

Firms fight over right to use image of Diana

WILMINGTON, Del. Aug 8: As the first anniversary of Princess Diana's fatal car crash approaches, an American manufacturer of commemorative items has filed suit against the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund, in a dispute over rights to reproduce her image reports Renters Bradford Exchange Ltd, "A

maker of plates, dolls and music boxes, is seeking a jury trial on claims that the Londonbased fund does not control any publicity right or other rights to Diana's "name, likeness, image or other attribute," Bradford also claims it has not infringed any trademark and was licensed by the fund to reproduce Diana's image, name and like-

The lawsuit filed in the US district court in Delware was dated Aug. 6 and made available to Reuters on Friday.

However, court papers say, the fund delayed formalising a fresh agreement that was written in Paris and endorsed Bradford's rights to make license and sell Princess Diana products in Britain and United States.

Taliban capture Mazar-e-Sharif

ISLAMABAD, Aug 8: Afghanistan's Taliban Islamic movement said today its forces had captured the northern opposition capital of Mazar-e-Sharif after a morning assault, reports Reuters.

A Taliban spokesman. quoted by a Pakistan-based Afghan news services, said the Taliban forces had taken control of the city, which was the last major population centre under opposition control, and added that opposition forces were fleeing southeast to the adjoining province of Samangan.

"The city has fallen and is completely under our control, the Afghan Islamme Press (AIP) quoted the Taliban spokesman

There was no immediate independent confirmation of the Death toll rises to 82 in US missions in Kenya, Tanzania

Unknown Islamic group claims responsibility for bomb blasts

DUBAI, Aug 8: An unknown Islamic organisation has claimed responsibility for Friday's deadly bomb blasts in Kenya and Tanzania, in anonymous calls to the media. reports AFP.

Over 82 people were killed and 1,700 others injured in the simultaneous explosions near the US embassies in Nairobi and Dar Es Salaam.

"The two operations against the United States were carried out by the Islamic Army for the Liberation of Muslim Holy Sites," an unidentified man said in a call to an international news agency in Dubai.

"One was carried out by a native of Mecca and the other by an Egyptian," he said.

Mecca, the birthplace of the

Prophet Mohammad, is the holiest site in Islam. The unidentified man spoke with an Egyptian accent. He

hung up without giving further The Saudi newspaper Al-Hayat reported on Saturday

that its Cairo office received a

similar anonymous telephone call claiming the attack in the name of the same "Islamic

Friday's attacks came one day after armed Egyptian Islamic group Jihad warned of "reprisals" against the United States for helping to extradite to Egypt several militants living in eastern Europe.
"We want to inform the

Americans that we have received their message and are preparing a response, watch out," warned Jihad, also known as Vanguards of the conquest.

AP adds from Nairobi: Spurred by cries for help, rescue workers used backhoes and bare hands Saturday to free people trapped under mangled steel and concrete shattered by two terrorist bombings at US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania. The death toll rose to 82 before dawn.

"Help me, help me. I have gone now," gasped the latest victim, a Kenyan man buried in rubbles, just before he died.

Just a few minutes apart, the suspected car bombing 700 kilometres from each other Friday turned busy streets in two African capitals into bloody piles of concrete and knots of steel. The number of injured

topped 1,700. More than two dozen FBI agents and bomb examiners boarded US military flights for Africa within hours of the

bombings to investigate. "Our top priority at the scene is to determine the kind of explosive device that was used and the kind of vehicle that carried it there." FBI spokesman Frank Scafidi said in Washington. "Knowing the kind of explosive and vehicle can be like a fingerprint of who did it."

"This appears to have been a very well-coordinated, very well-planned attack - clearly not the work of amateurs," US National Security Council spokesman P J Crowley said in Washington.

NATO ready to act to stop fighting in Kosovo

BELGRADE, Aug 8: NATO said on Friday the 16-nation military alliance was ready to act to halt the fighting in Kosovo, but Russia again rejected military intervention. reports Reuter.

The Western military alliance had finalised planning for possible air operations, a senior NATO diplomat in Brussels said. Another alliance source said a full arsenal of other military options was "in a high state of readiness."

