Ricky Martin of Puerto Rico

holds his trophies at the

Billboard Latin Music

Awards, Thursday at the

Fountainebleau Hotel on

Miami Beach. Martin won

for Pop Male Album of the

Year and Pop Hot Latin

Kohl honoured in

US as 'Statesman

of the Decade'

leaders gearing up for Friday's

NATO summit in Washington

paused to honour former Ger-

for helping to guide Europe

through the turbulent years af-

ter the fall of the Berlin Wall,

from 1982-1998 presided over

the reunification of post-war

Germany - was honoured

Thursday evening as "States-

man of the Decade" by the

EastWest Institute at a gala in

New York. Former US president

George Bush presented the

heads of state, Kohl said he believed the conflict in Yugoslavia would not derail the consolidation of peace at the

New Tokyo

governor

takes over

Ishihara, a conservative author

and opponent of the US mili-

tary presence in Japan,

launched his term as Tokyo

governor Friday, pledging to

transform the face of Japanese

ical pattern springing from

Tokyo," Ishihara told reporters

as he took office. "It is impor-

tant to send a new message to

the book "A Japan That Can

Say No," has raised concerns

abroad for his pledges to kick

US troops off a key military

airbase and for his revisionist

election with the slogan, "A

promising to stand up to tradi-

tionally powerful bureaucrats

in both the city and national

The author, who ran as an

independent, took over the

reins of the city government

from former comedian Yukio

Tokyo That Can Say No,\*

Ishihara won the April 11

The new governor, author of

Japan and to the world."

views of World War II.

governments.

Aoshima.

"I want to create a new polit-

politics, reports AP.

TOKYO, Apr 23: Shintaro

close of the 20th century.

Speaking to an audience of dozens of current and past

Kohl - who as chancellor

reports AP.

man Chancellor Helmut Kohl

NEW YORK, Apr 23: World

- AFP photo

Track of the Year.

## leaders at NATO summit

WASHINGTON, Apr 23: Demonstrators with strongly divergent views over the NATO bombing campaign in Yugoslavia are planning protests outside the White House during the alliance's 50th anniversary celebration this weekend, reports AP.

The National Albanian-American Council received a permit for a Friday rally in support of widening the NATO bombing campaign against Yugoslavia.

"We thank NATO forgetting involved but we are asking them to do much much more," said Ilir Zherka, "While NATO is patting itself on the back this week, people are dying in Kosovo and they can't stop it."

Taking the opposite view, a local Serbian church is organising a protest for Saturday urging an end to the bombing cam-

"We are protesting the bombing because we consider it illegal and civilian people are be-ing killed," said Zoran Hodjera, congregation president of St. Luke Serbian Orthodox Church in Washington, which is organising the rally.

US Park Police officials said three groups have been given protest permits for the weekend. Aside from the Kosovo-related protests, a demonstration against nuclear weapons is scheduled for the area around the Washington Memorial Fri-

The protests will lend a sobering note to what has been planned as the largest gathering of foreign leaders ever to visit Washington.

Even in a city well accustomed to the high security measures accorded important guests, the safety measures surrounding the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation summit are bringing together 18 law enforcement agencies, led by the Secret Service.

Just because there have been no credible threats of terrorist attack so far "doesn't mean that in any way our vigilance is low or that our guard is not up," said Deputy Attorney General Eric

For the three days of the meeting, downtown Washington will become one big highsecurity area for dignitaries.

Federal workers in the city's core around the White House have been excused from work Friday and public schools will be closed.

Many private businesses followed the government's lead. Aside from security, visitors will likely also see protesters.

Hodjera, the Serbian Orthodox church official, said any atrocities against ethnic Albanians that the Serb-led government are accused of were brought on by the bombing campaign.

"Before the bombing, we had only minor problems," Hodjera

'We never had any true negotiations between the parties. That avenue was never pursued

properly. The National Albanian American Council advocates a more aggressive bombing campaign, the deployment of ground troops and the arming of local resistance groups in Yugoslavia.

