#### International

#### Bombs found at attorney general's office in Jakarta

JAKARTA, July 5: Police today found two bombs in a cardboard box in a building of the Indonesian attorney general's office complex, a day after a homemade bomb exploded there, police said, reports AFP. Police immediately ordered fficials to evacuate the building after the discovery of the devices, weighing two kilograms each.

"The type of the bombs is not known yet, but they contained solid TNT." Brigadier General M.A. Erwin, the head of the national police forensic department, said after the explosives were removed from the build-

The devices were found on the third floor near a watercontrol panel in the same building where Tuesday's blast went off, police said.

No one was injured in Tuesday's explosion, which detonated one hour after a son of former president Suharto had left the building.

#### Lanka court blast leaves 8 injured

COLOMBO, July 5: At least eight people were injured in Sri Lanka, three of them seriously. when a bomb exploded in a magistrate's court in a small town just outside the capital Colombo today, police said, reorts Reuters.

They said the court was in session in Gangodawila town. close to the southern Nugegoda suburb of the capital, when the bomb went off at around 10 am (1000 BST).

Details were not immediately available, but police said the magistrate was safe and blamed inter-gang rivalry for the incident.

#### 39 killed as army launches fresh offensive against LTTE rebels

COLOMBO, July 5: Thirty five LTTE rebels and four security forces personnel were killed in the biggest offensive operation launched by the Sri Lankan Army in Jaffna Peninsula after the LTTE had captured some strategic areas this

May, reports PTI. Troops recovered 23 bodies of rebels along with their weapons after Army launched an operation yesterday morning at Nagerkovil in the peninsula to destroy an LTTE bunker line, an official press release

said here yesterday evening. As the troops mounted attacks on the bunker lines, LTTE rushed reinforcements, which were ambushed by the army resulting in the killing of a large number of rebel cadre. One officer and one soldier was also killed in yesterday's attacks and 34 troops were injured, it

Twelve rebels and three security forces personnel were also killed in a number of encounters between the troops and the rebels in Jaffna peninsula and Eastern Trincomalee on Monday, it said.

# Fiji military seals off parliament, issues deadline to coup leaders

SUVA, July 5: Fiji's martial law authorities declared a military exclusion zone around parliament today, isolating rebel leader George Speight as they prepared for a showdown to end the political crisis, reports AFP

Speight and his 300 nationalist supporters have been given 48 hours to leave the complex where they are holding elected prime minister Mahendra Chaudhry and 26 other hostages

The decree takes effect at midnight Wednesday (1800 BST) and "allows the military, after the 48-hour period, to arrest and detain any person in the area." spokesman Colonel Filipo Tarakinikini said.

It also empowers the army to crisis ever since. restrict essential services to parliament such as water and electricity. "Humanitarian needs" such as food could be taken in by the Red Cross, but

coup supporters were barred,

The coup plotters have as completing the coup. warned they are prepared to kill their hostages if the military resorts to force to end the crisis.

Chaudhry, the first Fijian leader drawn from the large ethnic Indian minority, has been held since May 19, when Speight, a bankrupt businessman, and a gang of special forces soldiers stormed parliament.

They are demanding a new constitution reserving political power for the indigenous Fijian population.

The military declared martial law on May 29 after Speight supporters went on a rampage in Suva and have been attempting to negotiate an end to the nance of discipline within the

An interim civilian gov- Speight supporters at an army ernment appointed by martial base on Vanua Levu, Fiji's seclaw commander Vorege Bainimarama on Tuesday to oversee a return to democracy over two Tarakinikini told AFP.

years has been denounced by the Fiji Trades Union Congress

contained no ethnic Indians -- defections by troops loyal to as Speight had demanded. But him the coup leader, who has also been promised an amnesty, still reacted furiously, saying he had about the new line-up.

nouncement, shooting broke out between soldiers and Speight supporters. At least five rebels were wounded.

Tarakinkini said the mili-

following the gunbattle. The move appeared to be designed to ensure the maintearmed forces after a mutiny by

ond biggest island. "We are on full alert."

