REUTER - WORLD NEWS SUMMARY

BELGRADE - The warring sides in Bosnia-Herzegovina agreed to a ceasefire from Monday to try to end more than 2 months of bloodshed and get supplies to 300,000 trapped and starving people in Sarajevo.

BELGRADE - Serbian Patriarch Pavle led more than 10,000 people on a peace march through Belgrade, increasing pressure on President Slobodan Milosevic to quit over the Bosnian war and UN sanctions.

DAMASCUS - A German envoy was ready in Damascus to welcome to freedom 2 German aid workers whose release would end a decade-long Western hostage nightmare in Lebanon. Diplomats said they expected the pro-Iranian kidnappers of Heinrich Struebig and Thomas Kemptner soon to announce in Beirut they had set free the Germans or were about to do so.

TOKYO - Opposition Socialists of Japan’s Lower House of parliament resigned in an effort to delay a controversial bill to send Japanese troops abroad and to force the government to call snap elections, officials said.

BRATISLAVA, Czechoslovakia - Slovak leader Vladimir Meciar said his party would definitely block President Vaclav Havel’s re-election next month, though he would meet the head of state on Monday.

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THE EARTH SUMMIT ENDS IN RIO

HERALD TRIBUNE: It winds up in compromise

RIO DE JANEIRO - "The Earth Summit closed its 12-day meeting Sunday, ending an event that organizers hope began a process that can save the planet from pollution. ‘This is indeed a historic moment for humanity’, said Maurice Strong of Canada, the conference chairman. ‘It is indeed a profound human experience from which none of us can emerge unchanged’. President Fernando Collor de Mello of Brazil officially closed the UN Conference on Environment and Development... Delegates pledged to carry the ‘spirit of Rio’ as they adopted 3 pacts that could lead to a cleaner world."

LIBERATION: Sommet vert en demi-teinte: 27 principes sans grands moyens

"Le Sommet de la Terre s’est solennellement clos, hier, avec l’adoption par les représentants de 178 délégations d’une déclaration en 27 points, et d’un plan d’action, l’Agenda 21, pour le ‘développement durable’ destiné à protéger la planète des ravages écologiques provoqués par l’homme. Deux conventions ont aussi été signées par plus de 150 pays, l’une pour éviter le réchauffement de l’atmosphère, l’autre sur la biodiversité, afin de préserver les espèces animales et végétales en voie de disparition."

FINANCIAL TIMES: Earth talks organiser calls for concrete aid pledges

RIO DE JANEIRO - "World leaders at the Earth Summit failed to grasp the challenge to save the global environment, Mr Maurice Strong, the summit organiser, said yesterday. ‘We’re on a course that is leading to tragedy and as we leave Rio we have not satisfied that concern’, he said, as 103 world leaders left Rio at the end of the 12-day gathering. Mr Strong said he was particularly disappointed with the lack of substantial financial commitments by the developed world to help the Third World overcome environmental problems... In the last hours of the summit, several industrial countries, including the UK, Germany, Japan and the US, refused to commit themselves to a large increase in aid by the end of the century... Mr Strong estimated the total new resources pledged in Rio as
between $6bn-$7bn... Lobbyists in Rio disputed Mr Strong’s estimate of new aid pledges, claiming the pledges amounted to only $2.5bn a year."

BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS

FINANCIAL TIMES: States return to their seats at BIS

LONDON - "The BIS is making a subtle change to the proceedings of its annual meeting in Basle today. The national flags of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia will be flying outside the bank’s headquarters in Basle, alongside those of the BIS’s other 29 shareholder central banks. The Baltic states are returning to take up their seats in the ‘central bankers’ bank’ for the first time since their annexation by the Soviet Union in 1940... The overall importance of the Baltic states’ return to the BIS fold is considerably greater than their actual stakes in the institution. Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia own between them a mere 2,200 shares in the BIS - giving them stakes of 0.2, 0.2 and 0.04% respectively."

BANQUE CENTRALE EUROPEENNE

LES ECHOS: Bonn serait-elle le siège de la future banque?

