

second group attacked two families in the village of Benachour,

3 Kurds to die for murder: A Turkish

state security court Tuesday condemned three separatist Kurds

to death for murder, the Anatolia news agency reported, AFP

lay 47. The two former military men were arrested Friday at a

hotel in Jupiter Beach, Florida, and Finlay was arrested in

Canada by the royal Canadian mouned police.

Announcing its verdict on 26 members of the outlawed Kur-

An armed group overran the Yemma m'Ghita village in the

Xu, 52, said he had received his passport last week from the

ties to push him onto exile overseas, reports AFP.

paper said Wednesday, AFP reports from Algiers.

slitting the throats of eight people, the paper said.

sidents such as Wang Juntao and Liu Qing.

The nomination has been expected since May, when White

ducted by the United Nations. The challenge for us is to find a way to do this," Solarz

ASEAN sent a delegation last week to try to mediate between Hun Sen and Ranariddh. The delegation, consisting of the foreign ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, also met with Cambodian King Sihanouk in Beijing.

Ranariddh and Sihanouk. his father, agreed with ASEAN proposals to negotiate a compromise solution, but Hun Sen rejected the suggestions.

ASEAN has said that Cambodia will become the 10th member of the group, but whether that will occur, as hoped, during the 30th anniversary year of the grouping remains unknown.

Meanwhile. Cambodia's Southeast Asian neighbours recognise Prince Ranariddh as the troubled country's first premier and will not admit it

UNITED NATIONS, July 23:

Disappointed with UN restruc-

turing plans, a US Senator is

urging Congress to enact legis-

lation as soon as possible to

withhold payments until the

United Nations meets US-im-

posed "benchmarks" for reform.

meaningful reform, the UN is in

danger of losing its relevance as

an effective world body - some-

thing the global community

cannot afford to let happen,"

Sen. Rod Grams, a member of

the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee, said in a statement.

ous that such reforms will not

take place without a nudge from

the United States, Congress

must fulfill its responsibility in

making the US position very

clear: No meaningful reforms,

no money," the Minnesota Re-

proved several reform "bench-

marks," including a reduction

in US payments to the world or-

ganisation and a demand that

the United Nations credit Wash-

ington for money spent unilat-

erally in support of UN opera-

conditions must be met before

the United States repays more

than 800 million dirs it ac-

Senate critics say those

The Senate last month ap-

"And since it's become obvi-

"Absent the enactment of

reports AP.

publican said.

into a regional grouping until the conflict over his ouster is resolved, it was announced Wednesday.

As far as we are concerned. Prince Ranariddh is the first prime minister," Malaysia's Foreign Minister, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, announced on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Because "the disputed position of the prime ministership still remains unresolved," ASEAN was sticking to its decision to delay Cambodia's membership indefinitely, he said.

AFP adds from Phnom Penh Some 65 people died and at least 129 were wounded in the Phnom Penh street battles which ended in the ouster of Prince Norodom Ranariddh Second Premier Hun Sen said in a broadcast today.

The latest toll for the factional fighting at the start of the month was significantly higher than the unofficial.

knowledges owing to the world

body. The United Nations

places the US arrears at more

Senate and House of Represen-

tatives meet in Washington on

Thursday to work out a joint

President Clinton if approved.

bill which would be sent to

eral Kofi Annan announced

what he called the most sweep-

ing reforms in UN history. But

the plan dealt mostly with ad-

ministrative matters and did

not address issues such as US

payments, which require ap-

proval by the 185-member Gen-

did not go far enough and

showed that the secretary-gen-

eral could not overcome resis-

tance from the UN bureaucracy.

tive world body entrusted with a

select number of missions it

can do and do well," Grams said.

"Enacting meaningful reforms

But John Whitehead, a for-

mer deputy secretary of state

and chairman of the United

Nations Association of the USA

urged the House-Senate com-

mittee to accept a figure of 1.021

billion dirs for the US arrears

and pay the amount in full.

is the first crucial step in that

"The UN should be an effec-

Grams said the Annan plan

Last week, Secretary-Gen-

Representatives from the

than 1 billion dirs.

eral Assembly.

