### Dismissal of lawsuit

## Paula Jones to appeal

DALLAS, Apr 17: A tearful Paula Jones vowed on Thursday to press her fight for justice by asking a US appeals court to reinstate her sexual harassment lawsuit against President Bill Clinton, reports Reuter.

Struggling to maintain her composure. Jones cast her decision to appeal the dismissal of the case as so important for women's rights that it had to be placed ahead of considerations for her family.

"Despite the continuing personal strain on my family and me, in the end, I have not come this far to see the law let men who have done such things dodge their responsibility, they should not be able to abuse their position of power at the expense of female employees," Jones

told a news conference. Jones, 31 alleges that Clinton exposed himself to her and asked for oral sex in a Little Rock, Arkansas. hotel room in May, 1991 when she was a lowlevel state employee and he was governor.

Clinton denies the allegations, and US District Judge Susan Webber Wright ruled on April 1 that Jones' case against him — a case financed by Clinton's conservative political foes - was too flimsy to go to trial,

which had been set for May 27. But Jones whose husband stood beside her with his arm around her said the case was too critical for women everywhere to let it go.

'I was shocked because I believe that what Mr Clinton did to me was wrong and that the law protected women who are subject to that kind of abuse of power," she said.

The appeal will be made to the eighth US Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis, Missouri, Jones attorney Donovan Campbell said a ruling could be made in as few as six months but could possibly take much

He said the appeal would allege that Wright wrongly interpreted civil rights laws and had not considered that Clinton had made a weak case.

'We do not think that the law permits a male supervisor to expose himself to his female subordinates and ask for sexual favour. There is no one-freeflash rule recognised in the law," he said.

Campbell said it was possible the case could be upheld and go to trial before the end of Clinton's presidency, but would be pursued even if he was out of

# Jayalalitha posing threat to BJP-led coalition

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's fledgling minority coalition government is facing a game of 'political poker" in a bid to keep one of its major allies in its camp, newspapers said today, reports AFP.

The multi-party Hindu nationalist-led coalition, in power for less than a month, is trying to placate the maverick leader of the AIADMK Party after she tabled a series of demands that could threaten the fragile alliance.

Jayalalitha Jayaram, head of the AIADMK which controls 18 of the coalition's 264 seats. said all government ministers facing criminal charges should stand down until they had been proved innocent.

will win in the political poker that is currently being played out in full public view," the Times of India said. Jayalalitha made the demand after one of her own party

"It is ... anybody's guess who

members was forced to stand down as transport minister last week over corruption allega-

The newspapers said it was "in principle ... a compelling argument" but that such a policy would deprive the coalition of a string of ministers and top officials, including Home Minister

Lal Krishna Advani. Advani is a senior leader in Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which dominates the coalition.

"Vajpayee knows he cannot give in on this," the Times said. The AIADMK, which is based in the southern state of Tamil Nadu where it is in opposition. also wants the state assembly there to be dismissed by New Delhi and new regional elections held.

The Times said Jayalalitha, a former Tamil Nadu chief minister, was using the resignation of her minister as a "bargaining chip" to try and force new state elections which could sweep her back to power.

However, a special government panel set up to look into allegations of misrule in Tamil Nadu and charges of official abatement to insurgent groups, late Thursday said it was satisfied with the law and order situation there.

Jayalalitha, who herself faces long-standing corruption allegations and is currently out on bail, had already threatened to pull the rug from under the

dozen-party coalition just before it was sworn in last month after her demand for the finance portfolio was rejected.

Analysts warned after the February-March elections that Vajpayee's coalition was unlikely to last much more than a year-and-a-half because of the conflicting ambitions of its constituents. Many are regional parties without a real national

PTI adds from Calcutta: Despite small disputes regarding seat sharing, the Trinamool Congress and BJP last night reiterated that they would unitedly put up candidate in each of nearly 60,000 seats in the coming Panchayat election in the state against CPI-M-led Left Front.

After the second round of meeting between the two electoral allies at the residence of Trinamool Congress MP Ajit Panja, the party chairman Pankaj Banerjee said that the meeting was held in cordial atmosphere.