There had been no further reports of insubordination in army ranks, he added, despite The interim government Speight's prediction of massive

Although security with additional road blocks and military personnel had been stepped not been adequately consulted up closer to the entry into the city from parliament, there was Within hours of cabinet an- no evidence of soldiers within a kilometre of parliament.

"We are there." Tarakinikini told AFP. A soldier also told AFP that troops were in the area around

parliament which is very bushy tary had been put on full alert and swampy One of the rebels injured in Tuesday's shootout is still unconscious and fighting for his life in the Colonial War Memo-

> rial Hospital in Suva. "He's got clotting problems right now. It's a major problem. Anybody's life in that kind of situation is in danger," Dr Solomone Tuga said.



A supporter of coup leader George Speight aims a gun while his colleagues play guitars at the parliamentary compound in Suva yesterday. The military issued a decree declaring a military zone around the parliament, aiming to completely seal off the area, giving - AFP photo Speight and his supporters 48 hours to leave.

# US marks Independence Day

NEW YORK, July 5: The United States marked its 224th birthday Tuesday with picnics and parades in towns and cities large and small around the country, with its biggest city hosting the largest peacetime maritime gathering in US history, reports AFP.

Dozens of the world's biggest ships sailed into New York Harbour to mark the mew millennium and Independence Day, celebrated here annually since July 4, 1776, when the United States declared itself independent from England.

Towering ships moved up the Hudson River past the aircraft carrier USS Kennedy, as President Bill Clinton watched from its deck along with his daughter Chelsea and First Lady Hillary Clinton, delivering a speech Authority's firefighting brigade evoking the courage of those who launched a new nation more than two centuries ago.

"As the armies eyed each other across this channel, the Declaration of Independence arrived from Philadelphia. George Washington ordered it to be read aloud to the troops," Clinton said during the harbour New York police mobilised to ceremony.

"It was at the tip of Manhattan island, just to our north, where the troops first heard they were actually citizens of a new nation -- where they first heard the words. We hold these truths to be self-evident' -- and where they first pledged their lives, their fortunes, their sacred honour."

Several hundred miles to the south, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright welcomed 69 new citizens in Charlottesville. Virginia, by evoking her own arrival in the United States as an immigrant.

emony at Thomas Jefferson's diers.

famed residence. Back in New York, some 150 ships, boats and frigates from 50 countries participated in the naval parade, at the end of which, in the evening, a

grandiose show of fireworks was planned. In addition, some 70,000 private sailboats, motorboats and speedboats filled the harbour, and an estimated four million people watched the spectacle from the shores of

Manhattan. Below hazy skies, pierced by rays of sunshine, the white sails billowed many dozens of yards high, with, in the background, modern warships from all over the world -- and the Statue of Liberty.

Sailors of the New York Port turned on their fire hoses, which were dyed with the red, white and blue colours of the American flag.

A total of some 28,000 sailors of diverse nations were involved in the parade.

