



PAPUA NEW GUINEA

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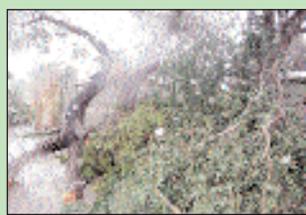
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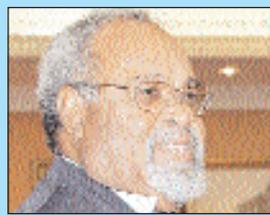
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**RAIN,  
STORMS  
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**SOLOMONS POLICE BAR  
AUSSIE JOURNALIST  
FROM SOMARE WELCOME**

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**NEW  
US RICE  
FOR PNG**

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# Eyes on B'ville

## Indonesia's Aceh Province likes autonomous model

### House in session

PARLIAMENT resumes tomorrow as the controversy over the search of Prime Minister Sir Michael Somare by airport security in Brisbane last month continues.

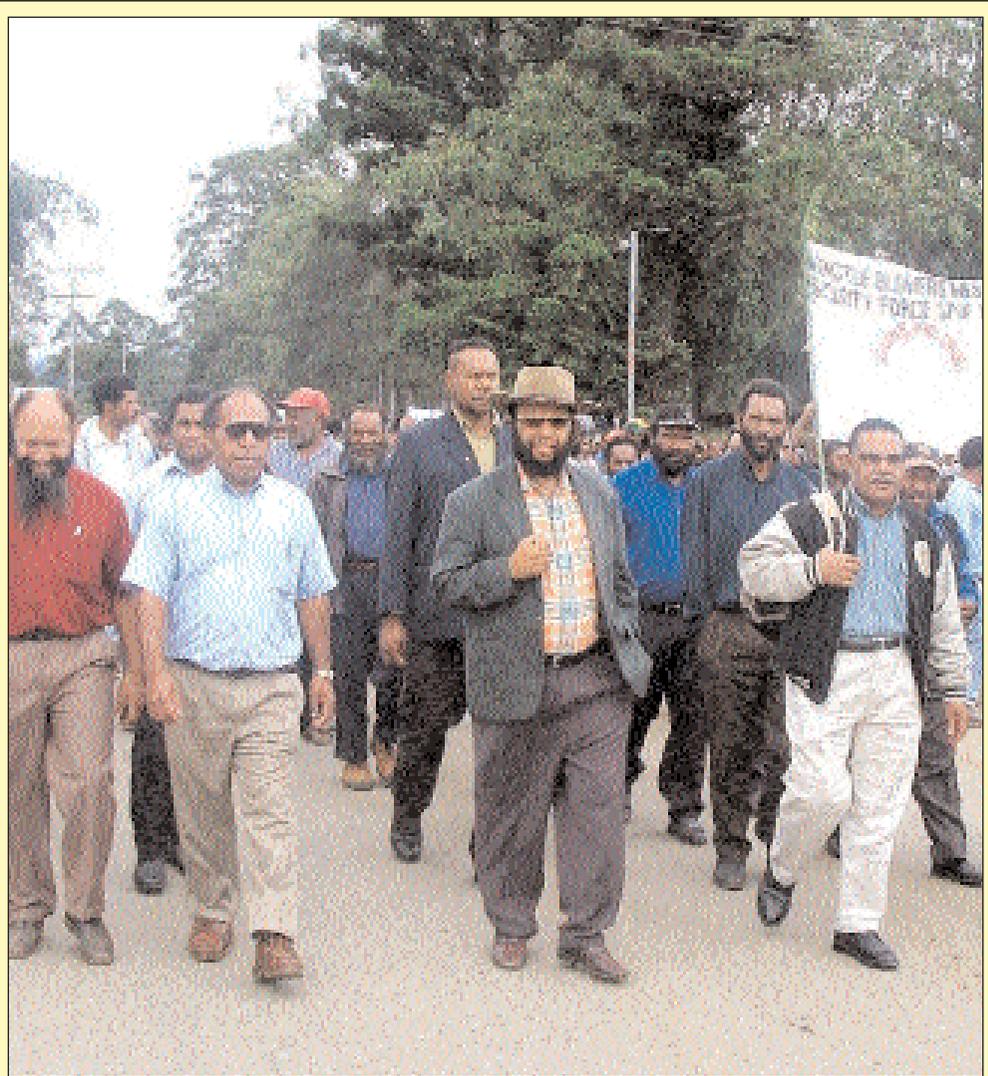
The session is likely to begin shortly after 2pm and also comes as Bougainvilleans conducts its first-ever autonomous government elections.

