

## 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 not 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.

## 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 wounded in the attack Friday, army Col. Kayumba Niyamwasa said.

The marauders set fire to tents housing 8,000 Tutsi refugees from the Nsisi 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, Niyamwasa 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, Niyamwasa 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.

## 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 Thengbari in Belonia sub-division of south Tripura district, reports PTI.

The police said that the ultras, 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 culprit.

AFP adds: Tribal guerillas 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 kilometres (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 guerillas, who are fighting for a tribal homeland in Assam, have killed at least 50 people, including soldiers and non-tribal settlers, this month.

## 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.

That troops 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 kilometres (3.5 miles) west of O'Smach, the last stronghold of troops loyal to ousted First Prime Minister Prince 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.

The village of O'Smach continued to be held by Ranariddh's troops, even though officials of Hun Sen's regime claim to have captured it earlier this week.

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 Khuen Hoeichueng, 7 kilometres (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. 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 kilometres 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 defence.

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

## 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 guerilla group in south Lebanon, security officials said, reports AP.

Two fighter jets raided a valley in the Shiite 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 guerillas 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 guerilla 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.

## Tigers stall military push in N Lanka

COLOMBO, Aug 23: Fierce rebel resistance stalled the military push to capture a strategic town in northern Sri Lanka, a military spokesman said Saturday, reports AP.

The soldiers advanced a little Friday after capturing nearly half of Puliyankulam, a town located 215 kilometres (134 miles) north of Colombo, earlier in the week, said Kumar De- vage, a military spokesman. More than 350 combatants were killed on both sides.

De vage said at least 70 rebels were killed in Friday's fighting and the military lost one officer and six soldiers.

There was no comment from the rebels on casualties. Independent accounts are not possible because the government has barred reporters from visiting the war zone.

## 1 more dies Rain disrupts normal life in Mumbai

MUMBAI, Aug 23: Normal life remained disrupted in commercial capital for the second day today despite a let up in rains and partial restoration of rail, road and air traffic, reports PTI.

One person died in a landslide at suburban Bandrup this morning taking the death toll in the monsoon fury related mishaps to six.

While the Mumbai airport was re-opened to traffic late last night, suburban rail services and road transport continued to be dislocated due to very slow recession of rain waters.

Central Railway spokesman Rakesh Saxena told PTI "water recession has been very slow with hardly any outlet in view of high tide at sea and flooding all over the city." Railway officials had an emergency meeting with municipal authorities late last night for clearing any choked drainages.

## US sees signs of peace in Bosnia

WASHINGTON, Aug 23: Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said Friday there were "encouraging signs" in Bosnia following President Bill Clinton's decision to move to step up the peace process there, reports AP.

Among the dividends of Clinton's policy, Albright cited an increased number of refugees returning to their homes and greater efforts to bring war criminals to trial in The Hague.

Albright was speaking at the swearing-in here of the new US ambassador to Bosnia, Richard Kauzlarich.

She said "the United States would do all we can to help those who want to follow the road envisioned by Dayton, the road towards reconciliation, democracy, prosperity and peace."



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

## China ready to continue cooperation with ASEAN: Li

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 23: Visiting Chinese premier Li Peng said Friday that China stands ready to continue its productive cooperation with ASEAN countries, reports Xinhua.

In a speech at the welcoming meeting hosted by the Institute of Diplomatic and Foreign Relations of Malaysia, Li called on the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to join hands with China to promote the establishment of a fair and just new international political and economic order.

The regional grouping comprises Brunei, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Li said that China and Southeast Asian nations had similar past of prolonged foreign aggression and that they

are now both faced with a common task of developing the national economy.

"Moreover, they share the need for securing regional and international peace. We are ready to join ASEAN countries to work unrelentingly for good-neighbourly and friendly relations geared to the 21st century," he said.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the historical trend toward national independence and liberation was irreversible, the Chinese premier said, "today, the trend toward multi-polarization is accelerating and it has again become an irreversible historical trend to strive for world peace, national development and social progress."