Congress urged to enact laws

to withhold payments to UN



Palestinian Authorities President Yasser Arafat (C), Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy (R) and Luxembourg's Foreign Minister and current EU Chairman Jacques Poos (L) pose this Tuesday afternoon at the European Council Justus Lipsius-building in Brussels, where they met for an EU-led political discussion. - AFP/UNB photo

Israel temporarily detains 4 Palestinian lawmakers

# Deadlocked ME peace moves may start moving forward

JERUSALEM, July 23: A flurry of diplomatic activity in Jerusalem, Brussels and Washington gave the strongest indication in months that deadlocked Israeli-PLO peace moves may be starting to move for-

ward, reports Reuter. In Brussels, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy on Tuesday emerged from the highest level Israeli-PLO contact since April, confident that the sides could make progress towards reviving peace

Significant and positive steps have been taken Arafat told reporters without elaborating, "We have to continue these meetings".

talks.

Levy said he was "very satisfied" with what he heard from Arafat. Israel has demanded Arafat to arrest PLO police accused by Israelis of ordering an attack on a rabbi in the West Bank.

Israeli political sources said Levy agreed joint committees on the opening of Gaza air and sea ports and on establishing a "safe passage" between the West Bank and Gaza would resume once Israel was satisfied that Arafat had taken action against police involved in the incident. AP adds from Nablus: Israel

on Tuesday temporarily detained four Palestinian lawmakers after they visited a Palestinian police colonel held in a Palestinian prison on suspicion of ordering attacks against Israelis.

Among the four lawmakers was Marwan Barghouti, head of the Yasser Arafat's Fatah party in the city of Ramallah.

Jamal Shobaki, one of the Lawmakers, said they were stopped by Israeli soldiers after visiting with Col Jihad Musaimi, who was arrested after Israel accused him of ordering terrorist attacks.

He said they were kept for three hours on the side of the road and then ordered at gunpoint to drive with the police escort to an army base near Ramallah. There, after 15 minutes an Israeli officer showed up and apologized, and the group

"This is a humiliation. We are legislators, with immunity. They are doing this to terrorize us, to scare us, to humiliate us,"

Shobaki said.

sued a statement saying the lawmakers had been only briefly detained because of a suspicion that their car's papers were not in order. The army also said that only the driver was ordered to the base and the others chose to come along.

Earlier, some 2,000 Palestinians, including many Fatah members, rallied outside the Nablus prison where Musaimi is held, demanding his release and threatening attacks against Israel.

Hundreds of protesters tried to break through the prison gates but were pushed back by about 100 Palestinian police guarding the compound. "Free Jihad Musaimi now"! they shouted.

Israel says that Musaimi, acting on orders from Gaza police chief Brig. Gen Ghazi Jabali, sent squads under his command on attacks. Last week, Israel arrested four Palestinian policemen it said were en route to stage an attack against

Arafat set up a commission

Israel's army spokesman is-

Jewish settlers.

to investigate the charges.

## Fighting displaced thousands from Shomali Valley

# Aid workers prepare to evacuate Afghan capital

KABUL, July 23: Foreign relief workers again prepared to evacuate the Afghan capital yesterday as fighting between Taliban forces and an opposition alliance closed on capital,

A growing tide of civilians also fled areas north of Kabul after anti-Taliban forces took the key town of Qarabagh,

bringing them closer to the city. Expatriate aid groups have been told to pull less essential staff from the Afghan capital as

uation, non-government organisations (NGOs) are asked to reduce their staff starting today. Ross Everson, chief of the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR), told

Everson said buses would be organised to take expatriates who volunteered to evacuate the capital to centres close to the

There are only 120 foreigners left in Kabul, which was taken by the hardline Islamic militia last September, forcing a first exodus. But opposition groups have fought their way back and there have been five air raids since Sunday.

The relief workers are now on "Security alert three" under which non-essential staff are evacuated, emergency supplies are stock piled in underground shelters, travel curtailed around Kabul, and bags packed ready for a full evacuation.

Aid representatives held a special meeting to agree the

in-laws unhappy with the size

Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) decided not to pull out

Kabul was tense but calm, with Taliban soldiers at key road junctions checking passing vehicles for arms, high-

any staff.

die from AIDS

(AIDS) every Day, reports PTI. In 1996 alone the dreaded disease claimed as many as 1.5

oping countries. Experts estimate that 30 to 40 million people would be HIV-positive by the year 2000, it said.

lighting a growing fear of possible opposition infiltration.

Reuter adds from Islamabad: Recent fighting between warring factions has displaced thousands in Afghanistan's Shomali Valley north of Kabul, pushing the number of refugees in the capital to 200,000, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said on Tuesday.

A UNHCR statement issued in Islamabad said a UNHCR monitoring post recorded 15,474 displaced people entering Kabul from the north in seven days to July 20.

