

World Briefs

Bridge collapses; large holiday crowd blamed

HONG KONG — A suspension bridge collapsed under a Lunar New Year crowd, killing at least 23 people and injuring more than 100 others near the ancient Chinese city of Xian, newspapers reported Tuesday.

The newspapers, quoting China's semi-official Hong Kong China News Agency, said authorities blamed Friday's accident on a large holiday crowd that crammed the bridge to get a better view of a popular Taoist temple.

There were no foreigners reported among the casualties.

Xian, a former Chinese capital in the central province of Shaanxi, is a popular tourist city, famed for its terra cotta warriors.

The report did not say how many people were on the bridge southwest of Xian when it collapsed, dropping the crowd into a valley. The report gave no further details.

Employees arrested for aiding prostitution sale

BANGKOK, Thailand — Police arrested 11 staff members of Thai Airways International who were accused of helping to sell women into prostitution in Japan and other countries, officials said Tuesday.

The 11 were accused of falsifying identification cards, marriage certificates and other documents to make it look as if the women they were escorting abroad were wives or daughters, said the airline's executive vice president, Chatrachai Bunya-Ananta.

Using these documents, the staff members requested airline staff tickets and endorsement from the airline in applying for visas, he said.

Once abroad, the women were sold into prostitution by a gang, he said.

Chatrachai said the national carrier aided the police investigation by gathering information on staff members who had asked for tickets to Japan or who went there often. The 11 were arrested Monday.

Gay activists violate law in Helms/Gantt election

WASHINGTON — Several gay rights groups may have broken the law by organizing boycotts of Miller beer and Marlboro cigarettes to try to defeat Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., according to Federal Election Commission documents.

FEC lawyers said there was "reason

to believe" that the groups violated federal election law by apparently acting as political action committees but not registering with the commission as required. One of the groups—the District of Columbia chapter of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power—may have spent at least \$500 "for the purpose of influencing the North Carolina Senate election" last year, the FEC found.

"Accordingly, further investigation is necessary," the FEC wrote in papers filed earlier this month. The documents were provided to The Associated Press by Katherine Meyer, a lawyer for the gay groups, and Michael Petrelis, a Washington gay activist involved in the case.

"We're very disappointed," Meyer said Tuesday. "We were hoping this thing would be nipped in the bud, but they have made the decision that there's a reason to believe that there's a violation."

She said the FEC had asked for additional information and documents, which the groups will provide.

Va. governor pardons man sentenced to death

RICHMOND, Va. — Gov. L. Douglas Wilder today decided to spare the life of Joseph Giarratano, who was scheduled to die in the electric chair Friday night for the 1979 slayings of a woman and her teenage daughter.

The governor issued a conditional pardon that commutes Giarratano's sentence to life in prison with parole possible after serving a total of 25 years, and allows him to seek a new trial if he wishes.

Giarratano, 33, says he doesn't remember committing the killings, though in the past he confessed several times. He says that they occurred in a period of his life when he was abusing drugs heavily and that he has turned his life around while in prison.

He has become a prominent "jailhouse lawyer" whose writings appeared in such places as the Yale Law Journal.

He was convicted of the February 1979 murder of Barbara Kline, 44, and the rape and murder of her 15-year-old daughter, Michelle.

The two were neighbors of his in Norfolk, where he was a part-time fisherman.

His case has drawn the support of a variety of celebrities, including conservative columnist James J. Kilpatrick and liberal entertainers Joan Baez and Mike Farrell.

—The Associated Press

Yeltsin calls for Gorbachev resignation

The Associated Press
MOSCOW — Boris N. Yeltsin made an unprecedented televised appeal Tuesday for the resignation of Mikhail S. Gorbachev, accusing the Soviet president of sacrificing reforms in a drive for personal power.

Yeltsin has been a strident and frequent critic of Gorbachev, but never before called for him to step down. The attack seemed certain to exacerbate the enmity between the two men and to heighten the Soviet political crisis.

"I warned in 1987 that Gorbachev has in his character a tendency to absolute personal power," Yeltsin said. "He has done all that and has led the country to a dictatorship, giving it a pretty name: presidential rule."

As president of Russia, the largest Soviet republic, Yeltsin enjoys immense personal popularity but has had difficulty parlaying that into the kind of political power Gorbachev wields. Gorbachev has run the Soviet Union for nearly six years but has been widely criticized for the failing economy and the increasing disorder in society.

Yeltsin's nationwide broadcast — a 40-minute live appearance — was a

first for the Soviet Union: never before had an opposition leader been granted so much time on state-controlled television.

His remarks came after most government offices closed but prior to peak viewing hours. There was no immediate reaction from Kremlin spokesmen.

In the broadcast, Yeltsin said his biggest mistake since becoming president last May was placing too much trust in Gorbachev's promises of economic and political reform.

The heart of Yeltsin's argument was that power should be shifted from the central government, led by Gorbachev, to the 15 Soviet republics.