Zherka said that while emotions will be running high at both demonstrations, he didn't expect any problems since each group will have its say on dif-

## High security, protests greet NATO strikes Serbian state TV HQs

BELGRADE, Apr 23: NATO struck the headquarters of Serbia's state TV on Friday, knocking the country's main station off the air as it was broadcasting a US television interview with President Slobodan Milosevic. Ambulances rushed to the scene and reporters saw about a dozen injured taken away, re-

ports AP. The attack came hours after a Russian envoy said Milosevic has accepted the idea of a UNcontrolled international presence in Kosovo.

To allied leaders gathered in Washington for a 50-year alliance anniversary summit, it was unclear whether such a presence meant the armed force demanded by NATO or was Milosevic's same offer that was rejected last week by NATO.

The alliance sent a missile into the side of Serbian state television's downtown headquarters that collapsed its top two floors, according to reporters on the scene. Thick smoke filled the street and staff members called out names of colleagues they feared were trapped inside.

Another Belgrade TV station, Studio B, showed live scenes of the rescue attempt, including police trying to remove one man drenched in blood from the debris.

Elsewhere, Yugoslav media reported NATO jets struck at least three television relay stations that retransmit state TV signals to other parts of the country. The attack on the studio, located in the heart of the city, took place 24 hours after NATO blasted one of Milosevic's residences in the boldest attack yet against the Yugoslav leader-

In a diplomatic bid to end the conflict, former Russian Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin held daylong talks with Milosevic. Chernomyrdin said he and Milosevic had "considered the possibility of an international presence led by the UN in

which Russia would take part." Milosevic has so far rejected NATO demands to withdraw his troops from the embattled province and accept a Westerndictated autonomy plan for the ethnic Albanian majority

there. It appeared unlikely NATO would accept any deal that did not include an armed military force in Kosovo to police a peace deal and protect ethnic Albanian civilians. In an interview with CNN's "Larry King Live," Norwegian Foreign Minister Knut Vollebaek, chairman of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said "to expect the refugees to return without an armed military presence is impossible."

US President Bill Clinton said in Washington that he did not have details of what was discussed. "If there is an offer for a genuine security force, that's the first time that Milosevic has done that." Clinton

Annan said he was encouraged by news that Yugoslavia would accept an international presence in Kosovo and "eagerly awaits the details." Soon after Chernomyrdin left for Moscow, alliance jets

"UN Secretary-General Kofi

were back in action Thursday night and early Friday, attacking a railway bridge on the Ibar River in central Serbia, three Serbian television relays a major rail bridge west of Belgrade and the southern city of

A short while later, television sets across the country

went dark after a NATO missile hit the downtown Belgrade headquarters of Yugoslavia's main TV network, the major source of news and entertain-

ment for most Yugoslavs. NATO has long complained that Serbian television was a legitimate military target because it was spreading "propaganda," about the alliance air campaign.

When screens went dead, the network was broadcasting a taped interview of Milosevic by Houston's KHOU-TV.

Yugoslav media also re-



the southern town of Vr anje.

300 km southeast of Belgrade,

with 40 missiles over a two-

hour period and blasted the cen-

tre of Uzice, 120 km sou theast

of here, damaging the post of

NATO jets also destroyed a

bridge over the Rasina river

near Krusevac about '150 km

south of Belgrade. Air alert

sirens went off late Thursday in

stream out of Kosovo, where

hundreds of thousands of eth-

As refugees continued to

office and other buildings.

the capital.

Firemen and doctors try to evacuate injured people from the damaged headquarters of the Serbian state television in Belgrade, shortly after it was hit during a NATO air strike, early Friday. NATO warplanes bombed the RTS building in the central of the town, allegedly killing at least one person and injuring another. None of the three RTS channels could be received in Belgrade, and satellite broadcasting was also knocked out.

- AFP photo

of missiles on the area around Pristina, the provincial capital. The Yugoslav state news agency Tanjug called it the fiercest day-

time attack yet. "NATO cannot permit a rebirth of fascism in Europe" a half-century after the Holocaust, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said in Washington. "Our military campaign is

Missiles also targeted Yugoslavia's second-largest city. Novi Sad, in a rare daytime attack that failed to take out the one remaining bridge over the Danube River.

proving effective.

But the most startling strike was the one before sunrise that ripped into the white two-storey mansion in Belgrade's Dedinje district where Milosevic sometimes lives.

