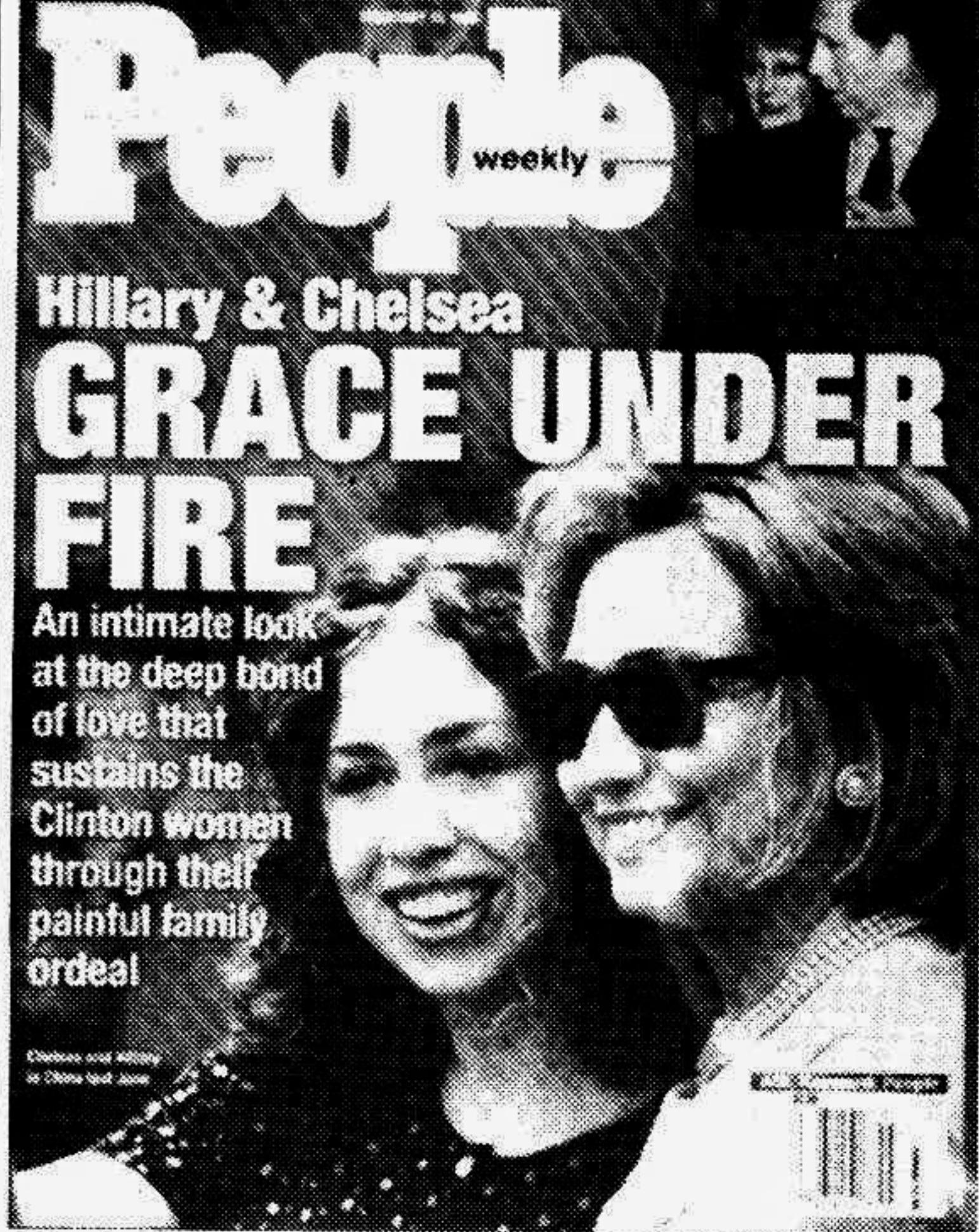


## International

## BRIEFLY

Private no more: Charles and Camilla step out



The cover of the Feb. 15, 1999, issue of People magazine shows a photo of Chelsea Clinton with her mother, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton. President Clinton and his wife said Wednesday they were "profoundly saddened" by a decision by People magazine's editors to feature a story about their daughter.