"The latest sharp increase in the displacement ... is the result of intense fighting which led up to the Taliban losing the key town of Charikar over the weekend to fighters belonging to the northern anti-Taliban alliance," it said.

The statement said most of those who arrived in Kabul last week were among the remain-ing inhabitants of Parawan province capital Charikar, 64 km (40 miles) north of Kabul.

"The town, which is believed to have had somewhere between 100,000 and 150,000 inhabitants a year ago, is now reported to be largely deserted of civilian inhabitants. The bazars are closed and there is a shortage of drinking water." The statement said the

Shomali Valley — an important agricultural region thrusting northwards from Kabul into the surrounding Hindu Kush Mountains - had been largely depopulated by continuing fighting and forced displacement.

goes unpunished but is tolerated

from the major parties of the coalition government he formed Tuesday. Key members of the previous government of

The caretaker Cabinet includes: People's Progress Party leader Andrew Baing, a holder from the Chan government; Pangu Party leaders Chris Haiveta, who had been Chan's finance minister and deputy prime minister; Simon Kaumi from Skate's own People's National Congress and independents Kala Swokin and Fabian

### Pro-democracy leaders demand constitutional

NAIROBI, July 23: Prodemocracy activists, emerging

President Daniel arap Moi, reports AP. The president's office was closed, however, and it was unclear whether Kenya's ruler for

19 years would grant the activists a meeting Wednesday. A letter signed by 165

church, civic and political leaders gathered by the reformist **National Convention Assembly** vowed that "peaceful mass action will continue until the government commits itself to bonafide dialogue.

Monday they have been excluded from talks on constitutional reform, and Moi's invitation to selected opposition leaders was an attempt to divide the popular movement.

distan Workers Party (PKK) allegedly involved in several mur-US suspects Iran's motives ders in western Turkey, the court in the Agenan Port of Izmir also sentenced the other 23 people to prison terms between three in seeking ties with 2 Americans, 1 Canadian held: Two Caucasus, Central Asia retired US military men and a Canadian businessmen were arrested for attempting to sell 34 helicopters to Iraq in violation reports AP. WASHINGTON, July 23: The of an international embargo, officials said Tuesday, AFP re-United States suspects Iran's motives in seeking to develop US customs service agency Keith Prager identified those arrelations with eight newly inrested as former army colonel Robert Fairchild, 52, former Madependent nations in the Caurine corps member Donald Proven 55 and Canadian Gary Fin-

casus and central Asia that were once part of the Soviet Union, a senior US adminis-

tration official said Tuesday,

Senate Foreign Relations committee. must promote democracy and human rights as well as rapid development of market economies and energy resources in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Geor-

Uzbekistan. Eizenstadt said that while neighbouring Iran might have some ties with these countries, 'a political vacuum would only give Iran the opportunity to fill

He also cautioned Russia to be a "good neighbor, not a big

Eizenstadt praised the constructive role Turkey was playing in a region where it has strong cultural and historic ties. As a secular Muslim nation, Turkey could serve as a better role model than Iran for

Brownback said developing open access to the Caspian Sea was of critical importance to the United States in order to develop an alternative energy

"We have all too much expe-

neighbour."

the central Asian republics, he

Sen. Sam Brownback, R Kan, who presided at the hearing, urged the administration to move rapidly to help these countries develop so they can resist Iranian and Russian influence.

source to the Middle East.

and other unacceptable behaviour, not to be deeply con-

rience with Iranian support for terrorism, efforts to obtain weapons by all possible means cerned," Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstadt told the

He said the United States gia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and

reports AFP.

factional fighting gets closer. "Considering the current sit-

Pakistani border.

measures, but the International

1,000 children

every day: UNICEF NEW DELHI, July 23: As many as 1,000 children around the world die from Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

million lives, the UNICEF report on "the progress of nations" said yesterday. Presenting a grim picture on the spread of the disease, the report said about 90 per cent of the 23 million people currently infected with HIV live in devel-

Unless major advances are made in preventing and treating the disease, projections are grim for high population countries like India where clinic data show that HIV is beginning to work its way into the middle class the report launched here today jointly by the government of India and UNICEF

The 1997 edition of the report, the fifth in the series. deals with topics like water and sanitation, nutrition.

overwhelming evidence that

these women died simply bein silence." cause they were female: Aborted Both the Beijing Conference after pre-natal tests revealed and the 1994 UN Population their sex, or murdered as in-Conference in Cairo said edufants, or deprived of the same cating girls was the key to curbmedical care afforded their ing the world's population exbrothers, or otherwise abused plosion and achieving equality and simply neglected to death," of the sexes.