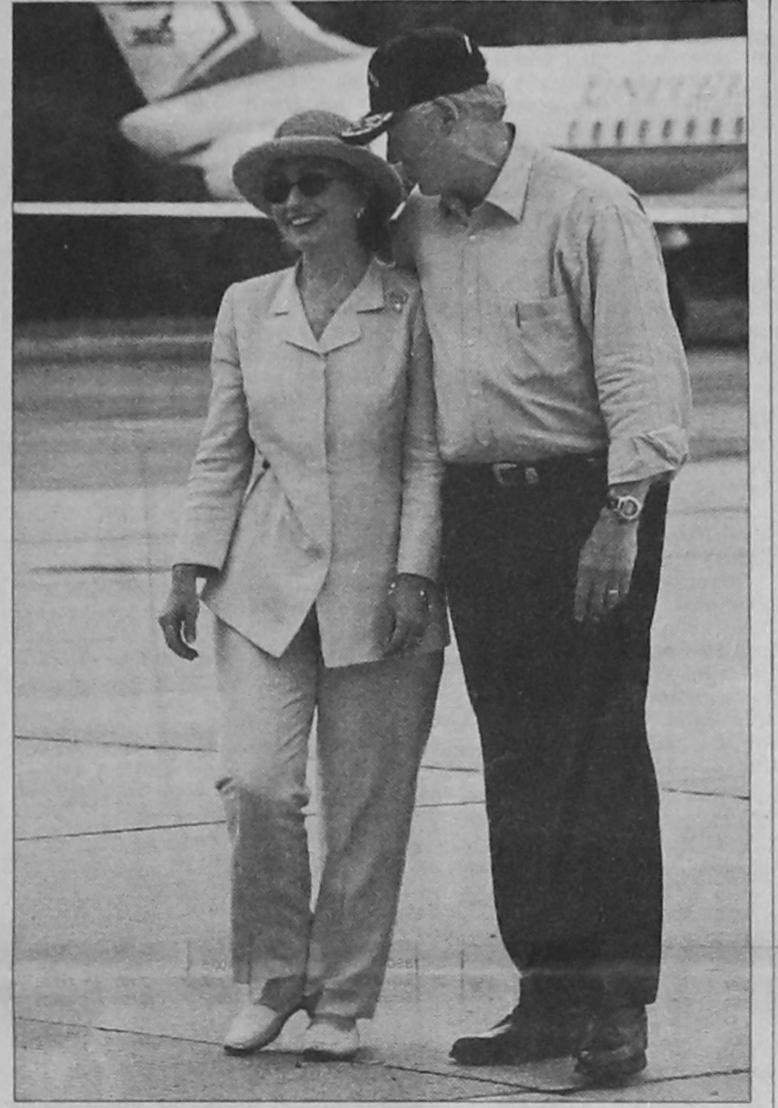
Coincidentally, 28,000 was also the estimated number of provide security for the event. Joining them were agents of

a dozen state and federal agen-

cies, including the Federal Bureau of Intelligence (FBI), Secret Service. Coast Guard and a team of Navy criminal investigators. Eighty-year-old Mary Ann Ross, who arrived very early at Battery Park on the southern

tip of Manhattan to beat the heat and humidity, was effusive about the beauty and grandeur of the parade. "I wouldn't miss it for any-

thing," said Ross. In Washington, meanwhile, thousands of tourists flocked to "Like countless others before the National Mall, the grassy and since, we steamed into New expanse stretching from York harbour and beheld the Congress past the White House Statue of Liberty -- our eyes full to the Abraham Lincoln Memoof tears and our hearts full of rial, to have picnics and watch hope," Albright said in the cer- and applaud a parade of sol-



US President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton walk towards greeters at the Westchester County airport before returning to Washington, DC, after participating in ceremonies of the International Naval Review 2000 and OpSail 2000 Parade of Tall Ships in the New York Harbour on Tuesday. The Clintons participated in the ceremonies in honour of US Independence Day. - AFP photo

# No return to wide autonomy for Kashmir: Vajpayee

MADRAS, India, July 5: In- inet meeting. dian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee today defended his government's refusal to the situation," he told reporters Vajpayee's cabinet said in a consider far-reaching autonomy for the troubled northern state of Kashmir, reports AFP.

Vajpayee's cabinet on Tuesday had unanimously rejected a can discuss it. But there is no resolution passed by the Kashmir assembly that wanted the same wide degree of autonomy the state enjoyed prior to 1953.

Vajpayee said he had communicated the decision to Kashmir Chief Minister Farroq Abdullah before Tuesday's cab-

"When Farooq Abdullah communications. called on me, I explained to him in the southern city of Madras. "I told him that if states re-

quired more financial powers

that is a different matter and we

going back to the pre-1953 position," Vajpayee said.

The Kashmir assembly adopted its resolution last week, calling for complete autonomy for the Muslim-majority state, except in matters related to finance, defence and

In rejecting the resolution, statement that the proposals "would set the clock back and reverse the natural process of harmonising the aspirations of the Kashmir people with the integrity of the nation.