The ASEAN, as an important regional organization, is playing an increasingly important role in maintaining regional peace and promoting economic development, he said.

## Experts say

## Malaria back on world map as killer disease

HYDERABAD, India, Aug 23: An international conference on malaria closed here Friday with experts claiming they had put the killer disease back on the world map, reports AP.

VP Sharma, who chaired the five-day conference organised by the private New York-based Malaria Foundation, said the event had succeeded in reminding the world that malaria was "a global problem."

Sharma, of the Indian Malaria Research Centre, said the "globality aspect of the need to fight malaria has been achieved."

The conference, which marked the 100th anniversary of the disease's link with mosquitoes being identified on August 20, 1897, focused on the need for a greater partnership between world governments and multi-national corpora-

tions. It also allowed 650 delegates from 25 nations to discuss new drugs, vaccines and ways of combating a disease which according to World Health Organisation figures, kills up to 2.7 million people a year.

Between 300 and 500 million people are affected by the disease, mostly in Africa.

The conference, which also discussed plans to produce a genetically-engineered mosquito incapable of passing on the malaria parasite to humans, ended with some delegates focusing on the factor played by global warming in the resurgence of the disease.

Anatoli Kondrachine, the World Health Organisation's chief of malaria controls, said: "Global warming... in the case of Africa, has helped make the malaria epidemic spread more rapidly."

## Risky repairs completed

## Mir cosmonauts plan to spend day of rest

MOSCOW, Aug 23: Cosmonauts on the space station Mir planned to enjoy a well-deserved day of rest today after completing risky repairs to beef up power on the damaged craft, reports Reuters.

Russian space officials said it would be several days before they knew if the connection of cables on Friday into the damaged spektr module would restore power to near the level it was before a June 25 collision with a cargo re-supply ship.

"They have accomplished their task, in two or three days we'll make tests to see if the power system has been restored," the head of the Russian space agency, Yuri Koptev, told reporters.

"They demonstrated time after time that when they going

gets tough, they are up to the challenge" Greg Habaugh, who heads NASA's space walk projects told reporters.

Mir has run on 60 per cent power since the collision, forcing the crew to turn off several of the station's modules and curtailing its scientific usefulness.

The completion of the repairs was the best news in months from Mir which has been plagued by technical failures. Prompting critics to say it was time to retire the world's only orbiting laboratory.

After a delay of two hours Vinogradov with commander Anatoly Solovoyov lending a hand opened the spektr hatch and quickly connected nine cables leading to its solar panels.

## BRIEFLY

### Road mishap kills 16 in India:

Sixteen people, including seven policemen, were killed when an empty LPG truck belonging to the Himachal Pradesh Civil Supplies Department skidded into a 200-metre gorge near Pangmo village, about 350 kms from Shimla Friday night, PTI reports from Simla.

While 14 people died on the spot, one died on the way to hospital. Another one succumbed to his injuries in the hospital, police said yesterday. A woman and a 18-month-old child were also among the dead, police said and added that the truck driver, Mohan Singh, was injured in the mishap which occurred in the tribal Lahul-Spiti district.

**Diseases claim 10 in S'pore:** Singapore has recorded 10 deaths this year a mysterious soil disease, dengue fever and malaria, a newspaper reported Saturday, AP says from Singapore.

Besides the deaths hundreds of people have become ill from food poisoning. The Straits Times reported, quoting government agencies. Also, 8 people contracted cholera during the first six months of the year, down from last year, the paper said. Cases of food poisoning, dengue fever and malaria have gone up this year, the report said. Of the 29 cases of the soil disease — known as melioidosis — reported this year, 6 people died, the paper said.

**6 die in jail riot in Jamaica:** Six inmates have been killed and at least 21 hurt in three days of prison riots in Jamaica triggered after reports of a plan to hand out condoms, AP reports from Kingston.

