

## International

## Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit

## Clinton to face trial in May

LITTLE ROCK, Aug 23: Paula Corbin Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against President Bill Clinton can go forward, a federal judge ruled, rejecting attempts by defense lawyers to have the case thrown out, reports AP.

US District Court Judge Susan Webber Wright did dismiss the allegation that Clinton had defamed Mrs. Jones and dismissed a claim that the former state employee had been denied due process.

"I'm just glad it's going to proceed and go forward," said Mrs. Jones, who flew in from her California home to watch Friday's hearing.

The judge set jury selection for May 27 and said she hoped the case could be tried in about a week. Lawyers had estimated four weeks.

"I would hope we could try

this case in five or six days — it doesn't look like a case that's worth anything more than that," she said.

Mrs. Jones' central allegation of sexual harassment was allowed to stand in the civil lawsuit.

Clinton, who would be the first President to stand trial on sexual harassment allegations, will not be required to attend any proceedings.

The judge — an appointee of former President George Bush who was one of Clinton's law students two decades ago — dismissed Mrs. Jones' claim that she was denied due process rights in being transferred to a dead-end job after rejecting Clinton's alleged advances. Also rejected was her claim that Clinton defamed her after she came forward with her allegations.

## Bodo rebels kill 4 soldiers in Assam

## CPI (M) leader shot dead by tribal militants

AGARTALA, Aug 23: Gandhimuni Tripura, a prominent CPI (M) leader, was shot dead by suspected tribal militants of the outlawed National Liberation Front of Tripura Thursday night at his village Thengrabari in Belonia sub-division of south Tripura district, reports PTI.

The police said that the rebels, armed with sophisticated weapons, fired at him when he was sitting in front of his house along with his wife. However, his wife escaped unhurt.

Tripura, 50, was a member of the Panchayat Development Advisory Council and member of the Tripura Tribal Area Au-

tonomous District Council.

No arrest was made in this connection, police said. A combing operation was launched by the army and paramilitary forces to nab the culprits.

APP adds: Tribal guerrillas ambushed and killed four army soldiers and wounded five others in the northeastern Indian state of Assam, authorities said today.

The soldiers, who were on motorcycles, came under fire from hilltops near an isolated village about 220 kilometers (137 miles) north of Guwahati, late Friday when they were returning after raiding a militant

hideout.

The four soldiers died instantly, an army spokesman said.

"Five of our men received injuries," he said. "Our men retaliated, and at least one of the attackers was killed."

The militants, believed to be Bodo tribals, used automatic weapons and escaped into the thick forests adjoining the neighbouring Himalayan state of Bhutan.

The Bodo guerrillas, who are fighting for a tribal homeland in Assam, have killed at least 50 people, including soldiers and non-tribal settlers, this month.

## Israeli jets fire missiles at Hezbollah posts in S Lebanon

TYRE, Lebanon, Aug 23: Israeli warplanes Saturday fired two missiles at a suspected position of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrilla group in south Lebanon, security officials said, reports AP.

Two fighter jets raided a valley in the Shi'ite Muslim village of Yatar facing an Israeli-occupied border enclave, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

There was no immediate word on casualties.

The targeted area is believed to be used by the Hezbollah as a base to launch attacks on Israeli troops and their allied militiamen occupying the southern enclave.

The raid came a day after Hezbollah guerrillas detonated a roadside bomb, killing an Israeli-allied militiaman in the enclave that Israeli occupied in 1995 to protect its northern towns from cross-border guerrilla incursions.

Hezbollah, or Party of God, has used roadside bombs and rocket attacks in its war of attrition to try to drive out some 1,500 Israeli soldiers and the 2,500-strong South Lebanon Army militia from the occupied zone.

Recent escalation in fighting between the two sides has killed 26 people, mostly civilians.



A British SFOR soldier mans a howitzer as he patrols near Banja Luka Friday, which has been the focus of increased tension in recent days between Bosnian Serb-President Biljana Plavsic and Serb hardliners close to her predecessor Radovan Karadzic.

—AFP/UNB photo

## Govt accuses Hutu rebels

## 107 Tutsis killed as refugee camp attacked in Rwanda

KIGALI, Aug 23: Attackers hacked and shot 107 Tutsis to death and injured 30 others at a refugee camp in northwestern Rwanda, the UN refugee agency said. The government accused Hutu rebels of carrying out the raid, reports AP.