Admitting that small disputes cropped up at some places regarding seat adjustments, Banerjee said that these would be sorted out amicably.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat weeps Thursday in Ramallah as he sits alongside the crying Intissar Wazir, wife of his deputy Abu Jihad who was assassinated by Israeli commandoes in Tunis ten years ago. About 5000 Palestinians attended a rally in memory of Abu Jihad, and it was the words of Hanan, his daughter that brought tears to the eyes of Arafat. - AP/UNB photo

## BREFILY

Bandaranaike turns 82: The 82nd birthday of the world's first woman prime minister, Sri Lanka's Sirimavo Bandaranaike, was marked with religious ceremonies and prayers in her homeland Friday, AP reports from Colombo.

Bandaranaike entered politics after her husband, then Prime Minister Solomon Bandaranaike, was assassinated in 1959 by a deranged Buddhist monk. A year later, she was elected the world's first woman head of government, serving until 1965 and again from 1970-77. She is currently serving her third term as prime minister, taking office in 1994 after her daughter, Chandrika Kumaratunga, became president.

George Michael was charged on Thursday with lewd conduct stemming from his arrest this month in a public toilet, officials said, Reuter reports from Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles district attorney's office said in a statement that Michael, 34, would be arranged on the Misdemeanor charge on May 5 at Beverly Hills Municipal Court. The British-born singer hinted in a television interview he was likely to plead guilty. The charge carries a maximum sentence of six months in iail and a 1,000 dollars fine.

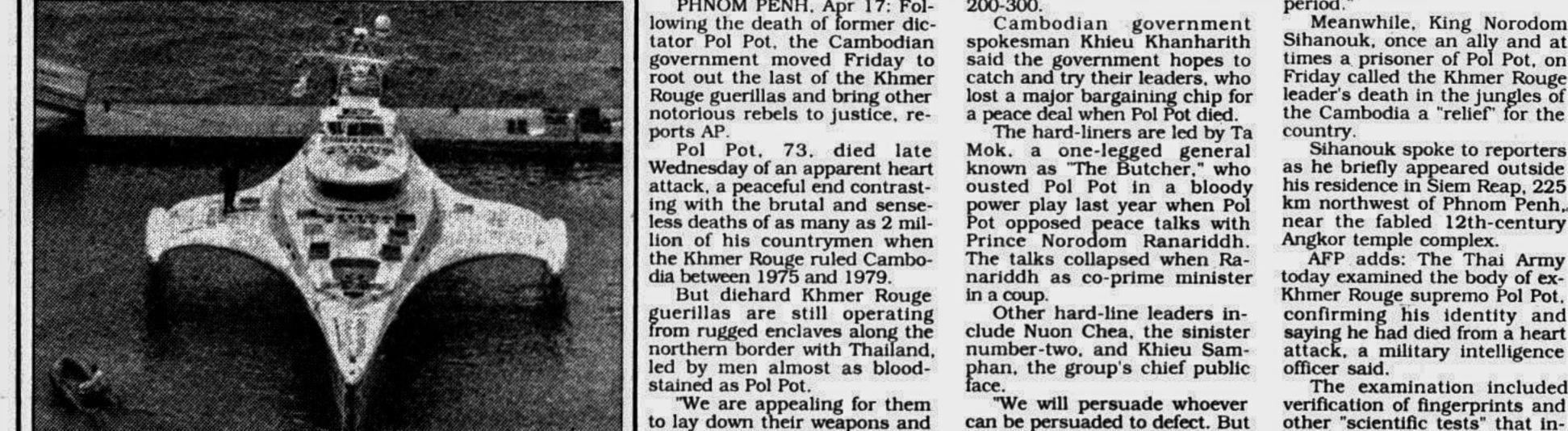
US government will hand over control of the Internet to an independent global board, a senior adviser to President Bill

Clinton said Friday, AP reports from Canberra. Ira Magaziner, Clinton's information technology policy advisor, said one reason for distancing itself from the Internet was to reduce the government's legal liability for companies that operated from the Internet, originally set up by the US Defence Department. It also wanted to back out of having to favour any commercial interest over another.

Serb war criminal surrenders:

A Serb war crimes suspect charged with torturing non-Serbs in one of Bosnia's most notorious prison camps surrendered Thursday to the international war crimes tribunal, AP reports from Banja Luka, Bosnia-Herzegovina

Both the NATO-led peace force and the UN tribunal confirmed that Zoran Zigic, 40, was en route to the tribunal's cells in The Hague, Netherlands.