Rioting started after commissioner of corrections John Prescod announced plans on a radio programme Tuesday to distribute condoms to inmates and guards in a bid to curb HIV infections. Guards were outraged by Prescod's remarks because they said he implied they were having homosexual sex with prisoners. Guards vented their disapproval by reporting sick on Wednesday, and backed by their union, demanded that Prescod be sacked.

**10 Russian tax cops killed:** Ten Russian tax police officers were killed 40 were wounded and two went missing in the first six months of this year, a news report said Saturday, AP reports from Moscow.

The ITAR-Tass news agency quoted Vyacheslav Soltaganov, a department chief at the State Tax Service, as saying criminals have been targeting tax police executives as well as the most active officers. A total of 520 crimes directed against tax police officers were registered in the first half of 1997, he said. Soltaganov attributed these figures to "a high degree of the society's criminalization" and said tax police employees were poorly protected.

**6 Indian drug traffickers jailed:** Six persons have been sentenced to ten years rigorous imprisonment by the special court judge, Kanagasabapathy, in Salem on charges of smuggling heroin, PTI reports from Salem.

According to the chargesheet, the accused had smuggled 600 kgs of heroin valued at about Rs 15 crore, in a lorry on May 5, 1993. They were arrested by the officials of the central excise and customs departments. A fine of Rs one lakh each on all the accused was also imposed by the judge Friday.

**Indonesia passes environment bill:** Indonesia's Parliament has passed a new environment bill that imposes harsher penalties on polluters and strictly prohibits imports of hazardous materials. AP reports from Jakarta.

The bill, endorsed in a plenary session of the 500-member House of Representatives on Friday, will carry a maximum penalty of 15 years in jail and a fine of 750 million rupiah (269,000 dls) for those convicted of damaging the environment. The bill must now wait for approval from President Suharto before being enacted. It would replace an old law enacted in 1982, which stipulates a jail term of 10 years with a fine of 100 million rupiah (37,000 dls).

**19 prostitutes rounded up in Manila:** Police have rounded up 19 Chinese women believed to be prostitutes and two others suspected to be their pimps at a nightclub in Manila's tourist district, AP reports from Manila.

Crescencio Cabasal, chief of the investigation section of the Manila police, said his men raided the California Red Karaoke Bar late Friday and caught one of the women having sex with a customer. He said the woman will be charged with prostitution. The two others, also Chinese women and suspected to be pimps, will be charged with violation of the anti-white slavery law.

**Samper to seek talks with rebels:** Facing a grisly wave of political violence President Ernesto Samper announced Friday Colombia's government would seek a dialogue with leftist rebels including South America's oldest guerilla group, AFP reports from Bogota.

## Gujral steps up war on corruption

MAHESH UNIYAL writes from New Delhi

Showing that he means business, Indian Prime Minister I.K. Gujral has stepped up his newly launched campaign against corruption.

Days after he announced a crusade against the most talked about affliction of the Indian political system, Gujral yesterday strongly backed a suggestion by the country's top poll official to ban those with criminal records from contesting elections.

Addressing the 12th All-India Whips Conference in Srinagar in Kashmir, the Prime Minister said those contesting elections to legislative bodies should be legally required to inform of their background, including criminal records if any.

"My head hangs in shame when we are told that India is among the ten most corrupt countries in the world," Gujral said, repeating what he had told a meeting with Indian industrialists last week where he announced the setting up of the anti-corruption cell in the

Prime Minister's office.

Admitting that the battle against corruption and crime must begin at the top, he said it was a matter of regret that in Parliament "we are seen rubbing our shoulders with persons with whom we would be ashamed to be seen outside."

He also urged all national parties to reach an agreement on the need for such a law. "If we have to survive as a strong democratic nation, we have to wage a war against this menace," the Prime Minister said.