Tree limbs, pieces of con-crete, shards of glass and other debris carpeted the columned mansion's grounds. Streaks of black soot dirtied arches where elegant windows once stood, and one side had a gaping hole.

Yugoslav officials expressed outrage over what they said was an attempt to kill their leader, saying three laser-guided bombs blasted Milosevic's bedroom, living room and dining "NATO committed a crimi-

nal act without precedence - an assassination attempt against the president of a sovereign state," said Goran Matic, a government minister. NATO and other Western of-

ficials called the building a presidential command post and legitimate military target.

"Milosevic himself is not a target," said White House spokesman Joe Lockhart. "The command and control centre

# US prof wins prize for his contribution to IT

SAN FRANCISCO, Apr 23: A micro-electronics pioneer whose early work on minuscule transistors helped power the information age won the world's single largest award for invention on Thursday night, reports

Carver Mead, a Professor of Engineering and Applied Science at the California Institute of Technology, was awarded the 500,000 dollars Lemelson-MIT Prize in a ceremony at the city's Exploratorium Museum.

"I was very surprised," Mead said. "The previous awards were all given to people who had one big blockbuster patent. And I don't have one of those, so it never occurred to me that I was a candidate.'

Mead's innovations also include a standard amplifying device used in microwave communication systems, which people use every day when making telephone calls or dialing into the Internet, and a hearing aid powered by a digital mi-

"They made a video where they interviewed a number of people that had those hearing aids, and it makes you cry," said

"These people are saying. This thing has changed my life.

I can hear my grandchildren now.' That's very satisfying."

But Mead is best known for his work on transistors, a project that he began in 1968 on a suggestion from Gordon Moore of Integrated Electronics — later Intel.

"Moore's Law" - that computer chips would continue to double in power while remaining the same size and price has since become a truism in the computer industry. But in 1970. Mead's forecast that the transistor could be reduced to .15 microns was revolutionary.

By comparison, a human hair is 20 microns in diameter and a wavelength of invisible light is half a micron, Mead explained in an interview Thurs-

"I was able to show that we were nowhere near the limits," he said. "It was pretty counterculture at the time to take a position like that."

Yet his forecast has nearly come true: Today the smallest transistor is .18 microns.

Mead, who lives in Woodside, California, said he plans to use the prize money to help support companies that have been launched by his former students.



Newly elected "Miss Intercontinental" Mine Erbaykent from Turkey (C) poses with - AFP photo

second placed Miredis Peguero from Puerto Rico (L) and third placed Veronica Gonzales from Uruguay, early Friday in Bochum. 27 women aged between 17 and 26 years took part in the elections for "the most beautiful woman of all continents", chosen by an international jury.

## BULEFIN

Bus accident kills 30 in China: A truck loaded with freight hit a bus head-on in eastern China, causing an explosion and fire and killing at least 30 people: a

state newspaper said Friday, AP reports from Shanghai. The truck crossed the center line and hit the bus Wednesday afternoon on a highway in Xiangshui county in Jiangsu province, the People's Daily reported. The area is near the city of Yancheng, about 500 km northwest of Shanghai. A bus passenger was quoted as saying that after some passengers escaped out the windows, he heard an explosion and both vehicles caught fire. The truck driver and at least 29 bus passengers were killed, the report said. Another 23 people were injured, the newspaper said.

7 die as chopper crashes in US: An Army Black Hawk helicopter crashed early Thursday at Fort Campbell, killing seven people and injuring the other four aboard, AP reports from Fort Campbell.

An Army photo of the crash scene showed the helicopter scattered in several large pieces in a wooded area beside a road. The UH-60L helicopter went down in a rural training area about 7 am EDT (1100 GMT), the Army said.

Blair introduces 'doctrine

of int'l community'

called for a new degree of inter- native to continuing until we

CHICAGO, Apr 23: British

Prime Minister, Tony Blair

national cooperation that

would allow increased inter-

vention in the politics and

economies of other nations, re-

of international community"

Thursday night during an ad-

dress to the Economic Club of

countries will have to band to-

gether to prevent human

tragedies such those happening

in Yugoslavia's Kosovo region

and to prevent economic crisis.

such as occurred recently in

isolationism has ceased to have

a reason to exist," Blair said.