View of the British built and crewed C and W Adventure power boat Thursday in Gibraltar. The Adventure leaves Gibraltar tomorrow in a bid to break the world record of circumventing the globe in 80 days, passing by Monte Carlo, Port Said, Singapore, Yokohama, Honolulu, Balboa, Kingstown, Miami, New York and back across the Atlantic - AP/UNB photo to Gibraltar.

## UN accord with Iraq isn't time-specific: Annan

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 17: An agreement under which Iraq opened up presidential sites to UN weapons inspectors is "not time-specific," UN chief Kofi Annan said here Tuesday, reports AFP.

Annan was questioned at a news briefing here after Iraqi Oil Minister Mohammed Amer Rashid raised questions about Baghdad's intentions by telling the deputy chief UN weapons inspector that the inspections were of a "finite duration."

Asked whether the February 23 accord provided for the inspectors to make repeated visits to the sites, and included longterm monitoring. Annan replied: "The answer is yes."

"The agreement allows UN-SCOM to go in again and to go back again. It was not time-specific, or one-time only." Rashid's statement was mentioned by UN Special Commis-

sion (UNSCOM) deputy chairman Charles Duelfer in a report to Annan focusing on the first inspections of the eight presidential sites in Iraq.

Duelfer led the UN weapons experts who were accompanied

PHNOM PENH, Apr 17: Fol-

Pol Pot, 73, died late

But diehard Khmer Rouge

"We are appealing for them

surrender," said Gen Chea Man,

who commands government

troops confronting the rem-

nants. "But if they refuse our.

appeal, we will immediately

the holdouts still had 2,000

men under arms and would be

difficult to wipe out. But Chea

Man said they numbered only

The Thai military estimated

launch an offensive."

by diplomats during the presidential site inspections from March 26 to April 2.

The sites had been declared off-limits to the inspectors until Annan and Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz signed the February agreement providing for full and unconditional ac-

> Botha's trial postponed

GEORGE, South Africa, Apr 17: The trial of former President P W Botha was postponed on Thursday against his wishes soon after a truth commission official painted his rule as one of killings torture and blatant trampling of human rights, reports AFP.

Botha, 82, who is charged with contempt of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), stormed out of court when magistrate Victor Lugaju announced a postponement until June 1.

The adjournment will allow prosecutors time to get hold of documents currently housed in the TRC's archives in Pretoria.

Pol Pot's death a relief to nation: Sihanouk

Cambodia moves to crush Khmers

said the government hopes to

catch and try their leaders, who

lost a major bargaining chip for

Mok. a one-legged general

known as "The Butcher," who

ousted Pol Pot in a bloody

power play last year when Pol

Pot opposed peace talks with

Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

The talks collapsed when Ra-

nariddh as co-prime minister

clude Nuon Chea, the sinister

number-two, and Khieu Sam-

phan, the group's chief public

can be persuaded to defect. But

Ta Mok, Nuon Chea and Khieu

Samphan, as well as Pol Pot.

must be brought to trial," Khieu

seconded by US President Bill

Clinton who said senior Khmer

Rouge leaders "are still at large

and share responsibility for the

monstrous human rights

abuses committed during this

The call for their trial was

"We will persuade whoever

Other hard-line leaders in-

in a coup.

Kanharith said.

The hard-liners are led by Ta

a peace deal when Pol Pot died.

Cambodian government

Annan was also asked about

Thursday's statement by the Iraqi leadership after a meeting chaired by President Saddam Hussein, which called for the lifting of the oil embargo "so as to guarantee a balanced and healthy relationship between Iraq and the Security Council.

The Secretary General said he had not read the statement. But "I have had no officia communication from the government that they are ending their cooperation with the UN. he stressed.

The sanctions can only be lifted when UN inspectors are satisfied that all Iraqi weapons of mass destruction have been eliminated

The UN Security Council is due to hold its regular sanctions review in the last week of April. after receiving a six-monthly report from UNSCOM chief Richard Butler which is expected to be released in the coming days. Rashid and Foreign Minister

Mohammed Said al-Sahhaf are due in New York and Sunday for the sanctions review.