One more parliamentary seat is vacant as Bougainville Governor John Momis, dubbed the "father of decentralisation" process in Papua New Guinea, had resigned to contest the elections for the presidency in the new autonomous Bougainville government.

The session comes without a Deputy Prime Minister being appointed. It comes as many leaders' status under the Organic Law on the Integrity of Political Parties and Candidates remain in limbo.

Also in the backdrop of this session is the national guns control committee unearthing shocking information on the illegal guns trade, the threat of guns and its impact on the people.

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**No to  
guns**

**ON THE GO:** National guns committee chairman Jerry Singirok (right) and Western Highlands Governor Paias Wingti (centre) lead a march through the centre of Mt Hagen City on Friday where members of the public joined in denouncing guns. **MORE REPORTS, PAGES 2 and 3.**

AN INDONESIAN separatist group has singled out Bougainville's autonomous government as a model for self-government.

Aceh rebels told Indonesian Government representatives during peace talks in Helsinki, Iceland last week that the Bougainville autonomous government model was something they aspired to have if granted autonomy.

Following bloody conflict for a decade since 1989, Bougainville — while sporadic fights continued — engaged in peace talks aimed at achieving "peace by peaceful means".

They initially reconciled with financial and logistic backing from Australia, New Zealand and peace-keeping forces from Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu. These talks, with growing involvement by the PNG Government, resulted in the Bougainville peace agreement that formed the basis for constitutional amendments giving them a one-off autonomous Bougainville government with all powers except Defence and Foreign Affairs.

The peace agreement also provided for a referendum 10 to 15 years after the establishment of an autonomous Bougainville government where the Bougainvilleans would decide whether to remain with PNG or become an independent state, subject to a final decision by the PNG Parliament.

The successful resolution of the Bougainville crisis has been flagged at the United Nations level as a possible blueprint for

By ALEX RHEENEY

the resolution of some of the world's civil war hot spots.

The Free Aceh Movement, which fought for independence from Indonesia for Aceh Province for close to three decades, resumed negotiations with the Indonesia Government after the tragic December 26 earthquake and tsunami that left more than 164,000 people dead or missing in Aceh.

Free Aceh Movement spokesman Bakhtiar Abdullah told Japan's Kyodo News in an interview last week that they needed self-government.

"We can't accept the 'special autonomy' proposed by Jakarta because its taboo for the Acehnese people, but we need self-government," the rebel spokesman said.

Like Bougainville, Aceh Province is rich in resources, including oil and gas, and is considered important strategically as it sits at the gateway to the Strait of Malacca — a sea lane that carries 40 per cent of global trade.

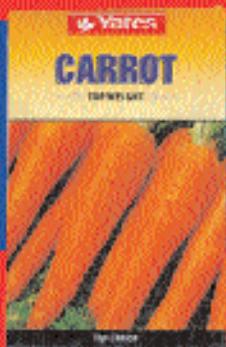
The next round of peace talks between the rebels and the Indonesian Government is next month. The Indonesian Government says 2500 rebels still operate in Aceh after half of their forces were killed in a military offensive that began in May 2003. More than 12,000 people have died during the insurgency.

Last week, writs were issued for the Bougainville autonomous government elections with polling expected to start next month.

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