— UNB/AP photo.

**Quake jolts Indonesia:** A strong earthquake rocked parts of the Indonesian province of Sumatra yesterday, but there were immediate reports of damage or casualties, the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency said. AP says from Jakarta.

The quake with a magnitude of 5.8 shook buildings in the city of Banda Aceh and surrounding areas at 2.28 am (1928 GMT Thursday), said Taufik, an officer of the agency's Jakarta office.

**Japanese FM to visit Seoul:** Japanese Foreign Minister Masahiko Komura will visit Seoul next week to prepare for a visit by his prime minister this spring, officials said yesterday. AP reports from Seoul.

During his two-day visit starting Wednesday, Komura will meet his South Korean counterpart, Hong Soon-young, and Unification Minister Kang In-duk. He also will pay a courtesy call on President Kim Dae-jung.

**Hotel fire claims 8 in China:** An early morning fire at a small hotel in southern China's Guangdong province has killed eight people, AP reports from Beijing.

The fire, which broke out in the six-story Meidu Hotel in Chaoyang city around 5 am on Tuesday, quickly spread through the building, the official newspaper, Yangcheng Evening News, said in a report published Thursday.

**Gary Coleman jailed for 90 days:** Former TV star Gary Coleman was sentenced to 90 days in jail after agreeing to a plea bargain in a case in which he was accused of hitting an autograph-seeker, AP reports from California.

Coleman pleaded no contest to disturbing the peace, ending his trial on assault and battery charges. He hung his head and wept as his attorney discussed the plea with the judge. The 39-kg Coleman, who played Arnold in the sitcom "Diff'rent Strokes," testified earlier Thursday he was trying to get away from Tracy Fields when he hit her.

**Riots claim 1 more in Indonesia:** Anti-riot squads patrolled a small town in eastern Indonesia yesterday after a fresh wave of religious violence left one man dead, police said. AP says from Jakarta.

Thursday's death brought to 96 the number of people killed in fighting between Muslims and Christians on several islands in Maluku province during the past three weeks. Sgt Agus Purnomo said nine people were also injured in the riot in Kairatu on Seram Island.

**Container ship on fire off UAE coast:** Tugboats were fighting a fire aboard a Panamanian-registered ship in the Gulf yesterday, 16 hours after the blaze broke out, leaving the presumed death of four crew members, AP says from Dubai.

The Maersk Tokyo, with a crew of 28 Indians and two Pakistanis, was some 50 off Dubai's Jebel Ali Port Thursday when the fire started at 4 pm (1200 GMT), said Arshad Butt of Blue Fin International Shipping, the vessel's Dubai agent. The ship was heading for Kuwait.

**11 LTTE tigers killed in Lanka:** Sri Lankan troops killed 11 Tamil Tiger rebels in encounters with the separatists in the northern battlefield, the defence ministry said yesterday. AP reports from Colombo.

The fatalities occurred in four clashes Thursday, said military spokesman Major Kumara Deward. Two government soldiers were injured, he said.

**3 die as ROK boat sinks in Japan:** Three crew members of South Korean fishing vessel died Friday after their boat capsized off the coast of southern Japan, the Maritime Safety Agency said. AP says from Tokyo.

The three were picked up by rescue workers who spotted their craft tipped over in open seas off Nagasaki prefecture, the agency said. Nagasaki is located 982 southwest of Tokyo. It was unclear when the boat had turned over. But South Korean maritime authorities asked their counterparts in Japan early Friday morning to rescue the crew of the 7.93-ton long-line fishing boat, the Japanese agency said.

**Australian PM says East Timor could become independent in 18 months**

SYDNEY, Feb 5: East Timor could gain independence within 18 months, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Friday while a former foreign affairs official said it could end up wealthy thanks to off-shore oil reserve, reports AFP.

Downer said it was a moot point whether the autonomy plan proposed by Indonesia would be acceptable to the East Timorese people but the outcome would be known soon.