However, Vajpayee did not rule out an eventual discussion of the Kashmir resolution in parliament.

"If the opposition wishes to do so, I am willing." he said.

Nepalese

organisation

blasts India

biggest Muslim organisation in

Nepal on Tuesday denounced

KATHMANDU, July 5: The

### US asks Pakistan to create condition for talks

United States yesterday asked New Delhi in the belief that Pakistan to create peaceful Pakistan and India need to exconditions for resumption of amine very carefully the Indo-Pak dialogue and asserted Kashmir situation as it i that there could be no military evolving with the aim of replac solution to the Kashmir issue. ing the downward spiral of reports PTI.

the past few weeks as (Pakistan's military ruler) Gen. Pervez Musharraf has repeat- mir issue and asked India and edly offered to meet with India, and we are asking New Delhi to straint and respect the Line of consider seriously the possibil- Control (LOC). ity for resuming the dialogue. US consul General John E Bennet said at the meet the press programme in Karachi.

But Pakistan now should do its part to help create the peaceful conditions needed to make such a dialogue. This, of course, was on the agenda last he added. Minister (Abdul) Sattar's talks both Pakistan and India to sign | in Washington, he said.

sue, the US official declared that it is in the best interest of that Washington was not medi-

But we are making represent the CTBT.

FREETOWN, July 5: Sierra

Leone's British-trained army

has lost control of a key town

on the road linking the capital

Freetown to the Interior, army

sources said on Tuesday, re-

It was not immediately clear

whether Masiaka had fallen to

a breakaway group in the shaky

pro-government alliance or to

the rebel Revolutionary United

Front (RUF), which took up

arms again in May in violation

spokeswoman Hirut Befecadu

could not immediately confirm

the report. She told Reuters no

UN peacekeepers were thought

The town, about 50 miles (80

km) from Freetown, is on a

main road around an estuary

that separates the capital from

the international airport. Who-

Nations

ports Reuters.

of a 1999 peace deal

United

to be in Masiaka.

ISLAMABAD, July 5: The tations in both Islamabad and malevolence with an upward We have listened closely in spiral of benevolence, he said.

Bennet said there could be no military solution to the Kash-Pakistan to demonstrate re-

He said the Kargil conflict had done enormous damage to the Lahore peace process and imposed new demands on the process of dialogue. While Kargil cannot be forgotten, i can and should be transcended.

the Comprehensive Test Ban Referring to the Kashmir is- Treaty. We sincerely believe Pakistan — as well as India and the global community — to sign

the diamond-rich east.

troops around that area,

Befecadu said UN troops

regularly patrolled the road

from Freetown via Masiaka to

the airport at Lungi. "This route

from Lungi all the way around

to Freetown in important - we

have people at several check-

not clear exactly who was in

control of Masiaka, where

troops clashed last week with a

rival faction, made up of sol-

diers who toppled President

Ahmed Tejan Kabbah in 1997

and later joined forces with the

the divided nature of the un-

That fighting highlighted

The army sources said it was

points," she said.

Befecadu said, by telephone.

diminish our national pride," said Ansari. "The Indian media has been systematically trying to por-

The Indian media reported last month that a plot called "Gameplan", against India, had been hatched in Nepal by Pakistan and its intelligence

sulted us as a nation by labelling many of us as ISI's agents," Ansari said.

"The NMEA feels that enough is enough and it is time to stand up to the high-handedness of the big brother, protest

#### Army mutiny in Ivory Coast

Military ruler General Robert Guei imposed the 7 pm (0100 BST) to 6 am (1200 BST) curfew after soldiers protested in the main city Abidjan and other centres of Tuesday, demanding money from the ruling junta for their role in the December coup.

Soldiers in the streets fired

Calm had returned to Abidjan by nightfall, apart from the occasional gunshot, and a spokesman for the mutineers read a statement on national television asking his comrades to return to barracks.