"I distance myself from the position and policies of the (Soviet) president, I am in favor of his immediate resignation, with the power being transferred to a collective organ, the Federation Council of the republic(s)," he said.

The Federation Council, consisting of the Soviet president, vice president and heads of the republics, was created at Gorbachev's initiative.

Reformers' fears of a shift toward a harder line were heightened in Decem-

ber by the resignation of Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze, who warned of a coming "dictatorship."

Shevardnadze attributed Gorbachev's shift away from reform to pressure from the military and the Communist Old Guard, but Yeltsin laid the blame squarely on Gorbachev.

The centrally controlled media, particularly the state broadcast monopoly, have criticized Yeltsin relentlessly in the past month because of his denunciation of Gorbachev's crackdown in the Baltic republics.

The official Tass news agency carried a 230-word report on Yeltsin's demand for Gorbachev's resignation. However, there was no mention of Yeltsin's TV appearance on the popular national TV news program "Vremya."

Yeltsin said it was difficult to obtain the time for his broadcast. Previously, he has accused the broadcast media of an "information blockade" against himself, the Russian legislature and separatist movements in the Baltics.

A former member of Gorbachev's Politburo, Yeltsin was ousted from the ruling body in 1987 and has feuded with Gorbachev since over the pace of reform.

Last summer the two men appeared to agree on a so-called 500-day plan to shift to a market economy.

But Gorbachev balked, and Yeltsin said Tuesday he regretted not pushing harder to win support from leaders of other republics.

Yeltsin, 60, has quit the Communist Party and recently has been under attack by hard-liners. His aides say opponents have collected enough signatures in the Russian parliament to call for a special session at which they are expected to press for a vote of no-confidence.

During his television appearance, Yeltsin answered questions from two Soviet journalists who reflected the Kremlin line that Yeltsin is among the main causes of instability in the Soviet Union.

Yeltsin saved his harshest words for the end of the broadcast.

"The first two years after 1985," when Gorbachev was elected general secretary of the Communist Party, he "instilled some hope in many of us and practically from that time, his active policies began of, I apologize, his deception of the people," Yeltsin said.

World media withstand censorship, arson

The Associated Press

Censorship supported in U.S.S.R.

The head of Soviet broadcasting on Feb. 11 defended continued news censorship and said he altered news reports for political reasons.

Since Leonid Kravchenko took over Soviet broadcasting in November, the main news program has sometimes reverted from wide-ranging political reporting to little more than readings of government announcements. The most daring shows have been pulled from the air.

"On state television, we can have censorship," said Kravchenko, citing limits on coverage of the Persian Gulf War that have been imposed by other governments.

Kravchenko also said that in his previous position as head of the official Soviet news agency Tass, he altered news reports for political reasons during last year's ethnic violence in Azerbaijan.

"We could not report that two Armenians died until an equal number of Azerbaijanis died," Kravchenko told a news conference.

Western journalists noticed at the time that Armenian and Azerbaijani casualty figures remained remarkably equal over the course of weeks, and speculated that the two sides were engaged in eye-for-an-eye killings.

"I shall do my best not to help certain mass media to intensify political tension in society," Kravchenko asserted.

Kravchenko said television and radio should be limited to the official government line because they are using state-owned transmission facilities.

When the popular and daring political talk show Vzgl'yad was pulled off the air in late December, Gorbachev was still in the process of forming a new Cabinet at the time, Kravchenko said.

"This political program cannot be aired if they are not aware of the political program of the president and his team," he said.

Publication resumes after fire

El Salvador's oldest newspaper resumed publication on Feb. 12, four days after it was shut down by an arson attack. The abbreviated return edition bore the banner headline "Onward."

The headquarters of the century-old Diario Latino, the only local paper that regularly included the perspective of leftist rebels in its pages, was nearly destroyed in an arson fire before dawn on Feb. 9.

Editor Francisco Valencia blamed the attack on extreme rightists in the military, who presumably were angered by the newspaper's pluralist editorial policy. The armed forces rejected the accusation.

The nearly 100 employees of the

afternoon daily used improvisation, ingenuity and the solidarity of academic and other institutions to put out a four-page edition. Because the Latino's presses were left charred by the blaze, the Feb. 12 paper was printed at the University of El Salvador.

The edition contained only photographs and captions, most showing the destruction caused by the fire.

The arson attack was roundly condemned by politicians, diplomats and academics as an erosion of the democracy that the rightist government says it is cultivating.

U.S. Ambassador William Walker visited the gutted plant on Feb. 11. "Until there is an end to this kind of thing, I would not make a flat-out statement that there's a democratic process in this country," he said.

The National Endowment for Democracy, which is funded by the U.S. Congress, pledged \$20,000 to contribute to the newspaper's recovery.

Journalist group protests sentences

An international journalists' group, in a letter Feb. 13 to the Chinese government, is protesting the harsh sentences given to two democracy activists and is appealing for their release.

"We believe Chen Ziming and Wang Juntao are being persecuted for their right to free expression," wrote the Committee to Protect Journalists.