FRANCFORT - "Ce n’est pas à Londres, à Francfort ou à Paris que serait implantée la future banque centrale européenne (BCE), mais à Bonn. C’est ce qu’auraient décidé les chefs d’Etat et de gouvernement en marge de la conférence de Maastricht en décembre dernier, ont affirmé ce week-end les 2 grands quotidiens FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU et FRANKFURTER ALGEMEINE ZEITUNG, en citant des sources diplomatiques à Bruxelles. Interrogé à ce sujet, un porte-parole du gouvernement allemand n’a pas expressément démenti cette information... Il a ajouté que l’Allemagne devra bien prendre en considération le rejet de la candidature de Francfort par les gouvernements britannique et français. Londres et Paris, croient encore savoir les journaux, se seraient d’ores et déjà mis d’accord pour empêcher que la BCE soit installée sur l’une des 3 grandes places financières que sont Londres, Francfort et Paris."

KOREA

KOREA ECONOMIC JOURNAL: 1991 farm imports from China up by 76%

"Last year’s imports of agricultural products from China were $1.007bn, up 76% from a year earlier, accounting for 30% of total imports from China, according to the Korea Foreign Trade Association. Livestock feed took the largest share with 48.2% ($486 million), up 100% from 1990, followed by textile materials and furs with 22.6% ($228 million) and foodstuffs with 13.3% ($134 million)."

REUTER: Atomic report cast doubt on CIA Korea fears - newspaper

NEW YORK - "New findings by atomic experts cast doubt on Central Intelligence Agency estimates that North Korea could become a nuclear power within a few months to a year, the NEW YORK TIMES reported on Monday. It said the experts, who conducted the first detailed survey of North Korea’s nuclear installations, confirmed that it has been building a large plutonium-reprocessing plant but said they had so far found no evidence of enough nuclear material to make an atomic bomb. The newspaper cited preliminary findings it said were expected to be announced at a Vienna meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency that begins on Monday."

OECD ECONOMIES

United Kingdom

FINANCIAL TIMES: Early intelligence files implicated Robert Maxwell

LONDON - "The UK government had intelligence information years before the collapse of Mr Robert Maxwell’s empire that suggested the late publisher was acting dishonestly. Mr Maxwell was not seen as a risk to national security and was therefore not an ‘intelligence target’ as such. But it is understood that information pointing to his questionable activities existed within the files of the security services from Mr Maxwell’s early days as a businessman. The FINANCIAL TIMES has also learnt that a full intelligence report was prepared for the Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) at the time of Mr Maxwell’s death off Gran Canaria on November 5 last year. The JIC, which is part of the Cabinet Office, coordinates and assesses information from Britain’s intelligence
FINANCIAL TIMES: Inflation rate sticks at 4.3%

"The rate of inflation in the UK was unchanged last month but underlying trends remained on a downward path. Fears that the headline inflation figure would be pushed up as last year’s mortgage-rate cuts dropped out of the retail prices index proved unfounded. Instead, a 0.4% rise in the RPI last month left the rate of increase in the 12 months to May at 4.3%, the same figure as in April."

France

LA TRIBUNE: Industrie: coup de frein à l’investissement


United States

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Consumer prices up only 0.1% in May

WASHINGTON - "American consumers paid only a tiny bit more for goods and services in May, easing inflation worries brought on by higher-than-expected price increases at the wholesale level. The Labor Department said its consumer price index edged up only 0.1% last month, the smallest rise since January. Excluding food and energy, consumer prices went up a still modest 0.2%.

Canada

WALL STREET JOURNAL: Competition in long-distance phone ties

OTTAWA - "Canadian regulators, in a move to cut industry’s communications costs, have decided to allow competition in the country’s public long-distance telephone market. The decision, announced Friday, was applauded by business groups and by companies seeking to enter the highly lucrative long-distance telephone market. Long-distance service is currently provided by the 9 telephone utilities, which have had monopolies in their respective operating territories."