But in Pristina, Kosovo's provincial capital. Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Nikolai Afanasyevsky said NATO intervention would not help bring peace to Kosovo. He appealed to Serbian authorities and Albanian separatists for a

"We believe there is no mili tary solution here. This in cludes possible military action from outside." Afanasyevsky said after meeting Ibrahim Rugova, the self-styled president of Kosovo.

In a departure from his normal hardline stand, a lead ingeethnio Albanian official said the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) fighting for independence from Serbia, had agreed to join Rugova's moderate Kosovans in a "government."



People walk past the bomb damaged Cooperative Bank of Kenya building following an explosion in Nairobi on Friday. At least 75 people inside and outside the bank were reported killed, and 1,643 were injured after a bomb exploded outside the - AP/UNB photo US Embassy.

US-embassy bombings

World leaders express shock and outrage at 'terrorist violence'

NAIROBI. Aug 8: Expressions of shock and outrage poured in from around the world on Friday after two devastating car bomb blasts tore through US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing up to 80 people and injuring more than 1,200, reports Reuter.

A grim US President Bill Clinton condemned the attacks which took place minutes apart in Nairobi and Dar Es-Salaam as "cowardly" and he vowed to track down those responsible.

These acts of terrorist violence are abhorrent, they are inhuman, we will use all the means at our disposal to bring those responsible to justice, no matter what or how long it takes," Clinton said during an appearance in the Rose Garden of the White House in Washing-

The State Department said eight Americans were confirmed dead and seven US officials were still unaccounted for in the Nairobi blast.

Kenyan police said they feared the death toll would rise to more than 80 as rescue workers dug through the rubble. In Dar Es-Salaam, six people were killed and 58 others injured.

UN Secretary General Koft Annan, on a visit to Portugal, condemned the bombings in east Africa as "heartless and

indiscriminate terrorism" and said several UN staff members were among those injured. "The Secretary General was

outraged and appalled to hear of today's bomb explosions ... which have resulted in a heavy toll of dead and wounded," a statement issued through a UN spokesman said. "He condemns utterly this heartless and indiscriminate terrorism against innocent civilians, and extends his deep condolences to the families and governments concerned."

Russia's Foreign Ministry issued a statement which said. "Moscow roundly condemns these barbaric acts. We express hope that the local authorities will do all that is necessary to find and punish those who organised and those who carried out this evil deed."

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright cut short a private visit to Rome and headed for Washington to discuss the US response to the at-

"Based on what we have learned so far, this was clearly a terrorist act," she said prior to her departure; "The aim was clearly to murder and maim as many innocent people as possible - Americans, Kenyans and

Tanzanians." "We don't yet know who did it or why but whatever their motives, whatever their cause, it is utterly discredited by this cruel, senseless, arbitrary and cowardly destruction."

European Commission President Jacques Santer said he has sent a message to the US Kenyan and Tanzanian president's expressing "deep shock" over the blasts on behalf of the 15-nations European Union's executive.

"....I wish to express our deep shock at the news of the explosions near the US embassy, Santer said in his message, released to reporters, "please extend our deepest sympathy to the families of those killed and injured," he said.

In London, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said he was shocked and appalled. "I have conveyed to the governments of the United States, Kenya and Tanzania the horror of the British government at these cowardly acts, which have taken the lives of innocent people and injured many oth-

French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin both sent letters to US President Bill Clinton condemning what they described as "hateful" and "ignoble" acts.

Japan's media berate Obuchi

TOKYO, Aug 8: Japan's media today berated Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, saying his inaugural speech failed to outline a new direction for Japan as it struggles to emerge from its fi-

nancial crisis, reports AFP. Editorials also warned Obuchi, who took office 10 days ago, that he would need to muster all his political will to implement the pledges he did outline Friday in his first pol-

icy speech in Parliament. Obuchi said Friday he would "stake his political life" on saving Japan's economy in two years with more than 111 billion dollars in tax cuts and extra spending and a lifebelt for the finance sector.

But the influential Asashi daily complained that the measures had been already touted Obuchi in his bid to take over from Ryutaro Hashimoto who quit after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was devastated in July 12 Upper House elections.