Although media commentators say that Gujral's intentions will be difficult to carry through, especially given the shaky nature of his 14-party coalition, the Prime Minister says he is trying to make a "beginning" by "cleaning up the environment around me."

Mr Gujral has already inaugurated a special anti-corruption cell in his office where individuals and organisations can make complaints against venal public officials.

The cell will not conduct probes on its own but act as a clearing house for complaints. These will be forwarded for action to relevant investigating agencies after preliminary scrutiny shows that there is prima facie evidence against the accused.

But political observers say that the very fact that a complaint is routed through the Prime Minister's office would ensure a thorough and timely action by probe agencies which have often been criticised for going slow on politically sensitive charges.

Not all agree on the need for a special anti-corruption department. "Looking around, there is no person who is more qualified to launch an official campaign against corruption than Gujral. The trouble has been that Gujral's image of cleanliness is not matched by his ability to take the bull of corruption by the horns," said The Hindustan Times.

— India Abroad News Service



Members of the security of Egyptian millionaire Dodi al-Fayed guard his villa in Saint-Tropes Friday where Princess Diana joined him aboard the Al-Fayed family yacht authorities said. — AFP/UNB photo

## Window of opportunity seen for independent Palestinian media

WASHINGTON, Aug 23: There is a "window of opportunity" to create an independent media in the Palestinian-run areas of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, according to prominent Palestinian journalist Daoud Kuttab, reports AP.

"We have a chance," he told an audience of US government officials, journalists and writers and human rights activists at the Centre of Policy Analysis on Palestine on August 22.

Kuttab is director of the Institute of Modern Media at al-Quds University, an educational television station, which may also be described as Palestinian version of the American television network, C-SPAN. It concentrates on broadcasting

sessions of the Palestinian legislature or other seminars or lectures of general public interest in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip.

Kuttab gained international attention when he was briefly jailed earlier this year for broadcasting unedited television coverage of the deliberations of the fledgling Palestinian Legislative Council, which is sometimes critical of Palestinian Authority (PA) chairman Yasser Arafat.

His problems with the Palestinian Authority began when he found out that his non-stop coverage of the legislature's sessions were being jammed by the PA-controlled Voice of Palestine television station.

When Kuttab resorted to distributing his coverage on television cassettes to other local television stations, he was arrested by the Palestinian police.

As a result of his arrest and the subsequent international outcry, the Palestinian Authority formed a commission under Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo to draft legislation on press freedoms. The commission includes representatives from the media and public interest groups but there has been no indication yet when the commission will come up with the new legislation.

Kuttab reported that there have been "mixed signals" from the Palestinians Authority since 1993 when the Pales-

tinian Liberation Organization assumed control in the two territories occupied by Israel in 1967. He noted that although there has never been any censorship, several journalists have been arrested and newspapers and publications confiscated.

On the other hand, he said, new publications have been launched and the Palestinian areas now have private radio and television stations. The only Arab state with private electronic media is Lebanon. He attributed this proliferation, in part, to fears within the Palestinian leadership that Israel may one day decide to obstruct official television and radio stations should peace negotia-

tions falter further.

Kuttab quoted Iyad Serraj, the Palestinian Commissioner for Citizens Rights, as saying that there has been a significant decrease this year in human rights violations by the Palestinian Authority.

He gave credit to Abed Rabbo for the growth of local radio and television stations in the different cities where the PA has full control, adding that local politicians have found the local television station "an important outlet" for their aspirations.

There are 19 private television stations and four radio stations in the West Bank cities but none in Gaza. He described their political orientation as

"centrist" although there may be evidence of some favouritism toward one political group or another.

According to Kuttab, the mushrooming of local television and radio stations has given rise to popular "call-in" shows which local politicians clamor to appear on.

He also said his station's coverage of the legislature has prompted local newspapers to increase coverage of these deliberations.

Kuttab indicated that he was grateful for the support of US Consul General Edmund Abington during his incarceration. "He came and saw me on the third day."