The letter from the New York-based group was addressed to Chinese Premier Li Peng and General Secretary Jiang Zemin of the Communist Party.

Chen and Wang were convicted Feb. 12 of sedition and counterrevolutionary propaganda and incitement. They were

each sentenced to 13-year jail terms.

Chen was director of a private social studies research institute that published the now-banned Economic Studies Weekly. Wang was the newspaper's editor.

Both activists worked behind the scenes during the 1989 democracy movement, holding regular meetings to advise protest leaders and trying to maintain control over the increasingly chaotic seven-week movement.

Both were arrested in the fall of 1989 and held until their closed-door trials. Their sentences were announced only an hour after the conclusion of their separate trials.

Turks begin publishing again

Ethnic Turks have published a newspaper in their native language for the first time since a mid-1980s persecution campaign under ousted Communist leader Todor Zhivkov.

The first edition of the weekly paper Rights and Freedoms was distributed Feb. 12 in the capital of Sofia and other cities, said its editor, Zlatko Angelov.

"It may seem like a small victory," said Angelov. "But this has been fought for very hard by the country's Muslim people. We want to make it a national newspaper that focuses on Bulgaria's ethnic problems."

Most of the nation's 1.5 million ethnic Turks are Orthodox Christian. There are about 500,000 Muslims in the nation of about 9 million people.

The newspaper is being published with the consent of the coalition government, led by independent Premier Dimitar Popov.

Allies will use air power to support ground effort

The Associated Press

DHAHRAN, Saudi Arabia — If a ground war starts, the allies plan to fill the skies over Iraq with fighters to keep the remnants of Saddam Hussein's air force from joining the battle, military sources said Tuesday.

The plans also include an unusual joint Marine-Army assault in which U.S. ground forces will punch north into Iraq and Kuwait, said the sources, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

As speculation ran rampant about the start of an allied invasion, the logistics chief for Operation Desert Storm declared U.S. forces ready despite a few spot supply shortages. Ground maneuvering, artillery barrages and other action offered even more signs an allied offensive could come within days.

With a Soviet peace proposal declared unacceptable by President Bush, some senior officers believe an assault inevitable — unless there is a diplomatic breakthrough in the next day or so.

"We don't need any more time; we'll

cut right through them on the ground," one senior officer said privately. "If the Gorbachev plan doesn't work, you'll see something soon on the ground."

Still, this officer said he did not expect the "G-day" orders before the weekend. Several others suggested the assault could come as early as Thursday.

But with the allies saying they are destroying more than 100 Iraqi tanks and dozens of lethal Soviet and South African-made artillery pieces each day, others believe the air assault will go on at least into next week before Bush sends ground forces into combat.

A ground battle isn't the only contingency for which allied forces are planning. They're also getting ready for an Iraqi withdrawal.

Most allied officers are skeptical any peace agreement will be struck, but they are preparing nonetheless to respond if Saddam suddenly pulls his troops from the oil-rich emirate he conquered Aug. 2.

Peace activist sets self ablaze

The Associated Press

AMHERST, Mass. — A man who died by setting himself afire had shown strong interest in politics, but local activists said Tuesday they did not notice him at previous rallies against the Persian Gulf War.

The man, identified as Gregory D. Levey of Amherst, doused himself with a flammable liquid and set himself ablaze Monday afternoon on the Amherst common, the site of many recent protests against the gulf war.

Witnesses said Levey refused help from onlookers who tried to smother the flames with their coats. A police officer put out the flames with a fire extinguisher.

Dental records were used to confirm that the victim was indeed Levey.

He was the son of Boston Globe restaurant critic Robert Levey and the stepson of the Globe's Pulitzer prize-winning columnist Ellen Goodman. They had no immediate statement on Levey's death.

IT'S A 2-HOUR CRASH COURSE IN GEOMETRY.



Enjoy three hot dogs free with each purchase of a refreshing 32-ounce Coke.* It's College Night at Fair Lanes. Experience unlimited bowling and music every Thursday from 10PM to Midnight* for only \$5.95 including shoes.

Fair Lanes

UNLIMITED BOWLING. THURS, 10PM-MIDNIGHT \$5.95

*Times may vary according to center. (Coca-Cola) and (Coke) are registered trademarks of The Coca-Cola Company.

Fair Lanes Durham: 4508 Chapel Hill Blvd., 489-9154
Open 24 hours, Friday and Saturday.

NEO-CHINA

"Authentic Chinese Cuisine in a contemporary and Cozy Dining Atmosphere!"
• All ABC Permits • Eat in & Take Out
• Now Serving Sunday Buffet 12-2:30 & Sunday Dinner 4:30-10:00
Mon. - Thurs. / 11:00 am - 2:30 pm • 4:30 pm - 10 pm
Fri. / 11:00 am - 2:30 pm • 4:30 pm - 10:30 pm Sat. / 4:30 pm - 10:30 pm
Directly behind South Square Mall in the New BB&T Plaza
4015 University Drive
Durham, NC 27707
489-2828