"I think we can also look forward in the not too distant future -- in the next 18 months or two years, whatever it may be -- to the issue one way or another being resolved," he told ABC radio.

Australia's former consul to East Timor, James Dunn, said independence for the former Portuguese colony was attainable and it could end up quite well-off, despite suggestions that it would be a mendicant state.

"They realise that if there is no military activity, no insecurity, in East Timor they have no justification to remain there."

"In fact it has really good prospects. It has the oil," he said on SBS radio.

# Senate okays televised trial deposition by Lewinsky

WASHINGTON, Feb 5: Weary from the all-consuming presidential impeachment trial, US senators are moving briskly to end the proceedings, reports AP.

In a bipartisan vote Thursday, Senators rejected a request by the Republican prosecutors to force Monica Lewinsky to testify live before the US Senate. Instead, they agreed to permit the showing of portions of videotaped testimony she gave this week to prosecutors.

Parts of her recorded deposition are to be played at the nationally televised trial session on Saturday.

Clinton is on trial after being formally accused by the US House of Representatives to perjury and obstruction of justice for trying to conceal his affair with Ms Lewinsky, a former White House intern. Republicans hold a 55-45 majority in the Senate, and it is virtually certain that they won't be able to muster the 67 votes needed to convict Clinton and remove him from office.

Senate Republicans had considered a proposal to find Clinton guilty of wrongdoing without removing him from office, but retreated from the plan on Thursday.

With their decisions Thursday, the senators moved to bring the trial to a conclusion by the end of next week.

"I do think it's time we get to a vote and we move on" to other issues, said Republican Majority Leader Trent Lott.

Under the Senate's decision Thursday, prosecutors and

White House lawyers will have up to three hours each to make presentations, including portions of videotaped depositions on Saturday. In addition to Ms Lewinsky, lawyers questioned presidential friend Vernon Jordan and White House aide Sidney Blumenthal earlier this week and recorded the proceedings.

An effort by the Republican prosecutors from the House of Representatives to call Ms Lewinsky for live questioning was rejected, 70-30, with 25 of the Senate's 55 Republicans joining the 45 Democrats in opposition.

"Today's vote rejecting the House managers' request for live witnesses indicates the Senate appears ready to bring this trial to a conclusion," said White House spokesman Joe Lockhart.

Judy Smith, a spokeswoman for Ms Lewinsky, said the former White House intern "and her family are pleased that she does not have to go through the painful and humiliating ordeal of having to testify on the floor of the Senate."

The votes unfolded on the Senate floor as Republicans edged away from a confrontation over their proposal to delineate wrongdoing by Clinton to a sworn deposition.

Democrats had attacked the proposal as unconstitutional, and Republicans said they had no interest in provoking a partisan confrontation. Republicans were also divided over the constitutionality -- and the political wisdom -- of such a vote.

The vote against calling Ms Lewinsky was a rebuff to Rep. Henry Hyde and other House prosecutors, who had pushed the two articles of impeachment through the House on a near party-line vote. They won

grudging Senate permission a week ago to question the three witnesses, but only after paring their list down from a dozen or more.

Shortly before the vote, one House prosecutor aired his frustration.

"If one senator has failed to personally sit through ... every deposition, that senator is not equipped to render a verdict on the impeachment trial," said Republican Rep. James Rogan.

A subsequent bid by Democratic Sen. Patty Murray to keep the videotapes out of presentations at the trial failed. The vote was 73-27, with 20 Democrats joining 53 Republicans.

Taken together, the day's votes underscored that senators in both parties are eager for a swift conclusion to the trial, near the end of its fourth week. Republicans, in particular, have been labouring to find an exit from a proceeding that is unpopular with the public and that Republican strategists say is inflicting political damage on the party.

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Butler may not seek extension to his contract

UNITED NATIONS, Feb 5: With Russia and China demanding his immediate resignation, chief UN weapons inspector Richard Butler said Thursday he was unlikely to seek an extension to his contract which ends June 30, report agencies.