"By necessity we have to coop-

erate with each other across the

termination to stand tough on

Britain's policy toward Yu-

goslavia. He said the only ac-

ceptable outcome to the crisis is

for Yugoslav President Slobo-

dan Milosevic to allow an in-

ternational force into the area

to oversee the return of Alba-

no alternative to military ac-

"Just as I believe there was

nian refugees to their homes.

Blair also reiterated his de-

"We live in a world where

He said that in the future.

Blair outlined his "doctrine

ports AP.

Chicago.

Asia and Brazil

nations."

tion, now that it has started I

am convinced there is no alter-

strategy I am prepared to con-

flict, as well as Saddam Hus-

sein's dictatorship in Iraq,

highlight that the post-Cold

War era requires a new "frame-

work" of thought about coopera-

crisis. We react, it fades, our re-

action becomes less urgent," he

said. "We are continually fend-

ing off the danger of letting

wherever CNN roves be the cat-

tle prod to take a global conflict

nity will have to establish clear

policies on intervention as well

as strengthen and reform the

international organisations.

including NATO and the United

Nations, that would lead such

pressing foreign policy prob-

lems the international com-

munity will face is "to identify

the circumstances in which we

should get actively involved in

be a purely internal matter," he

"Acts of genocide can never

other people's conflicts"

Blair said one of the most

The international commu-

seriously."

efforts, he said.

"There is a global financial

"Success is the only exit

He said that the Kosovo con-

succeed, Blair said.

#### Colorado teenagers wanted to blow up their school

 LITTLETON, Colorado, Apr 23: The two gunmen in the Columbine High School massacre were planning to blow up their school and probably had help from others, investigators said after discovering a powerful bomb in the kitchen that had been built from a propane tank, reports AP.

"These subjects were not only on a killing rampage, but they were going to destroy the school," Sheriff John Stone said. "They were going to burn the school up."

The discovery of the 9-kilo (20-pound) propane tank heightened suspicions that the two killers had help from other people, either with building the 32 bombs discovered so far in the school, its environs and the killers' homes, or getting them into the high school. An earlier reports said there were two bombs in the kitchen, but investigators might have been misled because there was a gasoline can next to the one bomb, a sheriff's official said. Investigators still believed the gunmen might have had help.

"It's a feeling from our investigators that the chances are very, very good that we have more than two people involved," sheriff's spokesman Steve Davis said.

CNN reported that a note left by one of the gunmen was a suicide note that indicated the two teenagers acted alone. "This is the way we want to go out," the note said, according to CNN, which cited unidentified sources.



Supporters of Congress (I) Party President Sonia Gandhi shout slogans as they hold a placard reading: "we want Sonia Gandhi to be P.M. (prime minister)" in front of her residence in New Delhi Friday. India plunged even deeper into political crisis after north Indian regional leader Mulayam Singh Yadav, who holds 20 precious parliamentary seats, withdrew his support from the Congress Party in forming a new government.

- AFP photo

#### Israel threatens to close PA HQs in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Apr 23: Is-rael's government threatened Thursday to close offices in a major Jerusalem centre for Palestinian political activity, an unprecedented move dismissed by the Palestinians as a toothless election ploy, reports

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he told his police minister to close Palestinian Authority offices in Orient House. The centre is widely viewed as the Palestinian. headquarters in traditionally Arab east Jerusalem, the sector claimed by the Palestinians as a future capital.

It was the first time any government dared threaten the nerve center of Palestinian activity in the disputed city.

Israeli radios reported that police reinforcements were increased in anticipation of demonstrations on Friday, the Muslim sabbath.

Consuls from European Union countries, including France, Britain and the EU envoy - paid solidarity visits to Orient House later Thursday. The European Union has backed the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state.

#### Bodyguard of Castro defects to Dominican Republic

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic, Apr 23: One of Fidel Castro's bodyguards walked into the US Embassy during the Cuban leader's recent visit to the Dominican Republic and asked to defect, a US official confirmed, reports AP.

"He just knocked on the door" Sunday, after a summit of the Association of Caribbean States, said the US Embassy official, who spoke on condition of anonymity Thursday.

Capt. Lazaro de Betancourt would be the first known member of Castro's security team to ask to defect in 40 years dealing a personal blow to the Cuban leader and a political blow to his communist government.