Two Rwandan soldiers guarding the camp also were killed and another two wounded in the attack Friday, army Col. Kayumba Nyamwasa said.

The marauders set fire to tents housing 8,000 Tutsi refugees from the Nasisi region in northeastern Congo and set upon the civilians with machetes and guns, said Paul Stromberg, spokesman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Three hundred Hutu insurgents and several hundred local Hutu civilians overwhelmed 15 soldiers guarding the camp, Nyamwasa said. The government sent reinforcements to stop the assault and twelve assailants were killed before the rest fled, he said.

The attackers included local civilians who had been employed by aid agencies running the camp, Nyamwasa added.

Most of the refugees fled after the attack to the nearby Nkamira transit camp from

where they will be moved to a safer area, the UN spokesman said.

Residents of the camp at Mudende had fled their homes in mid-1996 to escape attacks by former Rwandan Hutu soldiers and militiamen based in camps across the border in Zaire, which since has been renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Several hundred people, including Rwandan civilians, Hutu insurgents and members of the Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Army, have been killed in northwestern Rwanda in the past month.

Last week at least 15 civilians and 99 prisoners were killed in attacks by insurgents in the same region that included the springing of two local jails.

Rwanda is plagued by bloody rivalry between Hutus and minority Tutsis, who now control the Central African nation's government. In 1994, a government dominated by Hutus presided over the slaughter of at least a half-million Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus.

Hundreds of thousands of Hutus, among them soldiers and militiamen responsible for the killings, fled to eastern Zaire.

## Bid to outflank resistance forces

## Hun Sen's forces attempt to cross into Thai territory

CHONG CHOM PASS, Thailand, Aug 23: Soldiers loyal to Cambodian strongman Hun Sen attempted to cross into Thai territory to outflank resistance forces, but turned back after tripping several land mines, a high-ranking Thai army officer said Saturday, reports AP.

Thai troops who had reinforced the border were alerted by the mine explosions, said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity. He did not know the number of troops involved, or what sort of casualties they had suffered.

The officer said the incident took place on an old smuggling route near Chong Plot Tang, about 6 kilometers (3.5 miles) west of O'Smach, the last stronghold of troops loyal to ousted First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh. He stressed that Thailand would allow no Cambodian factions to use its territory for fighting.

Forces loyal to Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC party began shelling their opponents just before 8 am Saturday, firing 22 rounds over a period of 3 1/2 hours. Hun Sen's men fired five mortar rounds, according to Thai troops at the border monitoring the fighting.

Chhoei Koma said he was wounded in the chest on August 12 when he and about 30 comrades battled a larger contingent of Hun Sen troops at a village several kilometers south of O'Smach.

He said one of his friends was more seriously injured, while he believed three enemy soldiers had been killed by the land mines which are serving as FUNCINPEC's first line of defense.

When he was still fighting,

he said, FUNCINPEC soldiers were given only 60 bullets each every 10 days. But food supplies

— canned fish, instant noodles and rice — were sufficient.

Chhoei Koma smiled when the Thai doctor said he could leave the hospital Saturday. He and his wife, Run Kin, 25, were to move to the refugee camp. Their two children are staying with their maternal grandmother still in Cambodia.

"When I'm strong, getting better, I will go back and fight," he said. "FUNCINPEC can fight, FUNCINPEC can win. We can protect O'Smach, we will fight for our country."

FUNCINPEC military com-

mander Gen Nhek Bunchhay claims to have 2,000 men at his disposal.

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A pickup truck stopped in the village Saturday morning to pick up at least 50 sacks of rice, then drove towards the front, escorted by a jeep with a heavy machine gun.

Some people in casual clothing were seen at the barbed wire frontier selling household goods — apparently abandoned by civilians who had fled to Thailand — to buyers on the Thai side.

About 35,000 civilians have been settled into a "center for displaced persons" at Khuon Hoeicheng, 7 kilometers (4 miles) from the border. They began crossing into Thailand when fighting intensified on Monday.

At a field hospital just inside Thailand, a wounded FUNCINPEC soldier said Saturday he was keen to return to the battlefield.

Thirty-year-old Chhoei Koma said he had come to O'Smach about two weeks ago with 120 other soldiers from the western border town of Poipet.

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