The former Australian diplomat also said he wasn't seeking a spot on a new panel that will make recommendations on Iraq's disarmament, a subject of much speculation in recent days. But Butler said he expects to be in the Security Council chamber when it considers the panel's recommendations and formulates a new policy on Iraq.

Speaking to a few reporters as he was leaving the United Nations building, the chief inspector defended the work of the UN Special Commission, known as UNSCOM, which he heads.

**Muslims vow to keep Rushdie out of India**

NEW DELHI, Feb 5: A top Indian Muslim cleric told a 3,000-strong gathering here Friday that British author Salman Rushdie would be hounded "relentlessly" if he ever set foot again in the country of his birth, reports AFP.

"We shall pursue Salman Rushdie relentlessly if he comes to India," said Syed Ahmad Bukhari, deputy priest of India's largest mosque, the Jama Masjid in New Delhi.

Bukhari was addressing the crowd after holding Friday prayers at the mosque.

His warnings followed confirmation from India that it had granted a visa to the author of "The Satanic Verses" -- the book which earned Rushdie a 10-year death "fatwa" from Iran.

Bukhari called on Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpeyi to personally intervene to prevent Rushdie coming to India, warning that he would be held responsible for "the Muslim anger" arising out of any visit.

"No Muslim can tolerate a man who has insulted the holy Quran and the prophet Mohammed," Bukhari said.

**Diana's family fails to patent her image**

LONDON, Feb 5: An attempt by the family of Diana Princess of Wales, and the memorial fund set up in her name, to register her image as a trademark, has been rejected. The British patent office said on Thursday, reports AFP.

The decision, after 16 months of deliberations, is a blow to attempts by The Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund to prevent the use of pictures of the late princess on a huge range of unofficial merchandise.

If the application had succeeded, it would have been able to seek royalties from anyone who used the princess's image commercially.

The patent office, which has never allowed a dead person's image to be registered as a trademark, ruled that Diana is a historical figure rather than a commercial brand.

The family's only chance of stopping a souvenir-free-for-all now is to ask the High Court to take the unusual step of overruling the patent office's decision.

**Kurd leader seeks new base in vain**

ANKARA, Feb 5: With Turkey breathing down his neck, Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan has apparently been wandering Europe, vainly seeking a new base to continue his battle for Kurdish autonomy, reports AP.

The family's only chance of stopping a souvenir-free-for-all now is to ask the High Court to take the unusual step of overruling the patent office's decision.

Both the Netherlands and Switzerland reportedly turned away his chartered jet this week and a number of other countries made it clear he was unwelcome. Among his rumored hideouts are Russia, Greece, Belarus and Estonia. All four governments have denied his presence on their territories.

Turkish officials even claimed at one point that he spent two weeks aboard his plane in Russia, too frightened to leave because of a threat to life by a Chechen warlord.

**Carbon-dioxide found around Jupiter's moon**

WASHINGTON, Feb 5: The US space probe Galileo has found a carbon-dioxide atmosphere around callisto, one of Jupiter's four moons, says a report appearing Friday in the weekly journal Science, reports AFP.

Galileo's scan detected the presence of carbon-dioxide up to 100 kilometers above the surface of callisto, Jupiter's most distant moon, the report said.

Callisto's atmosphere is so thin that it may not last longer than four years, says the author of the report, Robert Carlson of the jet propulsion laboratory in Pasadena, California.

The source of the carbon-dioxide is unknown, Carlson says. It could have come from gas emitted by the moon's nucleus, or from chemical reactions on its surface, or from the debris of comets that may have crashed on callisto.

# Murder of dissidents

## Iran rules out int'l inquiry

TEHRAN, Feb 5: Iran rejected Friday calls by the European parliament and other organizations for an international inquiry into a recent wave of murders of dissident intellectuals here, reports AFP.

"The entry of any foreign mission for an inquiry into murders or any other judicial matter is prohibited," conservative judiciary chief Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi said.

"Iran is an independent country and does not accept any foreign interference ... The judiciary rejects an inquiry team or fact-finding mission of any sort," he told worshippers at Muslim Mohammad Yazdi said.

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