But some military sources said overnight that mutineers had yet to return to barracks and had said that they would

toppled President Henri Konan the mutineers in an address to the nation to join him in finding a negotiated solution to the crisis.

"I remain open to dialogue. You can send your delegations to me," he said, assuring the mutineers they could trust the junta and adding that acts such as Tuesday's threatened to tarnish the army's image and would lead to soldiers being blacklisted.

## Russia, China urge US not to breach ABM treaty DUSHANBE, July 5: Russia

and China urged the United States today not to breach the landmark ABM arms control accord as they met on the sidelines of a regional summit here. a senior Kremlin official said, reports AFP. Russian President Vladimir

Putin and Chinese leader Jiang zemin discussed the "unshakeability" of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, the Russian leader's top foreign policy aide Sergei Prikhodko said. The 50 minutes of one-on-

one talks marked the first time the two leaders have met as heads of state, officials said.

protested US plans for a national missile defence system. which Russian officials say would violate the historic ABM treaty and upset the nuclear

Putin is expected to push for a declaration in support of the need to retain the treaty in its present form when he and Jiang meet leaders of Kazakhstan, Kvrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Washington argues that it needs the 60-billion dollar missile shield to defend against the threat posed by nuclear threshold states such as North Korea and Iraq. Beijing and Moscow say that threat is exaggerated. Jiang and Putin met ahead

of a one-day "Shanghai Five"

summit in the Tajik capital ism. which is expected to focus on Both Russia and China have regional security and the fight against resurgent Islamic ex-

Putin's talks with Jiang were also used to discuss the Russian leader's upcoming visit to China on July 18 and his trip to

North Korea, the first by a Russian president to the isolated Stalinist state.

The Shanghai Five forum has been seen as a chance for Russia and China to boost their bilateral cooperation and challenge US dominance in world affairs and its growing influence in Central Asia.

Prikhodko said the two leaders considered the five-nation summit an effective mechanism for discussion of questions, including regional stabil ity and international terror-

Regional leaders blame Afghanistan, which shares a 2,000 km border with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, for the spread of extremism and the transit of weapons and drugs across Cen-

Barak meets Blair: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak held talks on the Middle East peace process Wednesday with his British counterpart Tony Blair, AFP reports from London.

They met for a one-hour working breakfast in Downing Street which was also attended by Foreign Secretary Robin Cook. A spokesman for Blair said he had been "very interested to hear Mr Barak's views on how he sees things moving forward" in the Middle East, in particular "the Palestinian track." They also discussed the possibility of a joint summit grouping Israel, the United States and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat sometime in the future.

Russia launches proton rocket:
Russia successfully launched a Proton-K booster rocket carrying a Kosmos military satellite for the Russian ministry of defence, the ITAR-TASS news agency reported Wednesday, AFP

reports from Moscow. The rocket blasted off at 3:44 am (0544 BST) from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. On July 12, the Proton-K rocket will launch the Zvezda service module to dock with the

International Space Station. Costing some 320 million dollars. Zvezda will serve as the living and working quarters of the crews aboard the ISS.

## Ban on Orange Order march

### Police, Portestants clash in N Ireland

erupted between Northern Ireland police and Protestant hardliners overnight in the lat- day. est outbreak of violence triggered by a ban on Protestants marching through a Roman Catholic enclave, reports

Reuters. No one was injured in the shooting in Belfast, which police insisted was not a fullyfledged gunbattle.