Meanwhile, King Norodom

times a prisoner of Pol Pot, on

Friday called the Khmer Rouge

leader's death in the jungles of

the Cambodia a "relief" for the

as he briefly appeared outside

his residence in Siem Reap, 225

km northwest of Phnom Penh.

near the fabled 12th-century

today examined the body of ex-

Khmer Rouge supremo Pol Pot.

confirming his identity and

saying he had died from a heart

attack, a military intelligence

verification of fingerprints and

other "scientific tests" that in-

dicated the onetime tyrant had

died of a heart attack, he said.

adding however that the corpse

how the examination - carried

out in the hut in Cambodia

where Pol Pot died and where he

was laid out to prove to the

world that he was in fact dead -

tonia with 12.26 and Argentina

own guns, averages 124 gun-re-

lated attacks a year, and less

than I per cent end in death. Police often raid the homes of

Japan, where very few people

proved the cause of death.

It was not immediately clear

was not opened for autopsy.

The examination included

AFP adds: The Thai Army

Angkor temple complex.

Sihanouk spoke to reporters

country.

officer said.

with 8.93.

### 49 former Indian ministers issued eviction notices

NEW DELHI, Apr 17: India's new government has issued eviction notices to 49 former ministers and top officials to leave their official residences to make way for new Cabinet members, the Indian Express said today, reports AFP.

Urban Development Minister Ram Jethmalani has sent a directive asking the officials including former finance minister Palaniappam Chidambaram and former parliament Speaker Purno Sangma to leave immediately.

Officials said that at least 18 former ministers were illegally staying on in government bungalows, creating a housing shortage for the ministers of the new Hindu nationalist-led government which came to power last month.

## World's oldest person dies

CORBEIL, Ontario, Apr 17: Marie Louise Meilleur, said to be the world's oldest person, has died at 117, her daughter said, reports AP.

Meilleur celebrated her last birthday in August at a celebration attended by a host of dignitaries at the nursing home where she lived Meilleur died Thursday, said

her daughter Olive Therrien. "She's been very well until last week," said Therrien, 78, of Peterborough, Ontario. "She got a blood clot in her leg and it moved from her leg into her

Meilleur has three daughters and one son who are living. The oldest is 89, a daughter who lives in Barrie, Ontario.

It's not clear whether Meilleur realized she was the world's oldest person. She was almost blind and could barely

### Abacha nominated presidential candidate

ABUJA, Nigeria, Apr 17: Military dictator Gen. Sani Abacha was unanimously chosen by Nigeria's largest government-backed political party Thursday to run for president in civilian elections scheduled for August, reports AP.

Each of the 1,500 delegates of the United Nigeria Congress Party voted for Abacha at a convention in Kaduna, about 100-km north of the capital. the party announced.

There was no word on whether Abacha would accept the nomination, although the move came nine days after his military regime ordered each of Nigeria's five sanctioned political parties to ratify the general's presidential candidacy.

## Unusual step against corruption!

NEW DELHI, Apr 17: A 22year-old Indian hanged himself in protest against rampant corruption after unsuccessful attempts to get his telephone fixed without paying a bribe, The Pioneer daily said today, reports

Suhrid Ganguly, an engineer, committed suicide in the eastern city of Calcutta on Wednesday after officials of the state-run telephone department refused to fix the telephone unless they were paid bribes. Police said Ganguly's suicide

note said he was taking an "extreme step" as "there is no other way to change the system and get an honest right to live." Santanu Banerjee, a friend

of Ganguly, said he had been depressed over his failure to get his telephone line, dead for 20 days, working.

BB Das, an official from the telephone department said, this incident is unprecedented, adding "I admit that taking bribes is commonplace."

Police said two workers from the telephone department who had demanded the bribe, had been arrested for abetting murder and corruption.

## 'Suicide bombings to continue'

## Netanyahu, King Hussein meet to talk on ME peace

JERUSALEM, Apr 17: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and King Hussein of Jordan met for surprise talks Thursday on the stalled Middle East peace process, Israeli officials said, reports Reuter.

The previously unannounced meeting at a hotel in the Red Sea resort of Eilat, southern Israel, was the first between the two leaders since last November. It marked a further thaw in

relations following severe strains last September over a botched attempt in Amman by Israeli Mossad secret service agents to kill a leading member of the Palestinian Islamic militant movement Hamas, Khaled Meshal.

Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak said the two hours of talks had focused on the peace process and bilateral relations

"Both sides expressed the importance that they attach to pushing the peace process forward", Bazak said.

He said the leaders had also expressed satisfaction at the state of bilateral ties and agreed on unspecified "other steps to improve relations." Jordan's Petra news agency

said Hussein "stressed the need to achieve progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track to activate the peace process and consolidate the confidence of the region's peoples." AP adds: Suicide bombs will

continue to explode in Israel no matter what the Palestinian Authority and Israel do to stop them, a militant Palestinian leader said on Thursday. "There will be new suicide at-

tacks and they will not stop no matter how much Israel and the Palestinian self-rule authority try," Ahmed Jibril said.

In an interview on the 33rd anniversary of the founding of his group, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, Jibril said the future belonged to the

The Israeli state will be eliminated from the earth because the United States and Europe will abandon Israel and will find their interests lie with us, when we are strong."

## Huge chunk of ice shelf breaks off Antarctica

SYDNEY, Apr 17: An enormous chunk of the ice shelf has broken off the Antarctic Peninsula, US satellites show, and experts on Friday said that could back up global warming theories, reports AP.

A 5 by 40 km section of the Larsen B ice shelf vanished from the east side of the peninsula, which reaches toward South America, according to the US National Snow and Ice Data Centre, based in Boulder, Colorado. Satellite images of the ice

shelf show the chunk broke away some time between Feb 26 and March 23, as the Antarctic summer turns to winter. The ongoing ice shelf col-

lapse is consistent with "what we see from the effects of increased greenhouse gases. which cause warming," said Bill Budd, a professor of meteorology at Australia's Antarctic Cooperative Research Centre. Research by Budd indicates

global warming will continue for several centuries and melt

most of the vast ice shelves. His computer climate models predict significant degradation beginning in the 21st century and the near-total loss of the ice shelves within 500 years.

In January 1995, the Larsen A ice shelf to the north broke away in a mass some 77 by 37 km and 180 metres thick. Ted Scambos at the Data

Centre said it is likely that the remaining Larsen Ice Shelf is no longer strong enough to hold together and "the retreat will continue in the next season."

Ice shelves border some 44

per cent of Antarctica, covering 1.5 million square km. The two biggest are in the Weddell Sea and the Ross Sea. Continuing increase in car-

bon dioxide emissions from industry are expected to drive ocean warming for several centuries, Budd predicted.

Over the past 50 years, the Antarctic Peninsula has experienced a sustained atmospheric warming of 2.5 Celsius.

## Off the Record Cars powered with

#### sunlight and water? WASHINGTON: US researchers say they have moved a step

closer to a cost-effective way to power automobiles with only sunlight and water, reports AP. The technology behind a solar-hydrogen-powered car has

been known for years, but commercial development remains unrealistic, in part because of the high cost of using solar power to produce the hydrogen from water. But two scientists at the federal National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado, have developed a one-step de-

vice that uses solar power to convert water into a hydrogen fuel. This could substantially reduce the cost of using solar power to split water into hydrogen and oxygen molecules, a process known as electrolysis, said John Turner, a chemist at the laboratory, who outlined his research in Friday's issue of Science magazine.

In an interview, Turner said it likely will take years of research and a greater political and economic commitment for solar-hydrogen fuel to become commercially acceptable.

#### 'Titanic' convention! SPRINGFIELD, Massachusetts: The Titanic Historical Soci-

ety once strained just to survive. As it opens its yearly convention, it strains under a titanic wave of public enthusiasm, thanks to the movie, reports AP Society officers decided to close off reservations for the

three-day convention at 440 members and guests from around America and abroad. The rollicking affair at Springfield's Marriott Hotel features a speech by Titanic wreck discoverer Robert Ballard, a chance to hobnob with a British survivor, and - dare we have doubted? — the sale of Titanic models, T-shirts and other souvenirs. "It's changed our lives. All the officers' phones are ringing off

the hook," said Don Lynch, a Titanic historian who is running the convention. "None of us has had a moment's peace since December, when the movie came out." Since then, the society has swelled by 1,200 members to

nearly 7,000. People see the movie. They know it's a fictional thing. Now they want to learn the history," said Edward Kamuda, president and founder.