'What we wanted to hear was the prime minister's own view on why the premiership changed hands to give rise to the Obuchi government." Asahi

Kabila out to rally support from African leaders

KINSHASA, Congo, Aug 8: With a Tutsi rebellion apparently sweeping into Congo's dense jungle interior, President Laurent Kabila travelled outside the country in search of support from African leaders to keep his 14-month-old regime

from unraveling, reports AP.
Within hours of his departure Friday, Kabila's troops rampaged through parts of Kin-shasa, looting shops and harassing ethnic Tutsis - an act of retaliation tied to widespread beliefs that Tutsis are leading the fight to topple Kabila.

Kabila's decision to travel to Victoria Fall, Zimbabwe — for a hastily called meeting of seven regional heads of state to discuss the crisis in Congo - came just days after renegade troops waged gun battles in two army barracks on Kinshasa's west

But the Congolese president was served a warning by one of his neighbours, Rwanda, which Congo has accused of inciting the emerging civil war and has threatened with attack: Rwandan President Pasteur Bizmungu declared Friday that his country will "hit back" if Congo Diesel oil spill

15000 evacuated from home in Mexico

GUADALAJARA, Mexico, Aug 8: Some 15,000 people fled or were evacuated from downtown on Friday after diesel oil escaped from a train into the city drains, creating a fear of explosion that panicked many, reports AP.

As alarm sirens screamed. police and civil defence workers ordered four blocks evacuated. But people in many surrounding areas also fled, leaving some 6,000 stores and venders' stalls closed.

Much of the city centre, including the Plaza de los Mariachis and the busy San Juan de Dios market, was almost emp-

"Since the explosion of April 22, 1992 occurred, we are afraid of everything," said businessman Salvador Sanchez, one of those who went running from

his stall at news of the diesel The 1992 blast, blamed on gasoline leaking from a refinery into the sewers, killed more than 200 people, drove more than 15,000 from their homes

and left a line of destruction for about 20 blocks through this city of 1.6 million.

White House hails ruling on Lewinsky case

US court calls for hearings into alleged media leaks by Starr criminal contempt charges improper media leaks of Grand

WASHINGTON, Aug 8: In a ruling hailed by the White House on Friday, a US Appeals Court called for hearings into alleged media leaks by independent counsel Kenneth Starr in the secret Grand Jury probe of the Monica Lewinsky case. reports Reuter.

One day after Lewinsky testified to the Grand Jury about her alleged sexual affair with President Bill Clinton, the Appeals Court released documents agreeing with a judge's finding that there is preliminary evidence of "serious and repetitive disclosures to the media" by Starr and his team.

Chief US District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson ruled on June 19 that lawyers for Clinton and the White House had shown enough evidence of

Jury material to warrant a hearing. The appeals Court agreed in a ruling on August 3, which was unsealed on Friday. But the appeals Panel turned

down a request by Clinton's private lawyers that they be allowed to interview Starr's team deciding instead that either Johnson or a special investigator should probe the matter. The White House counsel's

office hailed the appeals ruling as significant, saying in a statement that "for the first time in the 20-year history of the Independent Counsel Act, a Federal Court has found prima facie evidence of potential criminal wrong-doing by an independent counsel.

David Kendall, Clinton's private lawyer, hinted that could be possible against members of Starr's team, and called the alleged leaks "highly unprofessional and utterly indefensi-He concluded: "As the Court

of Appeals observed, such conduct makes prosecutors, who wield enormous power," conscious participants in a trial by newspaper. "Illegal leaks cause irreparable harm to the Grand Jury process. Starr said in a statement he was "gratified" by the ruling

which he said "Protects the integrity of the ongoing Grand Jury investigation." But he added, "This office has not violated Rule 6 (E) (Which governs Grand Jury secrecy) and we welcome the opportunity to demonstrate that fact to the District Court.

Off the Record

To impress a minister ... NEW DELHI: Indian hospital staff threw a dying and appar-

ently stinking accident victim out into the garden to impress a minister how clean the complex was, a newspaper reported yesterday, says AFP. The unidentified patient died two days later.

The Indian Express said the patient, aged around 35 years who had suffered multiple fractures, was thrown out behind some bushes by the staff of the hospital at Moradabad, a small town near New Delhi.

