

**AFGHANISTAN** faces growing tension over a border dispute with neighboring Pakistan. — PAGE 10



# WORLD



**BAZ LUHRMANN** unveils his latest effort, an updated 'La Boheme,' on Broadway. — PAGE 12

## Briefs

### Accord ends war

**G**ENEVA— The Indonesian government and rebels from Aceh province Monday signed a landmark accord to end the 26-year separatist war on the tip of Sumatra island.

"Both sides have thus agreed that, from now on, enmity between them should be considered a thing of the past," said the six-page accord.

U.S. mediator Anthony Zinni said, "Both parties represented here really want this agreement to work. This is a good starting point. But it is just the beginning, not the end."

Because of the bitterness of the conflict, however, both sides warned that the attempt to implement the accord on the ground will be fraught with difficulties which could derail the peace process.

The war, which goes back more than 130 years, is considered one of the world's oldest armed conflicts. Although 12,000 people have died in Aceh in the last decade, the insurgency has been dubbed "The Forgotten War."

— AP

### Bin Laden not needed

**G**ARMISCH - SPARTENKIRCHEN, Germany — Killing or capturing Osama bin Laden would not make a fundamental difference in freeing the West of the threat of terrorism, an FBI anti-terrorism specialist said Monday.

"The problem will change in one way. It will become more widely dispersed. As long as bin Laden is still alive he is a point around which al-Qaeda adherents and many non al-Qaeda persons will rally," said Spike Bowman, the FBI's deputy general counsel for national security affairs.

"But even if he is dead or captured there are still a fair number of people — and I don't know how many but probably in the dozens of persons — who have the influence to rally other persons whether they are al-Qaeda members or not."

### Election thrown out

**B**ELGRADE — Yugoslav President Vojislav Kostunica refused Monday to accept election results showing he had again failed to win the presidency of Serbia after turnout was once more too low in a new ballot at the weekend.

Only 45 percent of voters turned out in Sunday's election, below the legal minimum of 50 percent, according to monitors and partial results from Serbia's election commission.

But Kostunica's camp said the electoral register contained hundreds of thousands of inaccuracies and vowed to take its case to court, in a sign that protracted feuding will continue. It was Serbia's third attempt to choose a president this year.

— Reuters

# Carter urges U.S. to stick with U.N.

## Former President to receive Nobel Prize

By Doug Mellgren  
The Associated Press

**O**SLO, Norway — Jimmy Carter said Monday that the United Nations remains the right forum for countries to try and solve their differences and called on the United States to work with it to find a solution in Iraq.

Carter, 78, will accept the Nobel Peace Prize Tuesday at a time when the threat of a war between the United States and Iraq is dominating headlines and discussion. The former American president is being honored "for his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development."

At a news conference in Oslo, Carter said he fully supports the policies of U.S. President George W. Bush, but said that support is contingent upon his effort to find a solution to the Iraqi crisis with the United Nations and weapons inspectors.

"If Iraq does comply completely with the mandate of the United Nations Security Council ... I see no need for a conflict," said Carter, speaking at the Norwegian Nobel Institute in Oslo. "Otherwise, I think



**NOBEL PEACE** Prize winner Jimmy Carter signs the guestbook in the Nobel Institute in Oslo, with wife Rosalynn looking on. The former U.S. President urged his country to find a political solution to the Iraq crisis.

it is quite likely there will be an armed conflict."

Carter, president from 1977-1981, was selected for this year's prize for his more than two decades of efforts to promote peace, including the 1978 Camp David Agreement for which he narrowly missed winning the Nobel Peace Prize because he wasn't nominated in time.

"I consider that the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to me primarily because of the last 20 years of

effort by the Carter Center," he said, referring to the Atlanta, Georgia-based center he founded in 1982 that is active in issues involving peace, human rights and health projects in 65 countries.

This year's prize was seen as a message to the Bush administration to dampen threats of war against Iraq. Carter said he didn't want to dwell on the topics of his Nobel lecture, except that he will stress the importance of the United Nations,

which shared the Nobel centennial prize with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan last year.

"One of the things I want to say is that the United Nations is the best place for the nations to meet and to resolve their differences," he said. "And once the United Nations makes a major decision, through a Security Council vote, then those should be implemented."

He cited the need to follow U.N. resolutions on Israel's withdrawal from occupied Palestinian territories and respect for Israel's right to exist.

But Carter expressed disappointment in the failure of presidents after him — Ronald Reagan, George Bush and Bill Clinton — for not capitalizing on the Camp David Accords he brokered between Israel and Egypt. That effort won the leaders of those nations, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, the Nobel Peace Prize in 1978.

Carter's stay in Oslo will be marked by three days of events, including a banquet and torch light parade after the ceremony at the Oslo City Hall. The Nobel prizes, first awarded in 1901, were created by Swedish industrialist Alfred Nobel in his will and are always presented on Dec. 10, the anniversary of his death in 1896. Each prize includes a 10 million Swedish kronor (\$1 million) cash award. ■

# Tamil Tigers, Sri Lanka to end 19-year civil war

By Dilip Ganguly  
The Associated Press

**C**OLOMBO, Sri Lanka — The government said Monday it formally supported the establishment of a federal system through which it would share power with the Tamil Tiger rebels and end 19 years of bloody civil war.

"We are indeed heading in that direction," chief government spokesman Gamini Peiris told reporters. He spoke after Cabinet was briefed on progress in peace talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamillelam, at which both sides agreed to pursue power-sharing through federalism. The breakthrough came last week in Oslo, Norway. "Now that the (Tigers have) ruled out separatism, we are working on how to share power and yes, we fully agree to the federal status formula," Peiris said.

The rebels have been fighting for a separate homeland for the island nation's 3.2 million Tamil minority since 1983, claiming they have been targets of discrimination by its majority of 14 million Sinhalese. The fighting has claimed nearly 65,000 lives and displaced 1.6 million people.

Peiris said details of the power-sharing plan will be worked out when the representatives of the government and the rebels meet in Thailand Jan. 6-9 for the fourth round of peace talks.

Banned as terrorists in the



**TAMIL TIGERS'** chief negotiator Anton Balasingham (left) with Sri Lankan government chief negotiator G.L. Peiris in Oslo last week.

United States, India, Britain and some other countries, the rebels say they have abandoned their demand for a separate homeland and are willing to live in a united, federal Sri Lanka, playing a political rather than militant role.

On Monday, Peiris said the path to peace would not be an easy one. "But now we have a clear trajectory as to where we are going and that is toward federalism," he said.

However, an influential Buddhist Sinhalese group is opposing moves to give power to the minority Tamils.

The All Ceylon Buddhist Congress said over the weekend that while mainly Hindu Tamils and other minorities should have economic and social rights, political decisions should be made by the majority Buddhist Sinhalese only. ■



UNICEF

12 December 2002

We invite you to a Charity Brunch, organized for the Russian branch of UNICEF.

Children's activities include games, competitions, clowns and a buffet.

Our chef will teach kids to prepare Christmas cookies.

Adults will have the chance to take part in a lottery.

With the price of this traditional Sunday Brunch \$3 higher than usual, all collected money will be donated to the Russian branch of UNICEF by Sheraton Palace Moscow.

For table bookings or more information on UNICEF, please contact



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