> UNICEF said educating girls is also crucial to changing attitudes about sexual violence. It is promoting education for girls in 140 developing countries. Laws making gender-based

sexual harassment, and only 17 regard marital rape as a crime.

### Ex-Nazi captain of the string gets 15 yrs prison term in Italy ROME, July 23: A military

serious condition.

tribunal Tuesday sentenced former Nazi SS captain Erich Priebke to 15 years in prison for the World War II massacre of 335 civilians, but in a sign of leniency said that he should serve only five, reports AFP.

were announced. During their trial the pair expressed no remorse nor compassion, claim-

ing they were only carring out

orders and rejecting personal

responsibility.

The court also gave fellow officer Karl Hass a suspended prison term of 10 years and eight months, meaning he can go free immediately. Neither of the two accused were present when the verdicts

### LONDON, July 23: UNICEF estimated Tuesday in its annual report that some 60 million women should be alive today but aren't because of rampant sex discrimination that prizes a boy's life over a girl's, reports

Some girls are aborted when parents discover they're female. Some are killed as children. Others die of neglect or abuse in childhood, UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy told a news conference. These "missing" women are

Bicycles and scooters are parked outside a destroyed school house where ten children died

after the roof collapsed near the northern Indian town of Meerut following a heavy rain.

Twenty other children were injured in the incident late on Monday, fifteen reportedly in

an example of violence against women and girls which ranks as "the most pervasive violation of human rights in the world today," the United Nation's Children's Fund said. UNICEF made violence against women and girls the

centerpiece of its fifth annual report because sexual violence is a major obstacle to social and economic development and has "Corrosive effects on children," Bellamy said.

- AFP/UNB photo

"It is everywhere, in every conceivable form, from assault, rape, sexual slavery and domestic abuse to torture, mutilation and disfigurement, even murder," she told a news conference launching the report, "The Progress of Nations 1997."

The 60 million figure cited in the report is based on country-by-country projections of what the size of a "perfect population" should be statistically, compared with the actual population, said Greth Jones, chief of statistics at UNICEF in New York.

This "perfect population."

derived by demographers, takes into account natural gender differences in birth and mortality rates where there would be no gender discrimination. The figure, however, is an estimate, and could range as high as 90 million or as low as 40 million. Jones said. In China, the difference be-

tween this "perfect population" and the actual one shows 29 million missing females; in India, 23 million; Pakistan 3 million; Bangladesh 2 million and West Asia 2 million, he said. A 1994 World Bank report called "The Hidden Health Bur-

den" also came up with a 60 million "missing" figure. In India, more than 5,000 women are killed every year by

of their dowries, UNICEF said. More than a million children, mostly girls in Asia, are forced into prostitution every year at ever younger ages, to accommodate men fearful of getting AIDS. Every day, 6,000 girls are circumcised, the ritual cutting of girls' genitals that the report described as "mutilation." Catharine Way, who put the

UNICEF report together, said 250,000 girls die each year, primarily in South Central Asia and China, because they experience some sort of disadvantage relative to boys. "What this is mainly related to is unequal access to health care. Boys get taken to doctors,

Bellamy said there was

London news conference.

The 1995 UN Women's Conference in Beijing put the issue of violence against women and girls in the international spotlight, but Bellamy said, "There is still a great deal to be done." "The report challenges the denial and the passive accep-

she said.

tance that too often surrounds this subject," she said. According to UNICEF. girls do not," she said at the crimes against women are vastly under-reported and

"Most gender violence not only

violence a crime are also an important step, the report said, but only 44 of the 193 nations in the world have enacted legislation against domestic violence, only 27 have laws against

### separatist guerilla campaign has cost more than 20,000 lives since being launched in 1989. New PM of PNG appoints cabinet members PORT MORESBY. Papua New

Guinea, July 23: Newly elected Prime Minister Bill Skate has announced members of his caretaker Cabinet and said he will detail their portfolios over the next few days, reports AP. Skate said the interim Cabinet contained key members

Sir Julius Chan are among the new administration. "As a coalition it is important for me to ensure a fair representation with the executive government, I will appoint persons with demonstrated ability to the various ministries,

Skate said Tuesday night.

# reforms in Kenya

from hours of closed-door meetings, late Tuesday said they would present their demands for constitutional reforms to

Assembly members said