This was done "to make the hospital look better." the daily He was hurriedly brought back to the ward after the minister

was made aware of the bizarre dumping and ordered an investigation. But it was too late and the man died two days later. "I don't understand how such an inhuman act can take place," the hospital's Chief Medical Superintendent, M A Khan, was quoted as saying. But Khan added: "this is not a big issue."

An ostrich in every pot

KINGSTON: Spicy" jerk" chicken is a Jamaican specialty. But jerk ostrich? Veterinarian-turned-rancher Marc Panton wants it on the menu, reports AP.

Panton, 27, has opened a ranch in southwestern St. Elizabeth to raise the one-legged bird, and he is hoping tourists will snap up ostrich burgers, ostrich steaks - maybe even sweetand-sour ostrich - at local hotels.

The 100-acre farm already has nine adult birds and 19 young ones, including 2.4-metre-tall prize breeder named Mandela. Panton says he hopes to have more than 100 by 2000.

He said he'll hawk ostrich wallets and the birds' gargantuan eggs to gift shops. "We'll be looking into the sale of accessory items like their skin — one of the world's most expensive leathers — as well as feathers and egg shells which we have painted and will sell as

souvenirs," Panton said. For tourists with a yen for big bird watching, the farm is open to the public. It has a small petting zoo, ponds for fishing

The meat, which has fewer calories, less fat and less cholesterol than skinless chicken, now sells in the United States for dlrs 14 to 16 a pound (dlrs 35 to 40 a kilo). Panton thinks he can sell for less, and he's looking to a lucrative export market in Japan, where ostrich toenails are sold as an aphrodisiac.

and an herb garden.

Swept caosalieurscattered in a flooded stream hear

Songchu, a popular resort town north of Secol on

Friday. The flood, following the Thursday's torrential

rain, killed 119 people and left 53 others missing with

323 million dlrs in property damage. — AP/UNB photo

Prime Minister of Peru resigns: Peru's maverick Prime Minister resigned on Friday citing "totalitarian" elements in President Alberto Fujimori's power base, hitting the president with a fresh crisis after Lima accused Ecuadorean troops of entering the country, Reuter says from

Outspoken Premier Javier Valle Riestra said Fujimori accepted his second resignation offer in a turbulent two months in the job but the cabinet chief agreed to stay on for a few days to avoid "destabilising" Peru amid heightened tensions on the border with Ecuador, where the two Andean nations fought a brief war in 1995.

King Hussein responding to treatment: King Hussein of Jordan said on Friday he was responding positively to cancer treatment and was taking a few days' break from a US hospital before resuming chemotherapy this week, Reuters says from Amman.

The monarch told Crown Prince Hassan in a letter released on Jordanian state television his doctors had allowed him to leave the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota on Friday for an undisclosed Washington location before resuming a second chemotherapy session. journalists held in Togo: Three

journalists, including two editors of independent publications, have been placed under arrest accused of "besmirching the

honour of the president and his wife", judicial officials revealed Friday, AFP says from Lome. The three are accused of publishing reports alleging that Bobi Mobutu, the widow of the late president Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, had asked the Togolese first lady, Badagnaki Eyadema to return "17 trunks of jewelry which disappeared in Lome"

at the beginning of last year. 4 killed in Vietnam landslide Four people, including three children, were killed and three others injured when a landslide buried a primary school and four homes in mountainous northern Vietnam, a local official said

while Mobutu was on his way into exile after being overthrown

yesterday, AP reports from Hanoi. Two other homes in Lai Chau province were damaged in the July 31 slide, which was blamed on continuous rains over the previous few days, said Tong Thanh Hai, deputy chief of the People's Committee.

Bomb blast claims 3 in Baghdad: A bomb killed three people when it exploded next to a passing car here late Friday, witnesses and hospital officials said, AP

says from Baghdad The bomb, planted near a tree, blew up as a car carrying three people - at least two of them Iranian dissidents - was driving down al-Saadoun Street in the city centre, Farid Suleymani, a

spokesman for the group, the Mujahedeen Khalq, told Associated Press Television. \$ 800,000 US aid for China: The United