Such a defection also would hurt the morale of the elite security corps that guards Castro, of which de Betancourt was the second-in-command.

## Adopted brother of Anwar charged with sodomy

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 23: The adopted brother of jailed politician Anwar Ibrahim was charged Friday with two counts of sodomy, indicating that the state may proceed with sodomy charges against the ousted deputy prime minister, reports

Sukma Sarmawan, Anwar's former personal secretary, Mohd. Azmin Ali, and a dressmaker for Anwar's wife, Mior Abdul Razak, were all charged Friday with committing perjury in regard to Anwar's sensational corruption and sex trial.

Sukma was also charged with one count of assisting Anwar in the act of sodomy against Anwar's former driver. Azizan Abu Bakar, and one count of sodomy on Azizan. If convicted, Sukma could face up

to 20 years in prison. He pleaded not guilty, surrendered his passport and was released on bail.

His trial was set for July 5. Anwar was convicted last Wednesday of corruption and sentenced to six years in prison. The prosecution claimed Anwar had sex with men and women and abused his powers of office by forcing police to cover up his sexual misdeeds.

The conviction sparked rioting in downtown Kuala Lumpur last week by thousands of supporters who believe Anwar is innocent.

Anwar's defence team was to meet with prosecutors next Tuesday to determine whether he would face an additional corruption charge and five counts of sodomy.



Ousted deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim's adopted Indonesian brother Sukma Darmawan Sasmitaat Madja leaves the court Friday in Kuala Lumpur.

— AFP photo

### Off the Record

#### 100 reasons for English pride

LONDON: Britain's leading tabloid marked St George's Day today by listing 100 reasons why it is great to be English, reports Reuters. The Sun, heralding England's national day, put the Queen

Mother top of the list, calling her "the essential English lady who is our favourite royal." Next came the Beatles who were joined in the top 10 by William Shakespeare, a cup of tea and pints of milk being deliv-

ered to your doorstep. Ever modest, the Brash tabloid - owned by Australian-born tycoon Rupert Murdoch - listed itself as Reason 100 for English

#### Fatherhood in question!

TOKYO: A baby smiles in the arms of a doting dad. "A man who does not help in child-rearing can't be called a father." the voice on the TV public announcement gently warns, reports AP. The Japanese government campaign that began last month had the best of intentions: Encouraging men to lend their wives a helping hand with children at a time when more and more women are holding jobs outside the home.

But the campaign proved a trifle too much for male-dominated Japan, where a government report released Friday found that husbands spend far less time in cooking, cleaning or taking care of the children than do their American counterparts. Exactly how controversial fatherhood can get in Japan

couldn't have had a more blatant reminder than the outburst over Tokyo's fatherhood campaign. The posters and TV segment set off a public wrangle, drawing protests from fuming men. And the topic is being taken up on TV talk shows as well as in a special "absent dads" series in the

major Asahi newspaper. "Of course there's outrage," said Kiichi Inoue, a lawmaker who opposes the campaign. "A parent-child relationship is not determined by child care.

#### UN hails peace effort to end war in Congo

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 23: The UN Security Council on Thursday welcomed African efforts led by Libya to bring peace to Congo and reiterated its call for an immediate halt to fighting, reports AP.

An agreement calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities was signed Sunday by Congo's government and Uganda, which has supported rebels battling to oust Congolese President Laurent Kabila.

But the rebels and their main backer, Rwanda, rejected the agreement brokered without their participation by Libyan leader Moammar Gaddafi, and the rebels said they would continue fighting.

"The members of the council call on the other parties to the conflict also to commit themselves to an immediate cessation of the hostilities," said France's UN Ambassador Alain Dejammet, the current council president. "They stress that efforts must be made by all parties to this end."

Fighting has wracked Congo since rebels took up arms in August to oust Kabila from power. Kabila is receiving support in troops, tanks and aircraft from Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia and Chad.

## NATO Secretary General Javier Solana (R) answers a question along side US President Bill Clinton (L) in the Rose Garden of the White House Thursday. Clinton earlier met with Solana in the Oval Office where they discussed the NATO Operation Allied Force against Serbia and the 50th anniversary of NATO. — AFP photo