### UK to overhaul detention | US leads world in gun deaths centres for immigrants LONDON, Apr 17: The tainees are yet to have their

British government promised an overhaul of immigration detention centres on Thursday after the nation's prisons chief warned current conditions were "unsafe" for the asylum seekers and suspected illegal immigrants held in them, reports AP. Sir David Ramsbotham, the Chief inspector of prisons, criticized the way the immigration department selected people for detention, saying there appeared to be "little or no consistency or logic" in deciding who

should be detained. He also said conditions were "unsafe and unsound" because there were no clear rules and sanctions for detainees, and no legal duties imposed on staff. The detention centers were

set up in the belief that immigrants would be held for no more than six weeks, but they are often held for more than a In return for giving staff new powers, detainees must be guaranteed minimum standards of

facilities, including food, clothing, accommodation, family contact and access to religious worship, Ramsbotham said. Amnesty International called for government assurances that key recommendations in Ramsbotham's report, such as access to the courts, will

be enforced. The group alleged that more than half of immigration deasylum cases considered, making Britain the only EU country to lock up asylum seekers before their claims have been heard.

Immigration Minister Mike O'Brien acknowledged the system was a "mess," and has announced a review of delays in processing asylum applications. But he said more detention centers would have to be built to reduce the use of prisons to hold immigration detainees. Ramsbotham backed the

principle of holding some im-

#### migrants, warning that the system was so "overloaded" that some illegal immigrants were arbitrarily going free. Mongolian

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia, Apr 17: Under fire for radical economic reforms that have worsened their nation's economic decline, the coalition government in Mongolia, resigned en masse on Friday, a top government official confirmed, reports AP.

govt resigns

Prime Minister Mendsaihan Enhasaihan submitted his government's resignation to the national legislature, the Great Hural, following a special meeting on Friday, Finance Minister P. Tsagaan told reporters.

#### ATLANTA, Apr 17: The United States has by far the highest rate of gun death murders, suicides and accidents among the world's 36 richest nations, a government study

found, reports AP.

1994 was 14.24 per 100,000 people. Japan had the lowest rate, at .05 per 100,000. The study, done by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, is the first comprehensive international look at

The US rate for gun deaths in

gun-related deaths. It was published Thursday in the International Journal of Epidemiol-The CDC would not speculate why the death rates varied, but other researchers said easy ac-

cess to guns and society's accep-

tance of violence are part of the

problem in the United States.

"If you have a country saturated with guns - available to people when they are intoxicated, angry or depressed - it's not unusual guns will be used more often," said Dr. Rebecca Peters, a Johns Hopkins University fellow specialising in gun violence. "This has to be treated as a public health emergency."

The National Rifle Association called the study shoddy because it failed to examine all causes of violent deaths. "What this shows is the CDC is after guns. They aren't con-

cerned with violence. It's pre-

tending that no homicide exists.

unless it's related to guns," said

Dr. Paul Blackman, a research coordinator for the NRA in Fairfax, Virginia.

The 36 countries chosen were listed as the richest in the World Bank's 1994 World Development Report, with the highest GNP per capita income.

The study used 1994 statistics supplied by the 36 countries. Of the 88,649 gun deaths reported by all the countries, the United States accounted for 45 per cent, said Dr. Etinne Krug, a CDC researcher and coauthor of the article.

"I was surprised by the magnitude of the difference between the US and other countries," Krug said. Brazil ranked second with

12.95 deaths per 100,000, fol-

lowed by Mexico with 12.69, Es-

those suspected of having weapons. Also at the bottom of the list were South Korea with 12 per 100,000 people, followed by

Taiwan with 37 and England and Wales with .41. The study found that gunrelated deaths were five to six times higher in the Americas than in Europe or Australia and New Zealand and 95 times

higher than in Asia.

the world's richest countries shows

the United States ranks highest, Japan

lowest. A look at the top and bottom

Hong Kong with 14, Mauritius

with .19, Singapore with 21,

TOP 5 gun-related deaths per 100,000 people United States 14.24 Brazil 12.95 Mexico 12.69 Estonia 12.26 Argentina 8.93 **M BOTTOM 5** Gun deaths Singapore 0.21 Mauritius 0.19 A study of gun-related deaths in 36 of

of the study:

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Hong Kong 0.14

Japan | 0.05

South Korea 0.12