States said Friday it was sending more than 800,000 dollars in emergency aid to China, struggling to cope with the worst flooding of the Yangtze river in 40 years, AFP reports from Washington. The US Agency for International Development (USAID) is sending 816,000 dollars in response to requests for more help

from the US embassy in Beijing, USAID said, it follows an earlier donation of 25,000 dollars. Worst floods ever threaten NSW: More than 700 people were evacuated from their homes at Bathurst in central New South Wales state yesterday as the

worst floods in history threatened to swamp the region, AP reports from Sydney. The Macquarie River was expected to peak at just inches lower than the record flood of 1823, a State Emergency Service spokesman said. The State Emergency Service was using more than 30,000 sandbags to steam the flow. Metropolitan Sydney, Illawarra and the Hunter Valley were also severely affected, with some residents in low-lying regions of the Hunter forced to evacuate their homes.

Rwandan courts sentence 13 to death for role in genocide

KIGALI, Aug 8: Rwandan courts have sentenced 13 people to death for their role in the 1994 genocide in the country, Radio Rwanda reported on Fri-

day, reports AFP. At Cyangugu in the southwest, five were ordered to be executed, five were given life terms in prison, one was sentenced to seven years in prison and another to five years.

Four were acquitted in Thursday's hearings, the radio

Josephine Mukanyangezi, a former judge at the County Court of Nyamirambo, a district of Kigali, was condemned to death by another court, the radio said.

Mukanyangezi, convicted of massacres in Kigali during the genocide, is the sister of Obed Ruzindana, who is also accused of participating in the genocide

by the UN War Crimes Court for Rwanda based in Arusha, Tan-

Seven others were also sentenced to death Thursday, six in the province of Gisenyi in the northwest of the country and one in the Kigali region. In Gisenyi, nine people were

sentenced to life, one to 20 years and two to five years in prison. One youth, who was 14 at the time of the massacres, was sentenced to 10 years. Two others were acquitted. Meanwhile, 137 prisoners,

of whom 72 were suspected of taking part in the genocide. were freed from the Gikondo prison in Kigali on Thursday, due to illness, old age or lack of evidence.

More than half a million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered by Hutu extremists during the 1994 genocide.

Saddam for normalisation of ties with Iran US will reap nothing from campaign against Iraq

BAGHDAD, Aug 8: President Saddam Hussein said Saturday the United States will reap nothing but a "harvest ... full of thorns" from its campaign against Iraq, reports AP.

Addressing the nation on television to mark the anniversary of the end of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, Saddam also urged Iran to normalise relations with Iraq. Saddam did not refer to his

decision Wednesday to freeze cooperation with UN arms inspectors, but he said the United States and its allies would be misled if they thought they could bring Iraq to its knees. This is exactly what the

Iranian government under the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini thought it could do in the war, but it failed, Saddam said. "Those imposing aggression on Iraq ... and the unfair em-

bargo neglect this fact today," Saddam said, referring to sweeping sanctions the United Nations imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "They are making the same mistake. Their harvest will be

full of thorns and the outcome

will be a taste of bitterness." Saddam spoke two days after the UN Security Council declared his freeze "totally unacceptable" and US President Bill Clinton said his government would "stop any and all efforts" to ease sanctions on Iraq unless it cooperates with UN arms in-

Saddam said Iraq has the "ability" to stand up to the United States in the same way that it withstood eight years of war against Iran. "The Americans and their

supporters have failed to grasp the vitality of Iraq's ability to confront their tyrannical power," he said. Turning to Iran, Saddam said he hoped the neighbouring country's present leaders were

not under the illusions of the

570 ancient tombs dating back to 506 BC found in N. China

SHIJIAZHUANG, Aug 8: More than 570 ancient tombs that dated back to 506 BC have been discovered in Lingshou county in north China's Hebei province with more than, 1,700 relics unearthed, reports Xin-Discovered by railway con-

struction workers, the tombs fall into three layers, tombs at the bottom area of the Zhongshan state (506 BC -296 BC), of the Zhou Dynasty: The tombs on the middle level were built in the Han Dynasty (206 BC-220 AD), and tombs in the upper layer are of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) and the Ging Dynasty (1644-1911).



the Lebanese southern port city of Tyre. Hammoudi was killed when an Israeli shell hit his car as he drove on the road between the villages of Zibqine and Jebal al-- AP/UNB photo Boutoum.