It was the third successive back by the water canon, night of violence in Northern Ireland, still tense despite the establishment of a power-sharing coalition and advances on guerilla disarmament.

cident occurred after they had moved in to stop fighting between groups of Portestants and Catholics in a Belfast area. "Police returned fire. There were no reports of any injuries."

said a police spokesman. Petrol bombs were thrown in chief Ronnie Flanagan urged Belfast and barricades were set on fire as Protestant hardliners vented their fury at the ban on the Protestant Orange Order

BELFAST, July 5: Gunfire marching through the Catholic Garvaghy Road area near the hamlet of Drumcree next Sun-At Drumcree, security forces

used a water cannon when Protestant hardliners attacked them with petrol bombs and stones, witnesses said. About 500 Portestants tried to break through security force

lines blocking entry to the Gar-

vaghy Road area but were forced Drumcree has long been a Manila, the civil defence office major sectarian flashpoint in Northern Ireland, particularly during the annual Orange Order "marching season" to mark Police said the shooting in- centuries-old battlefield victo-

ries over Catholics. Britain's Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Mandelson joined in appeals for calm and support for the province's fragile peace process.

Northern Ireland's police the Orange Order, an exclusively pro-British and Protestant fraternity, to condemn the violence.

# 7 dead, 120,000 flee homes as typhoon hits Philippines

ever controls Masiaka also con- likely government alliance.

Sierra Leone army loses

control of key town

ple have died and more than 120,000 others have fled their homes after typhoon Kirogi and a lesser storm triggered floods in Manila and the northern Philippines, officials and reports said today, reports AFP. A couple was crushed to

on their home in the northern mountain resort of Baguio on Wednesday, police said. drowned in floodwaters or were crushed by debris in and around

death when an uprooted tree fell

here said. took shelter in 44 governmentrun evacuation centres in Manila and three other provinces, it said in a statement. Press reports said about 120.000 people had fled their

sent home all government workers except for emergency staff, and banks suspended foreign exchange trading on their electronic exchange in the afternoon. Schools have been Philippines.

proached on Tuesday.

"In view of the continuous heavy rains and the flooding of the streets in Metro Manila today ... work in all government offices including government owned and controlled corpora tions is hereby suspended at 12:01 today," said a memorandum from the presidential

Five other people either center winds of 165 km per hour, roared towards the Ryukyu islands in southern Japan on Wednesday afternoon while a tropical depression A total of 16,427 families from the South China Sea strengthened into a storm as it passed the main Philippine island of Luzon on Wednesday.

The storm, now packing winds of 70 km an hour, bore down on the Batan islands in the late afternoon, weather

He said both weather fronts were expected to enhance the rain-bearing southwest monsoons overnight on the western half of the northern and central

Riot Police hide behind a Land Rover as masked loyalists throw missiles and set a road block on fire in support of the Drumcree Orangemen on Tuesday on North Queen Street in Belfast. The clashes have once again raised serious questions over the stability of the peace process in Northern Ireland as violence escalated over a ban on a Protestant parade. - AFP photo

# closed since the storms ap-MANILA, July 5: Seven peo-

palace. Typhoon Kirogi, packing

President Joseph Estrada forecaster Prisco Nilo said.

#### India as a bullying "big brother" which wrongly portrayed its Himalayan neighbour as a hotbed of anti-Indian activity. reports AFP. The Nepal Muslim Ettehad

Association (NMEA), the largest group representing Nepal's nearly one million-strong Muslim population, said Muslims in particular were vilified. Speaking at a press confered

ence on Tuesday, NMEA chairman and former minister Salim Miya Ansari charged that India tried to intimidate the smaller nation. He said this included the "il-

legal capture of Nepalese land, interference in its water reweek during (Pakistan) Foreign Bennet renewed US call on sources, politics, economy and settling Indians in Nepal. "In the recent past, the rulers

and media of our big brother have been implicating Nepalese citizens in general, and Muslims in particular, with a motive to harass, intimidate and

tray Nepal as a base for anti-Indian activities," he added.

trols the route to rebel strongholds in the north and in agency, the ISI. "The Indian media has in-"We move our troops around, and I think we are sending more

and fight," he said.

ABIDJAN, July 5: Ivory Coast was shaken by a military mutiny and spent its first night under curfew since the army seized power last December, shattering the country's reputation as one Africa's most stable nations, reports Reuters.

in the air.

stay out in town with their weapons to assess the junta's response to their demand. Guei, installed as head of state by young soldiers who Bedie on Christmas Eve, urged